

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE STRAFFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
June 25, 2014

Pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 312 (b)(1) Selectboard meeting minutes include

- (A) All members of the public body present;
- (B) All other active participants in the meeting;
- (C) All motions, proposals and resolutions made, offered and considered, and what disposition is made of same; and
- (D) The results of any votes, with a record of the individual vote of each member if a roll call is taken.

Although meeting minutes have complied with 1 V.S.A. § 312 (b)(1), any additional information is included as a courtesy.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members of the public body present:

Rod Maclay, Chair, Tori Lloyd, Steve Marx, Brent Cadwell, and John Freitag, Members

Other active participants:

Lisa Kendall, Town Clerk/Treasurer, Ron Rhodes, North Country River Steward, Connect River Watershed Council Inc.; Brian Johnson, Zoning Officer, Barbra Smith and Roz Finn, citizens

1. CITIZENS CONCERNS: 7:00 pm Brian Johnson wanted to point out a discrepancy between the current adopted Strafford Zoning Ordinance and the draft of the Strafford Vermont Unified Bylaw under General Provisions 1.4 Effective Date. On the adopted version it states the ordinance becomes effective “upon adoption by a vote of the Town by Australian Ballot at the regular or Special Town Meeting.” The draft document states under 1.4 “shall become effective upon date of their adoption by a vote of the Selectboard at a duly warned public hearing.” The concern is the discrepancy between the adopted and the draft document.

Roz voiced a concern about the condition of Bridge 29 and the heavy trucks that regularly pass over the bridge.

2. MINUTES: Approve Minutes for 5/15 and 5/27

Steve made the motion that the minutes for 5/15/14 be approved. John seconded. All in favor. Brent made the motion for the minutes of 5/27/14 be approved. Steve seconded. John opposed because he feels that the minutes were not objected and inaccurate and the person view of the person taking the minutes. Four in favor.

Steve suggested that the Board hire a recording secretary to take minutes. John and Steve offered his Selectboard stipend to pay for the position. Steve is making a motion to hire someone to take minutes of the meetings and that Lisa advertise on the listserve and the website. Brent seconded. All in favor.

3. GENERAL: VLCT Town Personnel Policy project progress was reviewed by Tori. VLCT is working to complete both a personnel policy and the handbook. Brent made the motion to approve the Road Crew Level 1-3 job description based on Jon Mackinnon's recommendations. Steve seconded. All in favor.

List Serve Responses – Brent was concerned that John was making comments on the listserve and that it may appear that John's comments are a representation of the entire Board. Brent noted it is better for people to come to the meeting instead of post the listserve based on information that may not be accurate. Whatever is posted on the listserve should be from the entire Board and not an individual. Steve suggested we don't put anything on the listserve as individuals unless it is clear that it comes from that individual.

Recreation Board: Barbara Smith proposed an Edible Pocket Park behind Bob Bauer's and the end of the field. She provided detailed description of the small park that would include edible fruit and nut trees and would be available to everyone in the community. Two nut trees for the project have already been donated by the Upper Valley Apple Corps. No funds are being requested from the Town. Barb said that she would consider an "adopt a tree" element to the program and individuals could adopt a tree by paying for a fruit or nut tree in the program. Barb provided a long list of the possible tree options. Barb said she would take care of maintenance for the area; it would not be mowed as part of the field. John asked about what the costs into the future might be. Rod said there was a lot of opportunity for those to be involved, especially for our school children. Tori made a motion to accept the Pocket Park Proposal, which would allow Barb to submit her grant application and get volunteers. Brent seconded. All in favor.

Junkyards – The Board discussed the status of the nine junk yards that were visited in the fall. In particular, the situations are complicated and there are no state funds to assist with cleaning up the properties that need the most clean up.

Open Meeting Law – As of July 1, 2014 draft minutes and agendas from Selectboard meetings and Town Commissions need to be published on a Town website if one exists. Strafford approved minutes are under a tab from the Selectboard Approved Selectboard Minutes. Specific commissions and committees will have their minutes under their topic on the website. Currently, all approved selectboard minutes and posted as well as all minutes that have been made available to Lisa. Tori asked the liaisons to remind groups to follow the guidelines that Lisa will send out to everyone.

Cell Phones – State of Vermont gave phone numbers of consumer hotlines for Verizon and to call them. Steve reported that nothing is happening and nothing is planned. Steve will first follow-up with Verizon and will report back to the Board. Steve was told to call the State back if he does not receive a satisfactory answer.

4. TOWN HIGHWAYS: Takacs Trees – The Takacs family is asking to cost share for removing dead maple trees that are between their property and the road. Matt Perry, the Town Tree Warden, needs to talk with Jon and work together to move forward. Lisa will contact the Takacs and let them know we are working on a solution.

Maple Hill Project – Ron Rhodes signed the Vermont Fish and Wildlife grant to pay for engineering and design 65% and CC would pay the 35% from the balance left from a previous grant. The Maple

Hill culvert is a fish passage barrier, which is why the Vermont Fish and Wildlife is supporting this project. CC would spend \$3,000 and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife would pay \$5000. The estimated total project cost is \$8000. The Watershed Council submitted the grant as part of a project covering several grants. Engineering would be completed the summer 2014 and installation would be in 2015. There is a possibility that the US Fish and Wildlife to contribute to the installation in order for towns not to have to invest in these projects.

Rod asked Ron about the material that may be needed for the Bridge 29 project. Ron said it's hard to find money for rock. He said that because a structure is threatened the USDA and Nature Resource Conservation Service may be able to assist with funding and stabilization of the bank nexus between Bridge 29, Roz Finn's property, and the Catholic Church.

Bridge Projects (FEMA, BR#26 Farley's, BR#29 Finn's) – The State had a meeting to discuss overhead power line placement and they want the Town to get a grant for the riprap. At the present time, we have no idea about the cost for the bank stabilization. A survey was needed in order to complete deeds for the revised location of the bridge. Larry Swanson is completing the survey, which should be done in a few weeks.

Town Garage Update – Last week Tori received an email reporting that the insurance adjuster is still looking into the matter and will contact the Town as soon as they know more.

Equipment Updates – Brent has been working with Jon and discussing the possibility of working with one vendor in revolving program to replace the Town loader and backhoe at a fixed amount every year. Currently, the Town continues to spend more with each passing year on equipment rotation. The goal is to fix the annual cost of equipment in order for stabilize budgeting.

Steve attended the Conservation Commission (CC) invasive meeting and the CC requested that the Town mow the invasive plants. However, the Road Crew needs to know where to mow.

Executive Session: The board went into 9:04 pm Executive Session at to discuss the road crew position. The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:16 pm. No action was taken.

Tori resigned her position as a Selectboard member effective immediately and noted that malice and rescission was the reason she could no longer be a member of this Board.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Wednesday, July 9, 2014 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Lloyd