

Selectboard Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2016
Approved

Present: Selectboard Toby Talbot, Denise Wheeler, Scott Bassage, Rose Pelchuck. Other attendees: Fletcher Dean, Millie Brumback, Ed Rowell, Reed Cherington, Jody Bayne, Michael Fullerton, Peg Bowen, Hans Pope-Howe, Alfred Larrabee, Donna Fitch, Laura Ranker (CVRP).

Chair Denise Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Green Up Day

Fletcher Dean, Green Up Coordinator, reported that Green Up day collection will take place as usual at the Calais recycling depot on Moscow Woods Road on May 7, 9 to noon. Someone is needed to collect returnable bottle and cans. Two road crew members will work at the depot. People should not pick up any hazardous waste; let Fletcher know the location and he will contact the appropriate person.

Appointments

Denise made a motion to reappoint Julie Hand to the Conservation Committee, term expires 2020; Lisa McCarthy, Dillon Burns and Laurie Griggs to the swim committee; Walt Ames to Development Review Board, term expiring 2019; Michael Fullerton and Denise Wilder to Trails Committee. Scott Bassage seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

VT Land Trust and Armstrong Farm

John Ramsey, VT Land Trust, wants a site visit with Selectboard, Conservation Commission and the public at Armstrong Farm week of May 16, 5:00 pm. The meeting will be publically warned. What is the availability of Selectboard members? Let Denise know.

Minutes

Denise noted corrections on 4/11/16 minutes; Rose Pelchuck will make corrections. Scott made a motion to approve. Toby Talbot seconded. Motion passed 4-0. Minutes of joint meeting of EMFD and East Montpelier and Calais Selectboards, 4/14/16, approved unanimously.

Road Commissioner Update

Road crew has been grading roads and has started replenishing winter sand pile. Alfred is attending a computer class.

Operations Manager Report

Trailer purchase: Toby Talbot suggested buying a larger trailer (which is used to move excavator). Big culverts will be installed this summer and a large excavator will be rented, which cannot be moved by the town's trailer. A second hand trailer is available for \$14,500. Payment would come out of highway capital fund. The town's trailer would be sold to offset the cost.

Purchase of a new trailer is on the highway capital plan for FY2019. Scott said the purchase should go before the voters. No decision was made.

Back Street: Driving off Back Street onto Rte 14 creates bumps. The cost to pave Back Street is \$15,000 and paving would allow better traction pulling out onto Rte 14, eliminating the bumps. The topic will be put on the May 9 selectboard agenda so people near Back Street can attend. Toby will post on Front Porch Forum.

Town Garage Addition: Volunteer architect (John McCullough) is drawing more detailed plans so the garage addition can go out for bids. He will have plans in two weeks.

Bridge in North Calais TH#16 (connecting Upper Rd and N. Calais Rd): The bridge is currently closed for safety. Joe Bayne and Hans Pope-Howe spoke in support of repairing the bridge and keeping it open to vehicular traffic, mentioning its historic value to North Calais and the convenience of using the bridge. Arlyn Bruccoli misses the convenience of having the bridge open for better access to her driveway, but understands if it costs too much to repair. If closed permanently, the closure should be visually appealing and in keeping with the village. Michael Fullerton suggested balancing the cost of fixing with the inconvenience of closure. If it's safe for walking, keep it open for walkers and bikers. Ed Rowell, who has lived in town his whole life, said it would be a shame for the bridge to be closed and should be fixed for vehicles.

Denise noted the Selectboard starting talking about the bridge on May 18, 2015. DeWolfe Engineering analyzed the bridge; the report is in the town office. VTRANS bridge department also inspected and agreed it needs repair. Doug Newton, Newton Technical Services, also provided input and suggested repairs.

Reed Cherington, speaking on behalf of Trails Committee, said the Committee voted to recommend the bridge not be discontinued and, regardless of how it might be classified, the 3-rod ROW should be maintained. Speaking on a personal note, Reed suggested supplementing the current "road closed" signs on this bridge and on Leonard Road with a sign noting that non-motorized access is permitted. The Uniform Traffic Code requires "road closed" signs, Toby said, but could be supplemented with a sign indicating that people can access the road.

Millie Brumback spoke to the historical value of the bridge to North Calais, its contribution to the pattern of North Calais, and said she lived and walked on that road as a child. She suggested researching other ways to finance repair of the bridge, for example, using town resources. She presented a letter signed by town residents requesting the road be reopened.

It was agreed the engineering reports should be reviewed and the topic put on a future agenda.

Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP)

Laura Ranker, Central VT Regional Planning, reviewed the town's emergency plan. Calais' 2016 plan has been approved. The National Incident Management System (NIMS) standardizes

disaster management across the country so there is consistency from state to state. She provided information on the VT-Alert system and how it can be set up within a municipality. She noted it is expected there will be more severe weather events in the future.

Dog Warrant

The Board unanimously approved and signed the delinquent dog warrant which will be sent on to the Animal Control Officer.

Election Location

Voting for the August state primary and November presidential election will be held at the Town Hall, lower level.

Computer Support/Backup

Toby made a motion to approve the one-year contract with rb Technologies. The motion was moved and seconded, motion passed 4-0.

Property at 40 Fellows Rd

Discussion about what to do with town-owned property at 40 Fellows Road obtained by the town at tax sale. If someone wants to buy the property does the town have to go through the tax sale process which it has done twice already? Donna will call VLCT and will provide the sale cost.

Budget

The Board approved the treasurer applying for a line of credit to cover expenses until the end of the fiscal year. The Board approved consolidating all FICA expenses in the budget (except Highway) under the selectboard budget account #6130. Toby made a motion to approve the treasurer moving money from the highway capital fund short term to the general fund to pay expenses until the line of credit is available. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Possible items for May 9th agenda:

1. May 9th North Calais bridge (TH 16)
2. Resolution from energy committee regarding a park and ride
3. Back Street: 5:30 informational meeting on May 9th before selectboard meeting. Scott will take minutes at that meeting. Lisa Stoudt will begin taking minutes on May 9th.

At 9:40 p.m. a motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Fitch, Town Clerk & Treasurer