

SELECTBOARD MEETING
Approved Minutes

March 26, 2012

7:00pm Calais Elementary School

Attending: Denise Wheeler, John Brabant, Mike Garand, Toby Talbot, Alfred Larrabee, Rolf Mueller, Peter Harvey, David Schutz, Chris Cochran, Morgan Ecklund and Rose Pelchuck.

Absent: Scott Bassage

Actions:

Prior to the meeting, Rose Pelchuck distributed the revised Zoning Regulations for 2012 to the Selectboard and Zoning Administrator, Rolf Mueller. The town clerk will have copies for the DRB and Planning Commission at the town office.

Approval of the March 12th Meeting Minutes – The Selectboard reviewed the Minutes. Toby Talbot made a motion to approve the Minutes as written. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0.

Town Invoices and Road Commissioner's Orders of the Day - The Selectboard reviewed and processed the invoices and orders of the day as per usual protocol.

Road Commissioner Update – Alfred Larrabee gave a roads update during this “mud season”. Alfred explained clay holds the water and it comes up; there are a few stretches that are a problem. Toby Talbot asked if you could just fix a 50-foot section of road that is particularly muddy. “The road fabric keeps the clay down and separate from the good gravel; it is something to look into for future projects,” Alfred Larrabee said. Toby Talbot asked Alfred to make note and inventory the roads the clay boils are on; they do come up in the same place usually. Alfred said, “Drainage tile under the stone is also effective against clay boils”. Alfred said, “You should dig it all out, depending on the width of the road, probably a week long project, have to go down a least a foot or more”.

Chipper Update - Mike Garand, Selectboard Member and Road Foreman for East Montpelier, offered the town permission to use the Town of East Montpelier's chipper. Mike did obtain permission from the East Montpelier Selectboard. Mike Garand hopes to borrow the hay mulcher that Calais owns. *Thanks Mike!*

Road Drainage near Lilley Hill Farm - Alfred Larrabee reported it is not fair for the road crew to be bullied by Doug Lilley on Lightning Ridge Road. The road crew is just out performing their duties; potholes have to be repaired. On a recent site visit on March 14th, Mike Garand offered Doug Lilley two loads of gravel for the barnyard driveway; the offer didn't go anywhere. Alfred's main concern is water going into Doug's garage. John Brabant said, “Doug's number one concern is that the road is getting higher”. Alfred said, “Doug won't let the town cut off the edge for water to flow off the road”. Denise Wheeler wants a typed report of the site visit, what offers were made so that moving forward the town has documentation to deal with issues as they arise. Mike Garand reminded everyone about the road and bridge standards, that Calais agrees to abide by, that reads any berm alongside the road that impedes water flow shall be removed. John Brabant is willing to talk to Doug Lilley again. Toby Talbot suggested writing a plan of what we need to do, in detail and present it to Doug Lilley. (John Brabant immediately began work on the plan on his laptop during the meeting.) Denise Wheeler hopes this shows the town is trying to accommodate him yet needs to get the roadwork done.

Roads Posted for Spring Weight Restrictions - Alfred Larrabee reported Washington Electric Co-op had a 10-wheeler with a trailer and machinery on Lightning Ridge Road putting in new poles. WEC did not call for permission to travel the posted road, seemingly ignored the restriction. Denise Wheeler will call WEC to reiterate that the roads in town are all posted with weight restrictions till May.

Structures Grant for Culverts - Alfred Larrabee reported he is waiting for a structures grant for two new culverts on Singleton Road. Toby Talbot asked about the Better Back Roads grant for Balentine Road. The other grant is for Pekin Brook Road for an engineering study and planning. Newton Engineering is doing the engineering work. The matching component, the town's part, would be the road crew working during the project. The completion date is October 1st.

Liquor and Tobacco License renewal for Maple Corner Store – The applications to renew the liquor license and tobacco license for Maple Corner Store were reviewed by the Selectboard. Toby Talbot made a motion to approve the applications as presented. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0.

Animal Nuisance Control Ordinance Revision – Wilson Hughes, Second Constable, checked the state statute regulations about shooting a dog. Wilson recommends leaving the ordinance as is absent the shooting information. Mike Garand made a motion to approve the Animal Nuisance Control Ordinance as revised. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0. Rose Pelchuck will work on formatting the document. The public hearing process will be warned.

Right-of-Way Permit by Morgan Ecklund and Arlyn Bruccoli 68 North Calais Road in North Calais– the above named parties are seeking an amendment to right-of-way permit that was granted last year to reflect a change in the septic design. Septic is now across the road from the barn. The trench for the septic line, water line and electric line will go under the road. Alfred Larrabee would like to see the final drawings. Work will commence after the roads are no longer posted in May. Toby Talbot made a motion to approve the amended right-of-way permit with conditions:

1. Let Alfred Larrabee know when you want to begin, review the plans with him, and
2. Give a copy of drawings to Alfred Larrabee, and
3. Notify Alfred Larrabee when the road will be closed for the work using proper signage.

Historic Preservation Commission – David Schutz and Chris Cochran came before the Selectboard this evening to discuss the Town Hall. In January, we were awarded a \$10,000.00 grant and need to sign paperwork to officially receive the grant. The most pressing issue facing the building is flood mitigation, so the money will be used for engineering. Curtis Johnson redrafted the Request For Proposal, which is about to be distributed. Volunteer matching contributions by members of the commission are kept track of. Chris Cochran said the town hall would not qualify for FEMA money because it did not have three flood events. Only two flood events, in 1927 and 1984, have been documented that hit the building. The Jo Ellen report outlines the major things that need to happen for complete repair and restoration of the Town Hall. Toby Talbot made a motion to approve the grant application as presented for the CLG Town of Calais flood mitigation study. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0.

Appointments to Various Boards, Committees and Commissions - Denise Wheeler has contacted people to serve. Appointments will be made at the next meeting.

Curtis Pond Dam – The Selectboard needs to talk to Donna Fitch about setting up a special fund to accept donations to help fund the dam renovation project.

Zoning Violations, Appeals, Litigation, and Personnel Matters – John Brabant made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:20pm in accordance with 1 V.S.A. subsection 313 (a) (1) for the purpose of discussing an ongoing legal matter. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0. The regular session resumed at 8:40pm. Denise Wheeler stated there was nothing to publicly report.

Toby Talbot had to leave for a fire response call.

Tentative Agenda for the April 9th Meeting

- Special Fund for donations: Curtis Pond Dam
- Town Appointments to Various Boards, Committees and Commissions
- Response from WEC about ignoring posted roads
- Revised Dog Ordinance public hearing

Mike Garand made a motion to adjourn at 8:45pm. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Pelchuck, Selectboard Administrative Assistant