



## TOWN OF CALAIS

3120 Pekin Brook Road  
East Calais, Vermont 05650

Selectboard Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM  
Location: Calais Town Hall

Attending: Denise Wheeler, Rick Kehne, John Brabant & Sharon Fannon  
Absent: Marc Mihaly

Others attending: ORCA Media, Jamie Moorby, Nick Emlen, Neal Maker, Jim Clark, Jordan Keyes, John Stafford, Marge Sweeney, Larry Bush, Reenie DeGus, Stephanie Kaplan, Donna Fitch, Gus Seelig

Call to Order at 7:03 pm

- Additions/Changes to the agenda

Denise Wheeler noted she had received a letter from Friends of Town Hall requesting ARPA funds but they didn't request an amount. She will contact the Friends for additional information for the Monday, February 27, 2023 meeting.

Denise Wheeler and Rick Kehne requested approval to proceed with the paperwork to purchase the 2024 Western Star as approved on the 2022 Town Meeting ballot. The board approved proceeding.

Denise Wheeler and Rick Kehne received a request from the road crew to make changes to the fit up of the 2024 Western Star truck. This will add an additional \$5,250 to the total cost.

- Review and Sign Warrants

7:00 PM - Public Comment (for items not on the agenda)

Marge Sweeney, CPA Treasurer requested that the town return the unsigned permit request applications to the CPA. CPA will submit the applications. Denise Wheeler returned the applications to Marge.

7:15 PM - Consent Agenda #1 – ACTION ITEMS

- Sign Shade Tree Plan
- Reappointments – all for one year, all terms end March 2023:  
Central Vt. Solid Waste Management District – Bill Powell (Calais rep.)  
Town Energy Coordinator – Bill Powell

Denise Wheeler made a motion to approve Consent Agenda #1, this was seconded by John Brabant and unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda #2 – (Denise Wheeler recused herself)

Appoint Sharon Winn Fannon to continue as selectboard point person for East Calais Community Trust grant administration, until a new selectboard appoints someone to fulfill this role.

Rick Kehne made a motion to approve Consent Agenda #2, this was seconded by John Brabant and unanimously approved.

Review Proposed Revisions to Curb Cut Ordinance:

Stephanie Kaplan, Chair, Conservation Commission, presented an updated version of the curb cut ordinance. She has several conversations with the town attorney who reviewed the proposed revisions and he made more revisions, mostly to incorporate a public process and add more legal language. The conservation commission has noticed and held at least 8 meetings open to the public and has been warned and discussed at three selectboard meetings.

Sharon Fannon asked that additional language be added and read aloud her proposal. She will forward the language to Stephanie Kaplan for incorporation. Jordan Keyes expressed his concern with the ordinance and that the public had not had an opportunity to weigh in on the proposed revisions.

Review Historic timeline on Calais Road and Bridge Standards:

Stephanie Kaplan and Denise Wheeler briefly described the timeline, which goes back nearly ten years to when a group of citizens spent months developing the standards. The selectboard adopted the standards and the state approved them and they are current law in Calais. Denise and Stephanie will continue to develop a timeline for the record.

Interview Second Constable volunteer – Riley Cook – Invited – did not attend.

Town Meeting – Discussion with Town Moderator, Gus Seelig.

The board scheduled the required Informational Meeting on the warned Curtis Pond Dam bond vote for 6:00 PM on Monday, February 27, 2023. Gus Seelig will moderate the meeting.

Emergency Management:

- Denise Wheeler made a motion to sign the Facility Use Agreement (FUA) with Red Cross for managing a shelter at the town hall with minor edits; this was seconded by Rick Kehne and unanimously approved. Nick will forward the FUA after it is signed by the Vt. Dept. of Public Safety.

- Nick Emlen explained that he was able to get additional FEMA (state) funding for the town to purchase the 30kw generator for the hall rather than the 24kw generator (the generator for the Maple Corner Comm. Ctr. will not change). Therefore, the towns share will increase from \$16,092 to \$21,463. Nick requested that the match increase come from the ARPA funds. Rick Kehne made a motion to

<http://www.calaisvermont.gov/>

authorize the use of ARPA for the generator match from \$16,092 to \$21,463; this was seconded by John Brabant and unanimously approved.

Traffic Control Ordinance Proposal – John Brabant explained that this is overdue and has been in process for a couple of years but has been interrupted by other town matters coming before the board. He explained his proposal to reduce the speed on all roads that are 35 mph to 30 mph and also reduced the speed on the Calais portion of County Rd. from 50 to 40 mph; stop signs would be added at the intersection of Kent Hill and Pekin Brook Rd. as well as the intersection of Center Rd. and Haggett Rd. (intersection across from the Adamant Coop) and would become full stop intersections. John also added road names next to the town highway road numbers.

Roads Report – Rick reported that the crew is doing well and is appreciative of the board's support.

Grants Management Update - Donna Fitch, at the board's request, has been compiling all the grants and provided a spreadsheet listing them with reporting requirements, etc. The board thanked Donna Fitch for her work on this project.

- Kent Hill Culvert project – Denise Wheeler made a motion to approve the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) grant management agreement for a scoping study funded through Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant with a CVRPC management cost of \$1,996. and authorized Rick Kehne to sign on behalf of the town; seconded by John Brabant and unanimously approved.

– Moscow Woods project – This project is complete. Donna Fitch will file the form to request town from the grant by motion of Denise Wheeler; seconded by Rick Kehne and unanimously approved.

Board round-robin on items of old business and other business

- Denise Wheeler reported that she has been checking regularly with VLCT PACIF on their search for a carrier/broker to provide higher limits on downstream liability or property coverage insurance for the Curtis Pond Dam. Fred Satink and Kelley Knotek (VLCT PACIF staff) discovered that some carriers are only looking to cover a dam if it is part of a water operation, and will only offer coverage relating to the dam as a package with everything else. They are continuing their search and will report back when they have additional information.

Review future agenda items

At 10:06 pm Denise Wheeler made a motion to enter executive session per 1 VSA § 313(a), seconded by Rick Kehne and unanimously approved.

The board exited executive session at 10:17 pm and Rick Kehne moved to adjourn, seconded by Denise Wheeler and unanimously approved.