

SELECTBOARD MEETING
Approved Minutes

May 23, 2011

7pm Calais Town Hall

Attending: Denise Wheeler, John Brabant, Toby Talbot, Mike Garand, Scott Bassage, Donna Fitch, James Corson, Alfred Larrabee, Dot Naylor, Steve Cusick, Morgan Ecklund, Arlyn Bruccoli, Judy Harten, Paul Cerutti, Steve Morse and Rose Pelchuck.

Actions: There were no Minutes to approve.

Town Invoices and Orders – The Selectboard discussed town invoices and reviewed orders. Scott Bassage did a thorough review at the town office prior to tonight's meeting. Donna Fitch, Town Clerk and Treasurer, answered many questions for the board.

Quarterly Budget Review – The Selectboard reviewed various spreadsheets as prepared by Donna Fitch. The lease payment on the new pay loader is due in October 2011.

Road commissioner Update – Alfred Larrabee introduced Jim Corson as the new town employee, a Calais resident. Denise Wheeler will draft a letter of employment confirming the hourly rate and terms beginning June 6th. Donna Fitch has some forms for Jim to complete.

Alfred reported he obtained a permit from ANR in his name to get the rocks out of the river in North Calais on the Barbara Butler property. The Selectboard agreed it should be done at the landowner's expense, noting the next high water event could cause damage to town infrastructure. Denise Wheeler will contact Barbara Butler informing her the town will not perform the work and it is up to her to hire a contractor to retrieve the wall stone from the waterway.

Alfred reported the County Road paving project is \$18,000.00 less than the original quote. The contract has been executed and work begins June 2, 2011.

The new road grader is working well (rental grader) and a lot faster, Alfred was pleased to report.

Appointments for Town Offices, Boards and Commissions:

Conservation Commission:

Judy Harten has attended a few Conservation Commission meetings and is interested in serving.

Toby Talbot made a motion to appoint Judy Harten to a four-year term expires in 2015 (was a vacant position).

Two vacant positions remain as follows: One seat to fill unexpired term of Reese Hersey till 2012; and one seat to fill unexpired term of Warren Coleman till 2014.

Development Review Board:

Jody Bayne would like to be appointed to the DRB. The DRB averages two hearings a month plus site visits and deliberative sessions. After lengthy discussion about the role of the DRB, Jody Bayne withdrew his letter of intent to serve on the DRB.

One vacant position remains to fill the unexpired term of Robert Shaffer, expires 2012.

Auditors did not come tonight; a training workshop for auditors was discussed.

Adamant Dam Update – Corey Cheever, VT Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Technician, responded via email to an inquiry from Candace Shaffer which was read aloud by Scott Bassage for the record about the beaver dam in Adamant Pond. Steve Cusick, Conservation Commission Chair, offered comments about the beaver baffle monitoring system and shared the log sheet with the Selectboard. Steve Cusick will contact Conrad Smith about installing a monitoring stick to check water levels on both sides of the beaver dam. Alfred Larrabee expressed concern about the weather forecast this week for 3-3.5 inches of rain as predicted and what it may do to compromise the beaver dam. Mike Garand sited the water behind the beaver dam and estimates the water level is a foot higher on the wetland side than on the pond side going towards the road. Scott Bassage thinks we should leave it alone for now; when the water recedes, installing another beaver baffle is prudent. John Brabant agrees with Scott's above

idea. Toby Talbot, Emergency Plan Coordinator, drives by a lot and monitors the water level. Mike Garand has a lot of infrastructure downstream from Adamant in his role as East Montpelier Road Foreman. Mike Garand, who grew up in Adamant, strongly believes man has interrupted this waterway that used to be a little brook. Denise Wheeler stated in the next month or so we need to decide what to do. Mike Garand is concerned now that it has been brought to his attention.

Revised Zoning Update – Scott Bassage reviewed the process for updating the Land Use and Development Regulations for the town and noted the many hours Rose Pelchuck puts in to make the changes to the document, get copies printed and distributed. Scott Bassage made a motion to give \$100.00 to Rose Pelchuck, Selectboard Administrative Assistant, as a token of appreciation for the great job revising the Zoning Regulations this spring. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 5-0. Dot Naylor further noted Rose is helping us as a town when the document has gone to court and the town prevailed by having clearly written regulations and meeting Minutes. The revised Zoning Regulations can be found electronically on the Conservation Commission’s website and will soon be on the town’s website, too. *Thanks.*

Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department – Stephen Morse, President, presented the proposed 2011-2012 budget for fire protection services; net increase approximately \$900.00 more than the current fiscal year. Toby Talbot made a motion to approve the contract as presented for \$12,979.00. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 5-0.

Arlyn Brucolli re: R-O-W Permit Request - The Selectboard had a site visit on May 18, 2011. Alfred Larrabee looked at the location where the landowners put out stakes. Alfred reported it is narrow for snow, there is no site distance and a culvert crosses right there – you’d have to extend the pipe. Alfred’s biggest concern is the culvert that is only about 15 feet away from the barn. It would need a full-length 20-foot piece installed at the landowner’s expense.

Discussion then turned to when the box culvert replacement project in North Calais will happen. Rick DeWolfe and Chris Cochran have been working on this project. Chris Cochran has been in contact with Denise Wheeler about his own barn. The roads in North Calais will need to be closed to allow these two projects to take place but not at the same time. School bus routes should be considered. The Selectboard appears to be in favor of development in the village district as long as they get around the construction issues with road closure.

Other Business – Dot Naylor inquired about the installation of the “Recommended Truck Route” signs that were approved earlier this year but have not yet been installed. Denise Wheeler will discuss this with Alfred Larrabee.

Site visit for Bev & Don Heise R-O-W Permit – The Selectboard reviewed the request to install a garden shed from Bev & Don Heise. A site visit will be held on June 13th at 6:30pm prior to the regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting.

Dog Complaint – Denise Wheeler spoke to Libby Kellington today about the emails she has received from Marian Gray noting Libby’s dog was loose on Marian’s property. John Brabant is giving Libby Kellington an underground fence to install in hopes she can contain her dog. Denise Wheeler will request they come in at the next meeting for an update.

Other Business (continued) - Wayne Morse dropped off a letter about TH 44 dated May 18, 2011 to, among other things, urge the Selectboard to begin the process of discontinuance of said portion of TH 44 Wheeler Road per the Settlement Agreement. This will be taken up at the next meeting.

Tentative Agenda for the June 13th Meeting

- >Appointments
- >Beaver Baffle update from Cory Cheever
- >Dog complaint: Max Gray Road
- >North Calais culvert construction project
- >Town invoices and orders
- >Charge/Mission Statement for Modern Roads Committee

Toby Talbot made a motion to adjourn at 9:30pm. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rose Pelchuck, Selectboard Administrative Assistant