

**Selectboard Minutes**  
**February 23, 2015**  
*Unapproved*

Present: Selectboard members Toby Talbot, Rose Pelchuck, Scott Bassage, Denise Wheeler; Donna Fitch, Clerk; Judith Robert, Assistant Clerk and Treasurer; Alfred Larrabee, Road Commissioner; Charlotte Bassage, Gus Seelig, Craig Line.

Denise Wheeler, chair, opened the meeting at 7 pm as the temperature dropped to 15 degrees below zero. She reported that selectboard member John Brabant would not be attending because he was in Costa Rica.

Appointments: Scott Bassage made a motion to appoint Larry Bush to the Historic Preservation Commission for a three-year term, expiring 3/3/15. Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0. (Larry will be reappointed again when appointments are made after town meeting.)

Minutes: Denise made a motion to approve the minutes of January 26, 2015 (version 2). Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0. Approval of the February 9<sup>th</sup> minutes was moved by Scott, seconded by Toby Talbot and the motion passed 4-0.

Road Commissioner Report: Alfred Larrabee reported that the cold weather has been rough on the highway equipment. Ed Rowell is filling in as needed in the road crew position that is vacant. Two applications for the position have been received. The deadline for applying is February 26, 2015.

Mooney Curb Cut: There were a number of ribbons flagging the site of the proposed curb cut on Upper Road making it difficult for Alfred to be sure of the exact location. There will need to be lots of fill due to the drop-off from the road. No culvert is needed, but there needs to be a 20' level space from the road and no more than 3% grade. The Mooney's permit will specify that the curb cut needs to comply with State of VT Agency of Transportation Standard B-71 (which is provided to applicants with the curb cut application form). Site distance is okay. Toby made a motion to approve the curb cut with the condition that B-71 standards be followed. Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Operations Manager Report: Toby reported that the federal deadline for meeting federal standards for named road signs is in 2018. The smaller metal signs can be retained if the type is all caps and if there is sufficient reflectivity. Therefore, the larger signs do not have to be erected in the Kents Corner Historic District. Charlotte Bassage added that the old wooden post signs can be retained if the speed limit is under 35 miles per hour. Toby attended a meeting with FEMA regarding the December 2014 storm. Calais may be reimbursed for road crew overtime and materials. The focus of the funding is for debris removal. Calais spent about \$9,000 that may be eligible for reimbursement. Toby reminded the board it will need to reauthorize the town's road standards. Rose Pelchuck said the Calais Roads Advisory Committee is currently reviewing the standards to make sure the stated circumference of trees that need permission to be cut is consistent throughout the document. Toby met with Artie Toulis, owner of the Whammy Bar, who was very agreeable to encouraging his patrons to not park on the road. He will put up signs and post on Front Porch Forum.

Rubbish/recycle containers put out for pick-up are sometimes in the way of the snowplows. Alfred would like to remind people to keep them away from the plow area. Donna will put a reminder on Front Porch Forum. Toby will put a reminder on Front Porch Forum about parking in the road during the winter. The selectboard may want to change the no parking hours that are in the Winter Parking Ordinance.

Town and School Meetings: Moderators Gus Seelig, Craig Line and Calais Elementary school board chair Charlotte Hanna Bassage joined the meeting to discuss town meeting set-up at the elementary school. Assistant Clerk Judith Robert is coordinating between the town, the school and Historic Kents Corner, who will be providing lunch. Toby said that Article 9 of the warning needs to be amended on the floor. The State match for paving the County Road is 80/20 not 90/10. Therefore, the voters will be asked for \$45,000 to match the State money. The energy and transportation groups want to introduce their members and may do so under Article 3. The challenge of providing audible sound was discussed after Judy explained her several conversations with the owner of MadTech, who is providing sound at the Middlesex Town Meeting. Judy will talk to in-town musicians and get their advice. Gus suggested turning off the unused mic when the second mic is being used. The school gym is being set up now for town meeting. The moderators and Judy will meet Monday, March 2, at 10 am at the school to practice with the sound. It was suggested that the gym be set up with room for extra chairs if more chairs than anticipated are needed. Gus suggested that the school and town buy comfortable chairs if town and school meetings continue at the school and last all day. It's a long time to sit on hard chairs and bleachers. Alfred will push back snow in the school parking lot to increase parking. Encourage people to car pool!

Executive Session: At 8:15 Scott made a motion to go into executive session regarding a zoning matter citing confidential attorney client privilege under the provisions of Title 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1). Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0. The Board came out of executive session at 8:45 with nothing to report.

Town Meeting Warning: The Board reviewed each article in the warning. Donna will ask VLCT if a voter can cut a specific line item in the budget. Article 24 asks the voters to authorize the selectboard to appoint the delinquent tax collector. Toby pointed out that with \$150,000 to \$180,000 in delinquent taxes it is important to have someone with the knowledge and expertise to collect and handle this amount of money.

Tax Sale Properties: The one-year waiting period has ended for two properties that sold at the February 2014 tax sale. Denise made a motion to release funds of \$20,859.23, which have been held in escrow, to Joseph and Sandra Lockerby purchasers of the property at 52 Martin Road. Toby seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0. Property at 40 Fellows Road is now owned by the town. The Board discussed hiring a local realtor to conduct outreach and sale of the property. More discussion of this matter will take place at the next meeting.

Sand Hill Road Discontinuance: Toby made a motion to approve the minutes of the Sand Hill Road TH#18 discontinuance hearing of January 26, 2015 and the Decision of the same date, turning .54 of the road into a legal trail. The motion was seconded and passed 4-0. The road will be also be a pent road. Donna will research the correct way to record in the land records.

Miscellaneous:

- Local Government Day: Scott attended Local Government Day at the State House and gave a brief summary of activities. He testified before the Transportation Committee reading from the Calais Road and Bridge Standards, saying one size does not fit all, Calais has 73 miles of gravel roads and the standards are approved by the selectboard.
- The “hot spot” wifi equipment at the town hall, which makes wifi available to the public, may be moved to the town office. More discussion of that and a wifi policy will take place at a future meeting.
- A survey about town meeting will be distributed at town meeting. The survey was developed by the group that met last summer to discuss time, day and location of town meeting. The survey will also be available at the local stores and front porch forum.

Executive Session: Toby made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter in accordance with Title 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3). Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

At 9:50 the Board came out of executive session with nothing to report. A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Fitch, Clerk