

Stockbridge Board of Selectmen - Draft

June 4, 2020 7:00 PM

Zoom Meeting Info

+1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 815 7876 3494

Password: 451769

Present: LeeAnn Isaacson, Jim Shands, Mark Pelletier, Beth Kohler, Jennille Smith, Regina Toolin, Rob Green, Bill Johnson, Todd Trzaskos, Mette Rea, Lou Chap, Laurie Novatny, Corey Novatny, Meghan Novatny, Bev Adams, Joe Havelka, Kevin Geiger, Dave Brown, and Lori Scott.

The meeting came to order at 7:04 PM remotely via Zoom Meeting.

Lee Ann read the minutes from the last meeting. Mark motioned to approve, Jim seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Road Report

A mirror has been requested at the end of Mount Hunger Road to help residents pull out on to Route 107. Dave checked with the state and there may be some liability issues. Jim motioned to move this topic to the next Selectboard meeting and Lee Ann seconded. **Action Item:** Lori to add to the 6/18 meeting.

The Roadside mowing will start Monday June 8th with 2 mowers doing the job. This work will take 4-5 days.

This past week we have been working on getting the trees cut on Stony Brook, and Whitcomb Hill Roads. I am hoping that by the end of the day on Monday the tree cutting will be done.

Starting Monday 6/8 we will begin the work of installing new culverts and ditches on Stony Brook Road where we have problems with muddy road and over topping culverts. Stony Brook Road will be closed at times while we install new culverts starting Tuesday. I cannot say exact times so residents will need to plan accordingly.

Went out to inspect Fletcher Brook Road after receiving complaints of rough road and culverts sticking up so bad you can barely get over them. I am going to work to do a grant to replace them and improve the ditches by clearing them out. Jen Wall asked if it were a town road out as far as her camp and I could not see it on our town highway map. We have worked on the road out through there in the pass putting in a large culvert that washed out during Irene and a load or two of gravel here and there. The Selectboard asked to have this as a discussion item at the 6/18 meeting. **Action Item:** Lori to add to the agenda.

The dead-end road sign is up on Joe Manning Road.

Working on a grant to repair the fire hydrant on Stockbridge Common. We rely on this Hydrant not only for refilling the trucks, but for filling the chloride tank with water to wet down the road before grading or to fill our hydro seeder.

I am working on getting prices to trade in town loader/backhoe. The loader needs to go to Milton Cat for some repairs that cannot be done at our shop. Lee Ann asked when the current warranty will expire. **Action Item:** Dave to update at next meeting.

Mette Rea wants the asphalt that was shaved off the edges of the road in front of her house picked up. **Action Item:** Dave will go out and look at the issue.

Public Communications

248a 60 Day Advance Notice: AT&T Cell Tower Stockbridge

Beth Kohler from Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC and Jennille Smith from Centerline Communications attended to address abutting property owner questions. Beth let the group know that many other agencies are reviewing the road and site proposals. (Public Utilities Commission, Agency of Natural Resource, Dept of Public Service, Agency of Transportation, Division for Historic Preservation) There will need to be a full set of plans before any public hearing can be held. The 60-day notice is a time to work through questions and concerns. Kevin Geiger from Two Rivers indicated that the public hearing requires a 15-day notice period. Members of the Stockbridge Planning Commission attended as well. Abutting property owners voiced their concerns regarding timing, road construction, land needs, technology advances (4G vs 5G), stormwater runoff, historical preservation, and potential tower height increases. The board asked how do we get from here to the public hearing? Next steps are that AT&T, the applicant will complete due diligence with the agencies and complete the report and plan. The plan will be sent as a supplement to the initial notice mailing list. Then a public hearing will be scheduled and warned. Once AT&T submits the application and plan to the PUC after the public hearing, there is a 30-day comment period. Beth indicated that she is willing to build a larger notification list. She asked that anyone wanting to be included should send their contact email to the town office. The advance notice is for 60 days however often applications are filed within a 180-day notice period. Jim thanked Beth and Jennille for attending.

Other Business:

The board reviewed the May Financials. Expenses are tracking in accordance with the budget.

FEMA Update from the 4/15/2019 Flood – Road and sites have been reviewed by FEMA and have moved forward into the approval process.

Correspondence:

Prior Business:

Reappraisal Update/Property Tax Process Update – informal hearings are underway this week. Hearings are going well, and many questions are being answered. Next week 6/9-6/11 will be the formal grievance hearings.

Hollister Fletcher Trust Update – Funds have been received by the town. They will be transferred to Fidelity Investments next week. The Historical Society is working on getting more information about our benefactor.

2020 Census Update – The Town of Stockbridge has a 23.1% response rate for the 2020 Census.

Additions

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns has joined the National League of Cities' campaign to lobby Congress for direct federal aid to cities and towns throughout the country. The VLCT Board voted to participate in the campaign financially and through active advocacy. To that end, we have prepared the attached resolution (as both a Word document and pdf file) for Selectboard's to adopt to show your support to our federal delegation. We are asking that you review it and, if you agree, adopt it, have it signed by the board chair, if possible, date it, and return it to us. We will forward all of the resolutions to Senators Leahy and Sanders and Congressman Welch – hopefully by Friday, June 12.

Jim moved to adopt, and Lee Ann seconded. The Board unanimously approved support. **Action Item:** Lori to file the document with the VLCT.

Voter instructions for the School Meeting:

Getting an absentee ballot:

Voters can request a ballot online. You will be asked to validate your identity with your VT Driver's License when logging on.

<https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/early-absentee-voting/>

Voters may also call the town office. To process the request, voters will need to provide either:

- the last 4 digits of their SSN
- their VT Driver's license number.

Voters can request a ballot any time and ballots will be mailed out when they are ready. Ballots must be returned by the close of the polls on 6/30/2020 at 7:00pm.

Voting in person:

The Stockbridge Town Office is the Polling location.

Polls are open from 10:00am – 7:00pm.

- Masks will be required.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided and must be used upon entry to the building.
- Physical distance of 6 ft is required
- A queue will be set up in case of a line
- If the queue is full, please remain in your vehicle until a spot opens up
- Voters will come in the front door, use Hand Sanitizer, Check-in, go to the conference room to vote, Check-out and place ballot in the ballot box, place pencil in the used pencil box and then exit through the back door of the conference room.
- The voter stations will be disinfected after every voter.
- We ask that voters do not congregate before or after voting

School Meeting Update: BCA met 5/29 and approved moving the election from the school to the town office. The board asked how the informational meeting will be held.

Orders were sent electronically to the board members and will be signed and scanned back to the town office.

Jim moved to adjourn, Mark seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

Lori Scott, Town Clerk
