

Minutes for the Select Board

August 23, 2017 at the Town Office

Members of the board present: Toni Pippy (chair), John Freitag, Brian Johnson, Stephen Marx,
Kate Siepmann

Also present: Lisa Bragg (Town Clerk) and Jon MacKinnon (Road Foreman), Jennifer Brown
(*Herald* reporter) Participating citizens: Janet Hardy, Jere Linehan, Hilary Linehan,
Rocky Fuller, Jody Lowes, Lauren Phelps, Sean Harlow

1. Citizen Concerns

Janet Hardy requested that the Select Board intervene directly with the Claffeys regarding the condition of their front yard. In response to an earlier complaint, the yard was cleaned up to remove accumulated trash. Janet was concerned about various kitchen and bathroom appliances in the yard. The Board took into consideration that the family is going through particularly trying times and that there are internal repairs being made to accommodate the needs of an amputee. The question has been addressed before. Toni agreed to call Kerry to see how best to remedy the situation. It is understood that the yard gets more scrutiny being at the entrance to the Village than it would if it were located on a back road. The Board will review the junk ordinance and agreed to send out several letters to citizens in violation.

In her role as Animal Officer, Janet reported a virtual infestation of feral cats in the area of the Cross Road and LeFleur Road. She has met with the Lucy McKenzie Humane Society and is arranging to have the cats trapped and relocated. Janet emphasized that this situation underscores the need for people to spay and neuter their cats.

2. Town Highways

Work on the new Bridge #29 is very nearly completed. John asked Jon to confirm that driveway work at Allan Wiley's house was a private job and would not be charged to the Town.

Jon reported that all road equipment is up to speed. There was a collective sigh of relief as the FEMA Declaration came through with help on repaired storm damaged sections of town roads. We will send representatives to the mandatory meeting of District 4 Highway meeting on Friday in White River Jct..

The Board expressed sincere appreciation to Rod Maclay for bringing his Department of Transportation experience to bear in helping Jon to manage the red tape involved preparing damage assessments and inventorying road damage. We are very grateful to Brian for all the volunteer hours he spent meeting with State and Federal representatives and acting as liaison between the Highway Department and the Board. And, as ever, great thanks to Lisa for keeping a cool head, tying up all the loose ends, and coordinating, with Jon, the entire effort of dealing with the emergency.

3. Capital Improvement Fund

Jere Linehan, supported by Sean Harlow, made the case for establishing a Capital Improvement Fund for the Fire Department in the amount of \$25,000 a year in perpetuity. On its own, the Department raises between \$12,000 to \$14,000 a year, which is nowhere near

enough to pay for aging equipment and gear, let alone replacing a fire truck. Engine 3 is the newest truck in the fleet at 16 years; Engine 1 is 30-years old. Gear for each volunteer costs at least \$1,500. Breathing apparatus costs \$8,000 apiece. Acknowledging the vital contribution of the Fire Department to the Town, the Board encouraged Jere to put together an article for Town Meeting for a vote by the Town.

4. Rocky Fuller: Town House Update

Rocky Fuller went over the minutes of the last meeting of the Town House Advisory Group, revealing successful fund raising efforts and reviewing many improvements, completed and underway. He wondered how much the Town will be willing to contribute to the ongoing fund. The rebuilding of the attic walkway is almost complete. Soon up on their agenda will be new lighting in the interior which will improve the overall ambiance and enable better viewing of films. Plans also include lighting the roadway to the base of the hill. He raised the intriguing notion of building a timber frame covered bridge when the Hemmenway bridge is due for replacement. Rocky was thanked for his great results and dedication .

5. Preschool Playground

Jody Lowes and Lauren Phelps from The Creative Preschool and Hilary Linehan, co-chair of the Recreation Board, discussed the Town Insurance Inspector's report that identified some "low priority" improvements that need to be made to the playground equipment. It was decided that the Town and the Preschool would split the cost of the necessary repairs. Toni moved, John seconded, that the Town pay 50% of the short-term repairs to the playground equipment up to \$1000, meaning the Town will match up to \$500. All approved.

6. Approve minutes

Toni moved and Stephen seconded that the minutes for meetings on August 9 and August 16 be accepted. All approved

7. Correspondence

The Board declined invitations from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) to send a delegate to the Town Fair and to send a nomination for the VLCT award.

8. Town Plan approval

Stephen moved, Brian seconded, to approve the May 11 Draft Town Plan as amended by the Select Board, with all edits to the original draft shown in colored type, with a copy each sent to the Planning Commission and Two Rivers Ottaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC). All were in favor. It was agreed to make 3 copies also available to the public in the Library for review before the third and final public hearing on September 13. Given the statutory requirements about public notice and timing, no changes shall be made in the 15 days prior final public hearing. The the Town Plan must be adopted by September 27.

Kate moved and Toni seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:20. All agreed.

Faithfully submitted,
Kate Siepmann

Recording secretary