

Select Board Meeting: Draft Minutes

September 6, 2016

Selectboard members present: Susan Jefferies, Peter Marsh, Tony Porter
Others present: Tom Estey, Susan Eckhardt GMP, Carol Caroscio, Todd McInturff, Chris Zeno, Trixie Zeno, James Zeno, Koran Cousino, and Caleb Elder

The SB members informally discussed the arrangements and content of the presentation for the informational meeting on September 20 for the Zoning Bylaws at 5PM. No action was taken.

The SB meeting came to order at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes: T. Porter moved to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2016 meeting. P. Marsh seconded. Voted and approved.

Bills: T. Porter moved to instruct the Treasurer to pay the bills as presented. P. Marsh seconded. Voted and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Road Foreman report: T. Estey reported that the location for the recycling dumpsters will be north of the salt and sand shed. He said that the submittals for the Ben Roberts Road bridge are being reviewed and the start date for the project is not yet determined. He also said that the tandem truck ordered after approval by the voters in March will not be delivered until November.

The Town received an inspection report from VTrans calling for the replacement of deteriorated deck boards on Parsonage Road. T. Estey reported that this project is underway with most of the necessary materials on hand. The work is scheduled to be completed by end of the current fiscal year.

Ongoing Projects: P. Marsh reported that he was editing the draft Class IV Road Policy and would have it distributed to the Board and Road Foreman before the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Animal Control: S. Jefferies presented an ad and a job description for the Animal Control Officer that the Board approved. The SB understands that the compensation offered in Starksboro is less than in nearby towns and needs reconsideration. T. Porter is presently acting ACO and has a list of over 50 unlicensed dogs.

Electric power line proposal for Brown Hill Road: Chris Zeno wanted to know what the SB position is on the installation of new electric power lines extending electrical service on Brown Hill Road. He would like electric power available to his maple sugar house about 4000' beyond current lines. This location is in the Forest and Conservation zone between the Carp Cole and Crowley Road junctions.

Susan Eckhardt from GMP provided information about the procedures and options available. GMP can install power poles at its discretion if the poles, braces or guy wires and necessary tree trimming or removal can all be done in the Town right of Way (24'9" from the road centerline). Any work or installation outside the ROW must have the landowners' easement. Generally the consumer proposing the work is responsible for obtaining the easements. She said that the pole installation cannot all be done within the ROW for the proposed Brown Hill Rd. extensions and easements are not likely for a 1000' section at the beginning of the proposed extension.

The other option is to run the cable in buried conduit within the ROW, possibly even under the road bed if steep side slopes or drop-offs make burial beside the road not feasible. Buried cable would surface about every 500' at a termination cabinet. For either option, the road will be closed during most of the projects working hours.

Visitors mentioned concerns about the visual issues around the surface termination cabinets and whether adding power to the F&C Zone will make the problem of enforcement of use of seasonal dwellings more problematic. There was also concern about who could work within the Town ROW. The SB reported that the Board is working on a Class IV Road Policy that will define what maintenance will take place on these roads, who will be permitted to work in the ROW and under what conditions. Penalties may be established for violations of these conditions.

Chris Zeno asked when we would make a decision. As this was the first time the proposal was presented to the SB, the SB responded that we need to give the proposal due consideration with consultations with the Town Road Foreman, Zoning Administrator and others as necessary and prudent. The SB suggested that Mr. Zeno get on the agenda for our meeting October 4.

Cota Field play structure: Koran Cousino (453-4352) reported that the Recreation Committee has received an 8"x16" play structure that they would like to install at Cota Field for the use of young children. There will be bark mulch or similar soft material beneath the structure and out 6'. The SB had no objection but wanted to check on the any needed permits. T. Porter will check with David Wetmore, Zoning Administrator, about the need for a local permit, with Vermont Land Trust to see if they had concerns, and with the Town Treasurer and/or Town Clerk to see if there are insurance concerns.

Tax penalty: The SB received a recommendation that the Board waive the Town late payment penalty of the taxes of Caleb Elder as the payment was delayed due to a problem with the State education tax software. The Board voted to waive the penalty. Caleb Elder came before the SB at the end of the meeting to make his case for the waiver and was told that the SB had already waived the penalty.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Marsh