

SELECTBOARD MEETING
Approved Minutes

May 27, 2013

7:00pm Calais Town Hall

Attending: Denise Wheeler, Scott Bassage, Rose Pelchuck, Donna Fitch, Rolf Mueller, Will Walters, Greg Pelchuck, Conrad W. Smith, Eva Gumprecht, Peter Harvey, Trey Martin, Barbara Weedon, Gail Graham and Reed Cherington.

Absent: Toby Talbot and John Brabant

Actions:

Approval of the April 18th Joint Meeting Minutes - Scott Bassage made a motion to approve the Minutes as written. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 3-0.

Approval of the May 13th Meeting Minutes - Scott Bassage made a motion to approve the Minutes as written with one addition. Rather than adjourning that meeting, it was continued to May 14, 2013 for the purpose of going into Executive Session again. The Minutes were amended to indicate this change. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 3-0.

Discussion about publishing DRAFT Meeting Minutes - Scott Bassage would like the draft Minutes to be published on Front Porch Forum and the town's website. Rose Pelchuck explained that some time ago the Selectboard decided not to publish unapproved Minutes. This item was tabled until the next meeting for full board discussion. No vote was taken.

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.

Budget Update – Donna Fitch provided the budget update. There is \$76,000.00 left in the highway budget. Scott Bassage inquired why the sand and gravel invoices are on hold till July 1st to come out of the next fiscal year's budget. The Selectboard will ask Alfred about it. Donna Fitch has the numbers for the short-term borrowing in anticipation of tax revenue (\$340,000.00). Scott Bassage made a motion to borrow up to \$340,000.00 in anticipation of tax revenue. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 3-0. Donna Fitch will call Alfred tomorrow to ask about getting the invoices for sand and gravel so it can get paid this fiscal year.

Dental Insurance – VLCT Health Trust has negotiated a 1% reduction in the dental insurance premium. The town pays for employees and employees' pay for any family members on the dental insurance. New reduced rate takes effect July 1, 2013. Scott Bassage made a motion to continue with same coverage Plan B dental insurance through VLCT Health Trust. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 3-0.

CVSWMD Grant Award for \$3,000.00 – The Town of Calais received a grant for \$3,000.00 for our recycling/trash depot on Moscow Woods Road for a fence and new sign. Donna Fitch said we could apply for another grant for landscaping. Scott Bassage will contact some people in East Calais to encourage them to come to the next meeting to discuss what the fence and sign would look like. Scott Bassage will coordinate it.

Road Commissioner Update – Denise Wheeler spoke to Alfred prior to the meeting. The road crew has been out cutting brush from fallen trees. There was some discussion about who gets the wood that the road crew cuts within the town's right-of-way. Answer is the landowner unless they specifically say they do not want it.

AOT Grants – Donna Fitch reported the Town received only one grant for the North Calais retaining wall project, which was listed as the town's top priority. The town did not get any other grants from the Town Highways Structures and Class 2 Roadway Grant Program.

Public Comment – Conrad Smith provided a handout: THOUGHTS REGARDING ADOPTING THE 2013 ROAD & BRIDGE STANDARDS AND PROCEEDING WITH THE ADAMANT/FOWLER/SINGLETON RESURFACING PROJECT, Conrad W. Smith for the May 27th Selectboard Meeting. The Selectboard listened to Conrad's comments (A) noting there is time to set up a good process and do it right and (B) things that could be put on the agenda for the next Selectboard meeting. (See Conrad's handout for full text.) Denise Wheeler said that the Road Commissioner has been told not to do any work on Adamant/Fowler/Singleton Roads. Scott Bassage explained the annual financial plan from the state that outlines which major road projects are planned for the year. Scott said that Alfred feels like he is hanging following one state road standard and the Selectboard are telling him not to follow the standards.

Greg Pelchuck, member of the Calais Roads Advisory Committee, provided the Selectboard with information including the current committee charge, major north-south and east-west corridors and the Meeting Minutes. Greg stressed that a particular section of Adamant Road is a mud hole in the spring. Greg spoke from his personal point of view and not on behalf of the Roads Advisory Committee. Greg also spoke in favor of cutting the marked trees on his property on Adamant Road, much to the chagrin of his wife and Selectboard member, Rose Pelchuck. Greg did note there is only a six months window for working on the roads and hopes this can be resolved soon.

Eva Gumprecht, an Adamant Road resident, read a prepared statement detailing as a follow up to comments from the last Selectboard meeting. Eva noted working together on this issue is a real opportunity to make something new and positive happen. (See full text of Eva Gumprecht's letter in the town office.)

Denise Wheeler reiterated the Selectboard's responsibility is to hear all sides; we need to reconstitute the Roads Advisory Committee and the Selectboard needs to bring it all together.

Peter Harvey reminded those in attendance about the short construction season and that we don't have an agreed approach yet so we need not hurry.

Gail Graham asked has there ever been a traffic study in town as she was curious about documentation of traffic going towards Adamant. There is a lot of traffic on that road.

Trey Martin appreciates all the input from townspeople noting this is not a black and white issue. Trey offered to help out on the roads committee.

Denise Wheeler read the list of names the Selectboard will consider to the Roads Advisory Committee as follows: Trey Martin, Doug Lilley, Peter Harvey, Bill Gray, Mike Woodfield, Tim Fillbach, JC Meyers, possibly Rick DeWolfe, Craig Line and Barbara Weedon. The Selectboard will make the appointments at the June 10th meeting. Denise Wheeler suggested dividing the workload. Greg Pelchuck offered to give all the documentation he has from the last committee electronically. Denise would also like the new committee to have the Erosion Report from CVRPC by Dan Currier. It was agreed to hold off on the roads demonstration from Alfred Larrabee until the new Roads Advisory Committee is appointed and can attend such demo.

Trails Committee - Reed Cherington reported we have a new trail, which parallels half of Robinson Hill Road. Enter near Ward's house (Calais trails marked). The Trails Committee will meet next Wednesday, June 5th, with a work bee to build a new bridge on June 2nd. TH 8 issue is on hold to simmer down. The Trails Committee needs a renewal of the two-year mandate in the fall. Reed reported the need for a few new members and a new chair. There is no map of the trails. Rose Pelchuck, EMFD Administrative Assistant, asked the committee to have a document/map containing trailheads and locations for emergency service access. This was directly requested by EMFD. Reed will bring this request to the committee.

Projector for Overhead Use – Scott Bassage is proposing the town purchase a projector to have the ability to show electronic documents/spreadsheets/maps, etc. at meetings since so much of how we do business is electronic. Scott explained the cost, brightness and sharpness of image are important considerations. The

business class of projectors ranges from about \$400.00 to \$600.00. Denise Wheeler made a motion to authorize Scott Bassage to buy a projector for the Town of Calais at a cost not to exceed \$600.00. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 3-0.

Update on Route 14 Bridge Replacement Project - Scott Bassage and Denise Wheeler recently met with AOT to discuss replacing a bridge on Route 14 after the East Calais General Store, near the little green house south of the village, no sooner than the summer of 2016. They explained the Expedited Bridge Project could be done in nine days or less if the road is completely closed off and traffic is detoured. An informational meeting will be held on July 24th at 6:30pm at the East Calais Recreational Building about the project. The public is urged to attend. The town will advertise it widely to publicize the public meeting. The Selectboard will get input from the community before making a final recommendation to the state about how they should control traffic during the bridge replacement. Denise Wheeler said she is leaning towards the nine-day bridge replacement method. The town needs to contact emergency services throughout the area to inform them about the bridge construction slated for 2016.

Intersection at East Calais Church – Denise Wheeler said there is an issue about going around the church since it is not clear which way to go. Trucks have been hitting the church. Denise said the issue is putting up some signage. Peter Harvey suggested putting up signs that say No Trucks.

ROW Ordinance – The Selectboard briefly discussed the three-rod road rule since it is in the permit application to work in the Town's Right-of-Way but not in the Town Ordinance. Rose reviewed the Selectboard Minutes and Use of Town Highway Right-of-Way Ordinance 2008. Donna Fitch will get more information.

Blackberry Ridge Road – The street sign was erected but a landowner complained because it did not say private road. Denise Wheeler reported a private road sign would be erected under the street sign.

ATV's in Woodbury Ordinance – The town was notified the Town of Woodbury is adopting an Ordinance for ATV use on certain roads and trails in Woodbury and Calais may see and increase in ATV traffic. Denise Wheeler said this is an issue and surprised it has not come up before now.

Curb Cut Permit Applications - Heyburn and Lyford have submitted applications that will be taken up at the next meeting.

Appointments for Town Offices, Boards and Commissions: Vacancies in the various positions were discussed. Rose Pelchuck gave Denise Wheeler a list of town positions that have not yet been filled.

Tentative Agenda for the June 10th Meeting

- Publishing Draft Selectboard Minutes or not
- Jeff Fothergill to discuss tax items
- Fence and sign at recycling/trash depot with grant funds
- Appoint new Roads Advisory Committee members and their charge
- Appointments for unfilled town offices, boards and commissions
- Curb cut permit applications for Heyburn and Lyford

Scott Bassage made a motion to adjourn at 9:05pm. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Pelchuck
Selectboard Member & Administrative Assistant