

SELECTBOARD MEETING
Approved Minutes

September 12, 2011

6:15pm Site Visit TH 44

Actions:

The evening began with a site visit on TH 44 at 6:15pm. Notes from Site Visit to TH 44, Wheeler Road, by Scott Bassage, Selectboard Member

The hearing was properly warned to interested parties and the public. The record is on file in the Town Office. A notice was posted at various locations around town and printed in the Times Argus newspaper of August 24, 2011.

Persons attending the site visit included all members of the Calais Selectboard and the following: George Morse, Cynthia Gardner-Morse, Chuck Storrow, Wayne Morse, Mack Gardner-Morse, Ben Morse and Peter Harvey.

The site visit portion of the hearing convened at the intersection of old and new TH 44. Denise Wheeler, Selectboard Chair, opened the public hearing at 6:15pm. The group walked up the course of the road and stopped at the Storrow / Morse property line to look at landmarks. We then walked the remaining course of the old TH 44 to the current Storrow homestead.

We then reconvened at the starting place and Denise Wheeler summed up the site visit by noting that the Selectboard did a site visit for Town Highway 44. We walked the entire piece of "old" Town Highway 44. We looked at what was probably the "38-inch pine" noted in the "Hartson-Wheeler Road Relocation" filed September 30, 1972. At about 6:40pm we moved to the Town Hall to continue the hearing.

Prepared by Scott Bassage
9/13/2011

7:15pm Calais Town Hall

PUBLIC HEARING FOR DISCONTINUANCE OF A PORTION OF TH 44

Attending: Denise Wheeler, Mike Garand, John Brabant, Scott Bassage, Toby Talbot, Donna Fitch, Alfred Larrabee, Peter Harvey, Wayne Morse, Ben Morse, Bill Powell, Tim Maker, Paul Schekel, Cindy Gardner-Morse, Mack Gardner-Morse, George Morse, Steve Cusick, Chuck Storrow, Lisa LaPlante, Renee Fair, Melissa Fair Cohen, Kathy Fair, Carolyn Beauregard, Alan Beauregard, Colin Doolittle and Rose Pelchuck.

The Public Hearing commenced for the discontinuance of a three-rod strip of TH 44, Wheeler Road, as a result of a very long process according to Denise Wheeler, Selectboard Chair. The Selectboard and others walked the entire part of the section to be discontinued earlier this evening during a site visit. Chuck Storrow gave a detailed background of the property and events surrounding this part of the road. Chuck Storrow does not agree with the legal opinion from John Klesch, Esq., attorney hired by the town to sort out this road matter. Chuck Storrow stated he is okay with the town retaining the old road as a Class 4 Road as in the settlement agreement with Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Morse. Chuck Storrow feels that this settlement reflects where all parties would end up if the matter were resolved in court.

Wayne Morse gave his recollection of the events dating back to 1971.

George Morse, Wayne's brother, spoke about the deed description of property that was owned by their father. There is a small parcel of land near the proposed discontinued road that is owned by George Morse. Wayne Morse noted it was an oversight when drawing up the deeds some years ago that a small portion of land near the part of discontinued road is still owned by George Morse. George Morse wants to retain access to that small parcel of land. The Selectboard agreed George Morse would have to talk this over with his brother, Wayne Morse. Denise Wheeler will ask attorney John Klesch to look at this to be sure all the correct procedures are followed. Chuck Storrow is supposed to quit claim deed property to Wayne & Elizabeth Morse so they need to be sure who the correct people to quit claim are. The Public Hearing was continued until the next regular Selectboard meeting on September 26, 2011 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall.

Administrative Work- The Selectboard reviewed the annual bill for \$125.00 for the town's website domain name. Rose Pelchuck will pay it by credit card and the town will reimburse her. The money is in the budget.

Approval of August 29th Meeting Minutes – The Selectboard reviewed the Minutes and made one change. Toby Talbot made a motion to approve the Minutes as amended. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 5-0.

Public comment – none

Road Commissioner Update – Alfred Larrabee reported there is no news on the old grader. The mechanic is replacing the block, the new truck is in service and he has been out grading.

Dog Complaint – The Selectboard received a complaint from Lisa LaPlante about a beagle dog belonging to Colin Doolittle that charged her and bit her dog. Another person complained that the dog is always in her yard and she has been bitten and called Fred Bushway, Animal Control Officer. She has called the owner. Melissa Fair Cohen nearly hit it. Another two people reported the dog has attacked them in their own yards. Colin Doolittle apologized for the dog's behavior; claims to be working hard to train him. He is looking into shelters to give him a new home; he is on a chain outside. The Selectboard reiterated that this is unacceptable that the dog is threatening townspeople. Colin cannot give a time frame of when the dog will be relocated. At the Sept. 26th meeting, Colin Doolittle will give an update on the dog situation.

PACE -Bill Powell, Tim Maker and Paul Schekel came before the Selectboard to discuss the Clean Energy Assessment Districts – Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE). Tim Maker came to present the information on a district heating system in Maple Corner. The grant-funded study asked the question at what price is this a good idea. The answer is \$6.25/gal for oil. Individual homeowners connecting to a district heating system would be expensive; therefore, PACE would be a very good option for helping fund this or other efficiency improvements. A separate entity or business would run the district heating system, something like a Fire District or private business. To be a PACE program participate the municipality will have to vote on a resolution at town meeting. VEIC (Vermont Energy Investment Corporation) and Efficiency Vermont the agency for Vermont, can provide all the necessary information.

Conservation Commission – Toby Talbot made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:35pm with Steve Cusick, Conservation Commission Chair, for the purpose of discussion a real estate action. The Selectboard resumed regular session at 9:05pm. Denise Wheeler reported The Conservation Commission is investigating the purchase of a parcel of land with conservation commission funds and other outside funding sources. No expenditures from the conservation fund were authorized at this time.

Continued Meeting – The Selectboard discussed having a Continued Meeting to work on other items that keep getting pushed off. The Selectboard will hold a Continued Meeting on Tuesday, September 20th at 7:00pm to devise a personnel policy. The Road Commissioner and Town Clerk will be invited to attend.

VLCT Health Insurance – Mike Garand, Denise Wheeler, Donna Fitch, representatives from VLCT met with road crew to review health insurance plans. It appears that VLCT will offer options from either MVP or BCBS as the carrier. Denise Wheeler noted the town is leaning towards a high deductible plan with a health savings account. After the meeting, it seemed like the road crew had a better understanding of the new plans.

Tentative Agenda for the September 20th Continued Meeting

- Devise a personnel policy for town employees

Tentative Agenda for the September 26th Meeting

- Public hearing on Discontinuance of portion TH 44 Wheeler Road (continued)
- Dog Complaint on Max Gray Road
- Follow up on dog complaint with Colin Doolittle
- Animal Control Officer, Fred Bushway various issues

➤ LED street light for East Calais

Scott Bassage made a motion to continue the meeting until Tuesday, September 20th at 7:00pm. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Pelchuck
Selectboard Administrative Assistant