

SELECTBOARD MEETING

Approved Minutes

October 10, 2011

7:00pm Town Hall

Attending: Denise Wheeler, Mike Garand, John Brabant, Toby Talbot, Scott Bassage, Alfred Larrabee, Peter Harvey, Fred Bushway, Reed Cherington, Cynthia Cliallener, Anthony Palmiero, Brent Lilley, Edward Bennett, Erlene Knapp, Jack Russell, Darby Bradley, Donna Fitch, Mo Cerrutti and Rose Pelchuck.

Actions:

Approval of the September 20th Meeting Minutes – The Selectboard reviewed the Minutes submitted by Town Clerk, Donna Fitch. Mike Garand made a motion to approve the Minutes as written. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0.

Approval of the September 26th Meeting Minutes – The Selectboard reviewed the Minutes and made a few changes. Scott Bassage made a motion to approve the Minutes as amended. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 3-0-1. Toby Talbot abstained from the vote. John Brabant arrived just after the vote.

Town Invoices and Orders - Scott Bassage reviewed the information prior to the meeting. The invoices and orders were processed per usual protocol.

Road Commissioner Update – The old Road Grader that had been undergoing repairs is running today for the first time. Tomorrow Alfred Larrabee will check the fluids to be sure it is functioning well. Alfred suggests paying the present repair bill for \$11,761.00 and wonders about paying for it from last year's extra money in the Highway Budget. The Selectboard discussed it and decided the old grader repairs will come out of this year's Highway Budget.

Alfred Larrabee bought a jackhammer with his own money (\$800.00) and now wants to know if the town wants to buy it from him. He used it this summer for pounding and installing posts around town. He has not been charging the town for the use of it. At the January 31st meeting, the Selectboard discussed pursuing buying the tool jointly with East Montpelier and sharing its use. That did not happen and Mike Garand reported that East Montpelier bought a posthole digger with grant funds. Scott Bassage supports buying the tool from Alfred Larrabee but advised the Road Commissioner not to purchase equipment again with his private funds and expect to get reimbursed by the town. Denise Wheeler advised Alfred to give the Town Clerk the receipt and the town will buy it.

Trails Committee – The reauthorization of the Calais Trails Committee is due. Reed Cherington reported they established one trail over to Worcester (1.5 miles). Darby Bradley now has a conservation easement that will connect to this. The Trails Committee will become the trail's manager. Reed spoke about another new trail in the works on the J.P. Laqueur land, possibly beginning a period of increased action by the committee. The Trails Committee does check to be sure any new trail would not interfere with a wildlife corridor. Denise Wheeler recited the present members of the Trails Committee. Scott would like a rewrite of the charge to be certain the Trails Committee is more than a one-man show and that it would be part of the Conservation Commission. Reed said it's purpose is more recreation rather than conservation. Reed has raised a little bit of money; that's how we would take care of little problems; he's not interested in getting involved in a grant but others on the committee may want to. Toby Talbot made a motion to reauthorize the Trails Committee for two years and update their mission statement. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 5-0.

WEC Permit Request - Brent Lilley from Washington Electric Co-op explained to the Selectboard the proposed project of moving power lines and working in the town's right-of-way on Lightening Ridge Road. Scott Bassage made a motion to approve the permit request as presented. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 5-0.

Overweight Permit Restrictions on Stillbrook Road - Tony Palmiero would like the vehicle weight restriction of 16,000 pounds on Stillbrook Road lifted. The bridge was rebuilt in 1984. Tony Palmiero is having septic and chimney work done at his residence and needs to have a crane on location for the work. Road Commissioner, Alfred Larrabee, sees no problem with this for these two projects. The town issues overweight permits for trucks to use all the roads in town for companies/individuals that apply each year (some road restrictions are listed on the permit). Toby Talbot made a motion to grant permission to Tony Palmiero as requested to use the bridge with no vehicle weight restrictions until the completion of these two projects at his residence. Furthermore, research will be done before removing the Stillbrook Road weight restriction. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 5-0.

Bennett Dog Complaint – Edward Bennett has five dogs. The Selectboard received a complaint from Damien Lesch and claims one of the Bennett's dogs scared his child. Ms. Bennett said she mistakenly let the dog run free and said she wouldn't ever do that again. The Bennett's say their dogs never attacked anybody. Calais Animal Control Officer had nothing to add. The Selectboard reiterated the need to keep the dog contained, under control and on your property at all times in accordance with the local ordinance.

Kellington/Gray Dog Complaint Update – On October 3rd the Selectboard received another letter from Marion Gray complaining about Libby Kellington's dog running on her property. Mike Garand spoke to her and Marion wants the Selectboard to do something such as impose a \$500.00 fine. Denise Wheeler will notify Libby Kellington that if she is not containing/controlling the dog in the way she said she was going to, then she will be required to come before the Selectboard again for another dog complaint hearing.

Planning Commission Update on Proposed Changes to Zoning Regulations - The Planning Commission is about ready to send the proposed changes to the zoning regs to the Selectboard. Jack Russell, Planning Commission Chair, gave an overview of how these changes happen in an effort to keep the document a work in progress. Jack noted that Rick DeWolfe, P.E., who reads a lot of zoning regulations, has never seen one with so many revision dates as ours in Calais. At the public hearing, Rick DeWolfe said it is one of the best he has ever read. In 2005, the town went through a major update of the zoning regulations and vowed to adjust every year if the need was there. The Zoning Administrator, DRB and Conservation Commission all offer ideas of areas that needs to be changed; it is a lot of work and a collaborative effort by many. The Planning Commission is also aware of court decisions and legislative action to take under consideration. The Planning Commission also makes sure both the town plan and zoning regulations are aligned.

The build out analysis by CVRPC showed under current zoning there is a potential for 1200 residential units that can be built in town. The Planning Commission is doing strategic planning in accordance with the town plan to expand village districts and make it as easy as possible to build and conserve natural resources. In summary, Jack stated the Planning Commission is working with CVRPC on a grant to go slowly with strategic plans for future development, streamline the process and make incremental changes in the zoning regulations. The process takes a lot of time and Jack stated he could see a time when it will take a professional to do this work. Two vacancies remain on the Planning Commission if anyone is interested in this type of work. The Planning Commission is working with the Conservation Commission to learn how to better protect natural resources; encouraging the Conservation Commission to complete the natural resources inventory; also using technology to do overlays of natural resources on parcels to allow landowners to print the map.

Roads Advisory Committee - Mo Cerutti, Doug Lilley, Greg Pelchuck, Cathy Kashanski, and JC Meyer have offered to serve on the Roads Advisory Committee and were appointed by the Selectboard on April 11, 2011. Mo Cerrutti came before the Selectboard in an effort to get the committee up and running. Mo Cerrutti asked the Selectboard, "What do we want the town to look like?" Mo Cerrutti has spoken to the Road Commissioner, Alfred Larrabee, and Steve Jerome, saying there is a need for an inventory of the roads and to assess what condition they are in. Denise Wheeler said the concern at town meeting was roads appear to be getting wider. Mo Cerutti would like to have a report to present at town meeting next March. A Road Log may be something the committee can develop for use in town. The town has a culvert inventory, bridge inventory and complete road resurfacing documents although spot resurfacing is not documented. Denise Wheeler asked that they come back and keep the Selectboard updated. Denise Wheeler said, "Alfred wants to be involved".

Toby Talbot said, "How wide is safe and is too wide not scenic?" "The condition of the road is controlled by the condition of the ditch." John Brabant would love the committee to focus on ornamental trees that provide shade and are dying from old age. The landowner would be responsible for ornamental trees on their land.

Committee on Unmapped and Unmaintained Roads - Darby Bradley, Committee Chair, provided an update. The committee started evaluation of the short spurs and now has moved to the longer ancient roads. Darby reviewed the Procedures and Criteria for Evaluating Calais' Ancient Roads approved by the committee on June 20, 2011. The committee is down to three or four left to finish evaluating and will then make a recommendation. The committee did receive a letter at the end of last meeting from Jim Hogue, who had a few issues. They will take his letter up for reconsideration at their next meeting on November 2, 2011. Darby has high hopes that they will be done by the end of this year. The Selectboard thanked him and his committee for their efforts.

PACIF -VLCT Insurance Renewal - The Selectboard reviewed the values of town buildings and contents of each were discussed for insurance renewal purposes.

Update on the North Calais Retaining Wall Project – The project is taking longer than originally thought. The culvert should be installed next week and Alfred Larrabee anticipates the road will be open by the end of the October.

Various Brief Updates:

- Dog crate for the town garage - Alfred has not heard anything yet from Fred Bushway about this issue.
- Personnel Policy - Toby Talbot has not worked on it over the past two weeks; it will be on the next agenda.
- GMP about LED lights in East Calais Village – GMP needs the pole number. Toby Talbot suggested getting an evaluation of the amount/area we need to have lit. Alfred Larrabee will get the pole numbers for Donna Fitch.

Meetings Notices: Joint Selectboard meeting with EMFD and East Montpelier Selectboard on Thursday, October 20, 2011 for the quarterly financial review at 7:00pm at EMFD Station 2.
Special Selectboard Meeting on Monday, October 24, 2011 at 7:00pm to discuss health insurance coverage with a rep from VLCT.

Tentative Agenda for the October 31st Meeting

- Tax Document
- Personnel Policy – review draft
- Dog complaints
- Discuss current FY Budget

Toby Talbot made a motion to adjourn at 9:25pm. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Pelchuck
Selectboard Administrative Assistant

