

June 19, 2014 Select Board Minutes, Groton Community Building (Approved)

Select Board: Peter Lyon, Gary Lamberton, Nathan Puffer

Road Commissioner: Brent Smith, Constable: Jim Downing, Town Clerk: Linda Nunn, Web Master: Dave Spencer

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

General discussion took place on the legislation recently passed by the legislature that significantly amends Vermont's Open Meeting Law. The primary focus took place on the requirement for posting notices of meetings and the loading onto the Town's web site the agendas and minutes of all public meetings that take place. Gary will send out a memo to all the Town organizations & committees informing them of the new requirements and include a reference to the regulations. Dave will assist anyone that needs help working with the Town's web site. Peter moved, Nathan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to designate the following locations where notices and agendas for meetings will be posted; Upper Valley Grill, Town of Groton Post Office, & Groton Community Building.

Brent reviewed the need for a mowing contract for this year. It was agreed that the proper approach would be to issue an RFP for mowing.

Nathan reviewed a request from Bill Kane of Upper Valley Grill requesting Board support to locate a "sandwich board" in front of his business. Bill is submitting the request at the suggestion of the State since it would be near the 302 ROW. Peter moved, Nathan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to support Bill's request subject to respecting the appropriate regulations.

The Board discussed the mowing that is being completed around town by volunteers. In particular the Board wanted to recognize and thank the following people for their generous support!!!

- Dave Sanville for mowing around the Town entrance sign on the East side entering on Rt 302
- Linda Nunn for mowing around the Town entrance sign on the West side entering on Rt 302
- Fred Grant for mowing around and in front of the Town Highway Garage.
- Mowing of Veterans Park by Steve Ashford

Jim reported that he had received the new video system. It was the size of a pencil and will attached to the collar on his shirt with the battery pack on his belt. He will be giving the old speakers to the highway crew and/or the fire department and recycling the old video system.

Nathan reported that he had reviewed the old/yellow building next to the Post Office and had concluded that it would not be safe in the winter with snow load on the roof. Jim will contact the owner to obtain the owners latest status on what they are going to be doing with the building.

General discussion took place on the burned out storage building on 232. Nathan volunteered to contact the owner to get information on what their intent is.

Brent reported that he had an application from Elden Long at 2266 Great Road for an access ROW and that he supported the request. Peter moved, Gary seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve the request.

Brent reported that he had attended an application briefing to obtain information on request for help for FEMA funds for the last major storm. Emergency Management is coordinating the process with advice from VAOT. Brent expects that we will receive some help. Brent also reported that members of Emergency Services met with the ranger at the State Park to review support requirements and discuss general issues. The meeting went very well and they were good to work with. There was one question which is how do they obtain access to the key for the gates on the RR Track (Cross Vt Trail)?

Brent provided an overview of paving options that he was studying, Shim & overlay vs Chip seal. He is researching and looking for where Chip seal has been used to help with the final recommendation.

Gary asked if sidewalks were covered by the Highway fund. Brent responded that they were supported by the General fund. Gary would like to consider working on the sidewalks in the future. It was agreed to consider this when working on next year's budget.

Peter reported that Chief will be starting work on the Memory wall project behind the community building this coming Monday. Chief is doing the work as a volunteer and at no cost to the Town. Brent and Phillip are very important for the project as they will be hauling all the excess material away and hauling in the required crush stone.

Brent reported that the Dam removal project on the Wells River will start on July 7th. The Town will get all the excess material which will be crushed and used on Town roads. This is a State project and being completed with Grant funds.

Linda reported that she still has some dogs that need to be licensed and that she will working with Josephine Guertin as the Animal Control officer on some animals that are loose.

Peter reported that he had asked Harry Chandler to looking into the opportunity to log the old dump site since Chris Emerson is already working there. Peter recommended that any funds received be placed into the new Emergency reserve fund. It was agreed to discuss further at the next Board meeting.

Gary reported that he has completed the installation of the new system for the Fire Department and that he will be next working on Roberta's and Linda's systems.

The Board wanted to extend its complements and congratulations to the BMS Girls and Boys for their participation in the State Championship games both of which were very competitive!!!!

Brent reported that Sue Zierke had volunteered to provide storage space for the Town's Antique Fire Engine. The Board thought that this was wonderful and thanked Sue for her support.

Peter moved, Nathan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve with corrections the June 5, 2014 minutes. Peter moved, Nathan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve with corrections the June 11, 2014 minutes.

Peter volunteered to fill the Towns open position as the NVDA representative. Nathan moved, Gary seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to appoint Peter as the Town's NVDA representative.

Nathan reported that he has received a check for \$7,500 from Dufresne Group and another check for \$5,713 from Tremblay Construction to resolve the Town's overpayment for the Welton Bridge project. Nathan is working with Shauna (VAOT) on the remaining gap and is anticipating that there will be a

successful conclusion. Nathan also reported that the Hill's water filtration system is on order and will be installed shortly.

Peter moved, Nathan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to close the meeting (at 9:15 PM)

Gary Lamberton, Chair

Prepared by Peter Lyon