

## Stockbridge Board of Selectmen -Draft

January 16, 7:00 PM

Present: Lee Ann Isaacson, Jim Shands, Mark Pelletier, Lori Scott, Dave Brown, Forrest Newton, Richard Lunna, Pete Fellows-TRORC, Sally Manikian – The Conservation Fund

The meeting came to order at 7:00 PM. The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and Lee Ann moved to approve. Mark seconded and minutes were approved.

### Road Commissioner Report

Dave reported that 10 loads of sand have been delivered this week and a new load of salt on 1/16/2020.

New Boston Road at the Rochester end is continuing to get worse. The board has asked Dave to contact the Rochester Road Commissioner for assistance. **Action Item:** Dave to reach out to John Champion.

New truck sander attachment is having some trouble. With wet sand, the sander gets stuck requiring one of the road crew to get inside and shift the sand around. Dave reported that Fairfield has an attachment that vibrates the sander to release automatically. Cost is \$1,100. Climbing into the sander to manually adjust adds a safety risk to the crew. The board approved getting the attachment to improve safety for the road crew. **Action Item:** Dave to initiate.

Continuing to look at options for a new location for the town garage.

### Other Business

**Glebe Land Discussion:** Forrest Newton and Richard Lunna attended to update the board with their research on Glebe Lands in Stockbridge. In 1761, the Governors of NY and NH set up 72 lots of 390 acres each to create the Town of Stockbridge. 4 of those lots were set aside for the Church of England, a parsonage, schools and ministerial space to promote the gospel. In 1794 all Glebe Lands were determined to belong to the Town.

Richard has prepared a map of original Glebe Lands and overlaid that on top of current day property tax maps of the town. The board thanked Forrest and Richard for sharing their research and asked them to help with the town investigation of next steps. They agreed and the board asked to have this put on the first board meeting in April for further discussion. **Action Item:** Lori to add to agenda.

**Chateaugay Forest Legacy Project.** Pete Fellows and Sally Manikian attended via conference call. Sally is based in northern NH and has been with the Conservation Fund for 4 years. Stockbridge has 872 acres that the State wants to purchase from the Conservation Fund for conservation and recreational purposes. The state will manage the forestry. Any current recreational space like snowmobile trails will stay, but no further development will be possible. The land will be open for all other activities. The state would pay the same property tax as the Conservation Fund does currently with the property in the Current Use Program. The Conservation Fund is looking for a letter of support from the board which the board approved. **Action Item:** The board is working on a letter draft.

**Reappraisal Update:** NEMRC provided a following update. As of 1/10/2020 nearly all 742 taxable parcels of land in the Town of Stockbridge have been inspected. Open land was also inspected with parcels are being valued based on such factors as, Flood Hazard, Terrain (Steep, Slope, Flat), Wetlands, Road Access or lack of Road Access. Over the next two months a formal review of the inspections will be done by three teams of NEMRC employees to validate every taxable property. Once this is complete, property owners will be provided additional information. Timeline is May 2020 for final review and June 2020 for Grand List and any grievance hearings with property owners.

**Orders were reviewed and signed**

**New Business:**

**Trustee of Public Funds Request** - Board approved a funding request from the TPF for assistance with a school trip for a Stockbridge student. Board approved.

**Budget Work** - The Board continued working on the 2020 budget, reviewing line items from 2019. Work is continuing for next meeting.

**Town Report** – The town report needs to be at the printer by the first week in February. Town Auditors to begin their work on Saturday, 1/18/2020. We need all committee reports by 1/29/2020 at the very latest, preferably the week before.

Board Special Meeting Executive session scheduled for 1/23/2020 6:00pm

Jim moved to go to Executive Session at 8:50pm

Board Returned from Executive Session at 9:15pm

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.

Lori Scott, Town Clerk

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