

Calais Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 12, 2016
Approved

Present: Selectboard Members Denise Wheeler, John Brabant, Rose Pelchuck, Toby Talbot, Scott Bassage

Others Present: Donna Fitch, Town Clerk; Alfred Larrabee, Road Commissioner; Peg Bowen, Wilson Hughes, Dick Rouelle, Tammy Leno, Garrett Leno, Doug Guy, Walt Ames, Michael Fullerton, Barbara Butler, Reid Schenck, Morgan Ecklund, Arlyn Bruccoli, Lesa Burns, Cynthia Johnson

Call to order: Denise Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Administrative work and changes or additions to the agenda: Denise Wheeler let those present know about the Act 46 Alternative Structure Subcommittee meeting September 21 at U-32 from 6 to 9 p.m. She proposes having a public forum at Calais Elementary School regarding Act 46 with Calais school board members and Janet Ancel, Calais representative, to gain a better understanding of the possible impacts of Act 46. She intends the meeting to be a Selectboard initiative, but will invite school board members and community members to participate. Denise will contact school board members about this proposal.

Public Comment: Denise Wheeler asked for a spokesperson to address an issue at #10 Pond with an individual who is creating a nuisance. Tammy Leno explained that a petition has been created to order a “No Trespass Order.” Denise explained the town does not own any property on #10 Pond. She consulted with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and was advised that individual land owners in the area may file a “No Trespass Notice” if they wish. John explained the first step is for aggrieved property owners to provide notice – verbally or in written form or have a sheriff serve the notice. Peg Bowen, who owns land on the pond, stated she has already talked to the state police and the sheriff’s department. She noted that Stow Women’s Relief, the property owners of Memorial Hall, are not aggrieved by the person in question and the affected property owners should post their land if they choose. Tammy said she believes there is a dangerous man in the neighborhood, and she does not believe the issue should be brushed aside. Denise said if there is a threat the immediate action should be to call the state police. Some community members stated they had already done this.

Wilson Hughes, Town Constable, said if people are threatened by a person, they should contact the state police. He asked people to call him if they observe that the man is behaving dangerously. John explained that if a person is being physically or verbally assaultive, then a restraining order can be sought. Cynthia said the man is on the pond every day from 1:30 until sunset and asked that the sheriff be asked to keep a lookout for his speeding car. Arlyn Bruccoli said she has followed the protocol that has been suggested and is now asking the town representatives to support the community members

in their concerns. Denise will contact the sheriff and the state police and express the concerns that have been shared. Wilson will contact the Montpelier Police.

Appointed Officials: Scott Bassage moved to appoint Karen Lane to the Calais Historic Preservation Commission. Seconded by John, this motion carried unanimously.

Review and Approve Minutes: Toby Talbot moved to approve the minutes of August 22, 2016. Seconded by Scott Bassage, this motion carried unanimously.

Road Commissioner update: Alfred reported

- 1) The ground work for the Town Garage addition has begun. Bids have been solicited and will be opened at 4:00 on September 15 at the Town Office.
- 2) An issue with the septic tank at the garage was discovered. Alfred paid for the replacement and will seek reimbursement from the town.
- 3) The road crew continues to work on Jack Hill Road and will continue grading the roads as needed.
- 4) The first wall section of the North Calais retaining wall is expected to be poured on Sept. 14. All sections of the wall are expected to be complete in two weeks. Toby explained there is no specified end date for this project.
- 5) Alfred reported that since people did not like the idea of paving Back Street he is recommending paving just the apron on Back Street onto Route 14, as well as on Balentine and Sand Hill Roads. Projected expenses for these jobs which fall within the road maintenance budget. Balentine 2,890, Sand Hill 3,870, Back Street 3,910, for a total of \$10,670

Operations Manager update:

- 1) GAR Rd. and Memorial Hall - Toby reported he had spoken with Peg Bowen, member of Stow Women's Relief, and discussion followed about the Memorial Hall building and possible repairs or sale of the building. Regarding GAR Road, the original deed established a road and a right of way for the Memorial Hall property. Toby explained the history he had researched, and shared a document outlining the ancient roads research: *GAR Road, Town Hwy #63, Calais Vermont*. In 1950, the Selectboard added GAR Rd, 0.37 miles (from the dam to Wheelock Pond) to the town highway map. There are not documents showing this change, except the annual town report. In 1951, Selectboard met with Road Commissioner and reported that this had been added to the town map. In 1973, GAR Rd was officially made a Class 4 road on the map. Since then, there have been many petitions to the Selectboard asking to close or discontinue the road; they have been denied. Toby's document refers to the original deed to Orlando Leonard from 1887, which describes intended public use and land for the road. Toby stated there is a no parking ordinance on GAR Road. Peg said if the road is closed, the property owners who live on the road would be given access to the road. Toby will gather documents from Peg that have not been found at the town office for a future presentation to the Selectboard.
- 2) Jack Hill Road site visit update: Toby reported the site visit was useful; a culvert repair was completed as a result of this visit.

Update on Town Office roof and water testing: Donna will have the water testing done; Toby is following up on roof repairs.

ROW request from Adamant Coop (via Vermont Division for Historic Preservation) - placement of Clarence Fitch monument: Toby stated that the possible/proposed locations would be acceptable as long as the monument is four feet from the road. Toby moved to approve the ROW permit as presented: Option#1 in the sketch provided in the application. Seconded by John Brabant, this motion carried unanimously.

Review and adopt Road Committee recommendations for Collector Roads: Stephanie Kaplan provided an updated map for the Selectboard's consideration. Scott Bassage moved to approve the changes (knowing that in the future a category for village roads will be discussed):

Changes:
Lightening Ridge – collector
West County Rd – collector
N. Calais and Foster Hill Rd – collector
Collar Hill – secondary

Seconded by John Brabant, this motion carried unanimously.

Listers “errors and omissions” request to update the Grand List: Denise reviewed the request from the listers, dated August 23, 2016, regarding changing Hepburn property value to reflect a change in appraisal from \$159,400 to \$150,900. Toby moved to accept this change. Seconded by Scott Bassage, this motion carried unanimously.

Relocating Veterans Monument: Toby and Peg both stated they believe that moving the actual memorial to a different site is amenable. The next step is for Peg to talk with the Stow Women's Relief Corps to suggest a location (or possible locations) for the monument. The Selectboard will discuss the proposed location at a future meeting.

Review proposed contract from James Barlow, Esq. of Vermont Local Government Law: The Selectboard had met with Mr. Barlow at a previous meeting. Denise Wheeler reviewed the proposed contract. Scott Bassage suggested starting with the 225 hour package for legal services. Toby moved to ask James Barlow, Esq. for a contract reflecting the 225 hour proposal (\$25,000/year) for the board to approve at the next meeting. Seconded by John Brabant, this motion carried unanimously.

Review and approve training proposal from Dave Antone, Municipal Public Works Consulting, LLC: Denise is hoping that this training can happen during the first part of October.

Review social services requests process: Donna had suggested a more streamlined process for social service agencies to request monetary support at town meeting. Dot Naylor suggested including in the town report a brief explanation that some small

amounts are requested in order to show the local community's support when applying for larger scale grants.

Toby Talbot moved to give Denise Wheeler voting privileges on behalf of the Calais Selectboard at the annual meeting of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. Seconded by Scott Bassage, this motion carried unanimously.

FY 2017 budget v. actual update: Donna explained that delinquent taxes are now down to approximately \$20K. The auditors from Fothergille, Segale and Valley will attend the September 26 Selectboard meeting. Denise asked Board members to review the auditor's document before the meeting to be prepared to discuss and ask questions as needed.

Executive Session - Town bookkeeper - review resumes - set up interview schedule: Rose Pelchuck made a motion to go into executive session at 9:03 pm in accordance with 1 V.S.A. subsection 313 (a) (3) for the purpose of discussing personnel matters with Donna Fitch, Town Clerk & Treasurer. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 5-0. The regular session resumed at 9:59 pm and Denise Wheeler reported the Selectboard will be interviewing candidates for the bookkeeper position on Monday, September 19, along with Donna Fitch.

Adjourn/continue meeting: Scott Bassage made a motion to adjourn at 10:00 pm. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Stoudt, Selectboard Recording Secretary