Windham VT Selectboard Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2021 Regular Meeting via Zoom

Maureen Bell, Selectboard Chair George Dutton, Selectboard

Kord Scott, Selectboard Vance Bell, various positions

Dawn Bower, various positions Bill Dunkel, various positions

Sally Hoover Louise Johnson, Town MHC

Tom Johnson, various positions Kathy Jungermann, various positions

Barbara Jean Quinn Kathy Scott, Treasurer

Gail Wyman, Assistant Treasurer

**Call to Order:**

Maureen announced the meeting and called it to order at 5:30 PM

**Additions to Agenda/Announcements/Reminders**

Issue of road gravel on Abbott Road added to Roads agenda

**Public Comment**

Kathy Scott reminded us that there is a School Board meeting tomorrow, August 17 and encouraged all to attend and share their views. It will be held in person as well as on Zoom.

Bill reminded us that it’s still possible to place orders for Window Dressers Storm Windows. Please speak with any member of the Energy Committee (Bill, Vance Bell, Tom Johnson, Michael Simonds or Dawn Bower).

Dawn told us that Ernie Friedli is in the hospital due to an infection after his knee surgery.

**Act on minutes from August 2 Regular and August 12 Special Selectboard Meetings**

Motion: To accept the minutes of the Selectboard Meeting – moved by Maureen. All voted in favor.

**Correspondence**

There was none, other than some emails that are addressed in the Agenda.

**New Business:**

**Tax Bills went out – some needed to be corrected**

On some of the bills there was a problem with the subtraction of the Homestead credit. While it was subtracted on the top portion of the bill, it was not reflected in the bottom “receipt” portion. NEMRC fixed the problem and new bills have been mailed out to those affected.

**Brattleboro Development Credit Corp (BDCC) – asking to attend a meeting**

They are asking for money and want to come to a meeting to tell us what they do. Kord thinks it would be good to hear what they have to say. We’ll ask them to come to the 2nd meeting in September.

**BDDC Feasibility Study for Public Transportation on the Route 30 Corridor**

A webinar will be held to explore the issue of Public Transportation from Brattleboro to Stratton. Barbara Jean is very interested in this issue and would be happy to attend the webinar (once they get the registration link fixed) and report back to us about it.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program**

They have an ongoing recovery assistance program for both private and government entities. Kord will contact them and find out the details. When he recently met with VTrans and FEMA he didn’t know about any damage sustained by private residents but has subsequently gotten some calls about just that.

**Local Democracy Project: Towns Internship**

Michael McLaine got an email from UVM regarding this program which pairs up students and towns to give the students insight into municipal governance. He thought it might be good to have them help with Selectboard minutes as well as to help him index land records. The students would give 8-10 hours per week for the fall semester.

**Old Business:**

**The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds**

Maureen reported that we received our first deposit of money. Kathy heard that it was deposited into NEMRC and she’s unsure what that means. Kathy will look into this and get back to us.

Perhaps related to this, Bill advised that the WRC is having a webinar this Wednesday that might help us in figuring out how to use the ARPA funds. Maureen knew about this but thought that the focus of the webinar was on Planning Commission stuff and having just gone through the update, didn’t think we needed to sign on to this. Bill will double-check.

**Windham Traffic Ordinance – revisit from 1994 and 2020**

Maureen recalls that we were going along with Traffic Ordinance updates and got sidetracked with the Nuisance Animal Ordinance and never came back to it. Maureen sent the last iteration of the Ordinance as well as the Sheriff’s traffic study to the other Board members.

From last year’s minutes, Maureen realizes that we are missing the traffic study from the south end of Windham Hill Road. Kord will get that. Officer Lakin reported that we should change the speed of WHR to 35 MPH throughout. People were complaining about speeds on various roads – even more so now that the road is newly paved. Officer Lakin thought that our Ordinance would be a challenge to support in Court, especially on the unpaved roads. It is not clear what the documented speed limit is and if we don’t have the proper signage, then it defaults to 50 MPH. Part of the reason we started this process was to establish good speed limits throughout Town.

We want to wrap this up so take a good look at where we are right now and let’s figure out how to move forward at the next meeting.

**The Meeting House:**

**Any help needed with tree clean up this week?**

Green Mountain Power (GMP) is supposed to come and disconnect the power line on Friday so Michael Longo can take the tree down. Then GMP will reconnect power before the end of the day. But the whole day is weather-dependent.

Pete/Richard will probably let us know if they need any more help with the clean up. Also, Pete will have at least a temporary set of exit steps from the kitchen installed this week. Dawn and Louise are OK with the situation.

**Roads:**

**Storm Damage update**

Since the initial evaluation, there have been more areas of damage that Richard noticed; they have been reported to VTrans and FEMA. There are now also some reports of personal property damage. The stream engineer was here today with Kord and they met up with a property owner. He explained what they could and could not do/expect. Nothing will happen in terms of FEMA until they make a declaration. They’re still gathering all their preliminary damage assessment.

After FEMA looked at Wheeler Road, they came back with a very low assessment - $15,000 to repair the culvert. This is based on replacing what’s there. The stream engineer advised that according to Vermont ANR’s standards, the culvert would have to be replaced with a box culvert. Once they make a declaration, FEMA will look at these standards and the plan gets changed.

Kord hasn’t gotten any complaints from residents about having to detour around Wheeler Road. He was going to ask Richard to get an estimate on getting the road open again with a temporary repair, but because of the lowball original FEMA estimate, they decided to hold off on that. The fear is that FEMA would look at it and say it was repaired!

**Gravel concern from Claudia Holmes**

Claudia approached both Kord and Maureen at the chicken BBQ about the stone that’s been put down on Abbott Road. She has gotten more than 1 flat tire and says it has to do with the stone. Richard is away and Kord will discuss this with him upon his return.

We should think about whether or not we can help Claudia with tire replacement, though that’s not a precedent we want to set. Maureen was wondering if we should point her in the direction of the WCO for some financial assistance. Kord agreed that was a good idea; Maureen will initiate this with Ellen McDuffie.

**Payroll and Bills:**

We got the big bill for the paving taken care of (Bazin Brothers ~ $220,000). Kathy moved some money around (including $90,000 from the Town Meeting vote) into the account to pay for this. She is getting all the paperwork together to file for the grant reimbursement. Kord said we should be able to do this by the next meeting.

Our cash flow situation is very good.

Everything else looked routine. No questions from any of the Board.

Motion: To approve the bills as presented and ask Kord to sign off on them, as we are virtual again – moved by Maureen. All voted in favor.

**Adjournment:**

Motion: To adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 6:11 PM – moved by Kord. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Bell

Acting Selectboard Clerk