

Stockbridge Board of Selectmen -Draft

August 6, 2020 7:00 PM

Zoom Meeting Info

+1 929 205 6099 Meeting ID: 817 755 8128 Password: 819608

Present: Lee Ann Isaacson, Jim Shands, Mark Pelletier, Regina Toolin, Joe Havelka, Julie Maxfield, Bev Adams, Donna Bryan, Katelynne McKinstry, and Lori Scott.

The meeting came to order at 7:03pm. Lee Ann read the minutes from the last meeting. Mark motioned to approve, Jim seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Public Communication – Noise Complaint

Regina read the current obnoxious use regulation of the town. Jim suggest that the town revise the town noise ordinance rather than apply the bylaw on obnoxious use. He said that other surrounding towns in Vermont have noise ordinances that limit noise between 7 or 9 am to the early evening. Regina contends that the issue is work starting early in the morning and the neighbors are seeking some relief. The Selectboard shared that there has not been an issue like this in the 20 years that have collectively been served by the board. Donna Bryan has an issue with another noise concern due to the fireworks that have been fired off at night all through the month of July. The Selectboard shared that issue should be covered by the current dawn to dusk noise ordinance. Donna asked who the town constable is. Jim reported that it is Zach Cavacas. Regina brought the group back to the construction noise ordinance. She is asking for a more immediate action perhaps having someone from the Selectboard speak to Harvey Construction asking them to move the start time from earlier than 7:00am to after 7:00am. Julie Maxfield spoke about the construction noise impacting their ability to work remotely at home. Bev shared that her property is the closest to the road being used and her home shakes when the trucks are moving. She has seen 7 culverts come out. She said she has inches of mud on her grass due to run off from the recent rainstorm but understands this is a separate issue. Mark said he would reach out to Ray Harvey to have an arrive time of 7:00am. Lee Ann said that we still need to move forward with the ordinance.

Action Item: Continue to investigate what other town's regulations are and move forward. Jim asked for this to be put on to the next agenda. Mark also suggested that the landowners reach out to the state on the water issue. Regina said she would talk to them.

Weekend Crowds at the Gaysville Bridge

Donna Bryan reported that on weekends it is hard to even drive over the bridge. She counted 31 cars parked and many people in the river. Mark reported that the town is working on putting up more signage indicated towed at owners' expense. Jim reported that if people are parking at the Post Office then the Post Office must call a towing company.

Tax Bill Update

Lori reported that the tax bill realistically will not be able to be generated until mid-September even if the school budget is approved on 8/11. This is due to a 30-day waiting period before the school budget could be sent to the state so that they can calculate the education component of the town tax rate. Mark asked if the town could send out a preliminary bill based on last years rate. That process would require software vendor support and with extra postage and printing costs added be approx. \$3,000. The board agreed that it would be more cost effective to wait. **Action Item:** Lori to revise the communication and post to the town website.

Stockbridge 2020 Property Tax Bills – Update for Property Owners

Due to COVID-19 related impacts to Income Tax and Homestead Declaration filing deadlines and the fact that the RSUD budget was voted down on 6/30/2020, the Town of Stockbridge will not be able to produce tax bills this month as normally would be done.

Not having an approved school budget prevents the Vermont State Agency of Education from calculating the education component of the property tax rates that is needed for the tax bills. The School Board is warning a new budget vote on 8/11/2020.

9/15/2020 is the new estimated tax bill date with the due date for the first payment moving to 10/15/2020. The Selectboard has waived penalties and interest for the first payment. The second installment would remain due on 11/15/2020.

Property owners need to understand that this delay is very impactful to the town's operational cash flow. The town must borrow money for operations in anticipation of the tax receipts. If you can pay estimated taxes based on last year's bill on the original due date, it would be very much appreciated.

Road Report

As scheduled at our 7/17/20 meeting, Jim, Lee Ann & Dave Brown met at the Town Garage to review various maps to determine status of Jennifer Wall Howard's E-911 address for their camp located south of Sable Mountain on the road variously known as Wagner Road, Fletcher Brook Road and currently classified as No Town Road by VT E-911 map. Discussion included previously known road called Prior Dam Road.

After our review of the E-911 map, as well as a map provided by TRORC, we have determined:

- Fletcher Brook Road starts off Stony Brook Road and travels southwesterly until it turns west and up the hill past the Rhodes camps. It then turns north and ends at South Hill RD
- Wall Howard camp is just south of Fletcher Brook dog leg north. E-911 address for does appear correct on the 911 map – 5749 No Town Road
- No Town Road starts and ends in Stockbridge, but most of it is in the town of Killington. Appears that E-911 started numbering this road from the start of No Town Road, which is at the end of Stony Brook Road, near the crossing with the Appalachian Trail.
- My recollection of the creation of No Town Road was that it was created in the late 80's, early 90's by the logging activities in this area. It then connected back to Fletcher Brook Road by another logging firm.
- Neither end of No Town Road is a Town of Stockbridge road, i.e. it is private.
- Jim & Dave went on to review a couple road projects that have recently been finished.
- Lyon Hill Road project. Work is complete and grass is starting to come in. This work is a vast improvement over original condition with adequate roadside ditching, well placed culverts and a clear right of way. Much increased daylight on the road improving visibility and quicker drying.
- Whitcomb Hill Road east of Lyon Hill intersection. Similar to Lyon Hill project, road substantially wider, better drainage and culverts with adequate roadside ditch to encourage drainage & drying. Issue at Austin's stone wall – replaced stone wall to remain outside of Town right of way.

River Road Grant Extension

The town requested an extension for this project grant back in June. Due to delays in getting permits and a bid package pulled together, a bid package has not yet been advertised. The town will need to request another extension. Dave will be back from vacation next week to review. **Action Item:** Mark to sign request letter next week.

Project Cost Review

Selectboard reviewed the costs for the current projects so far in 2020. Selectboard found the spreadsheet helpful.

School Board Update

Carl was unable to join. Katelynne McKinstry did join and updated the Selectboard that there is a lot of interest in the Schoolboard vacancy and that she is interested as well. The board has not yet appointed a director to replace Janie. There is about a year and a half left on Janie's term.

Tweed Lane Demo

Extension for demo has been requested to October. Working with Claypoint on asbestos analysis and abatement plans. Prepared a Quarterly report for FEMA including a workplan and dates. Kevin Geiger working to keep the project moving forward.

Other Business

Ensure Dave is available for the Selectboard meeting 8/20/2020. Will need to review project costs to date and how that impacts the River Road project.

Board reviewed cash flow. Town received the Stony Brook project grant of 20,000 and quarterly highway of 18,000. Town is still waiting for the 4/15/2019 Flood FEMA grant money. There is no time estimate on this.

Action Item: add agenda item to 8/20/2020 meeting to discuss Dave's plans and then schedule an Executive Session to discuss. Also add agenda item to review Personnel Policy.

Jim moved to adjourn, Mark seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm.

Lori Scott, Town Clerk
