

SHARON SELECTBOARD
Regular Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)
May 7, 2018

Selectboard Members present: Kevin Gish (Chair), Joe Ronan, Mary Gavin

Visitors: Fay Brook Road residents Bruce Weatherell, Dennis & Laura Tatro, Will Gray, Tom Lober (Sharon Fire Department)

Staff Attending: Deb Jones, Margy Becker, Brad Howe, Frank Rogers (incoming Road Foreman)

Kevin Gish convened the regular meeting at 7:00pm.

Public Comments:

Re: road conditions: Bruce Weatherell displayed a broken truck spring. He repeated his ongoing concern regarding recurring potholes on Fay Brook Road and inquired when and how the Selectboard intended to address the problem. Kevin Gish explained the Town has been behind on road maintenance due to reduced road crew staff. But the Town has hired new road crew and a new Foreman. Incoming Road Foreman Frank Rogers introduced himself, discussed conditions which could lead to potholes, and explained the grading practices that could be used to eliminate them. He encouraged Mr. Weatherell and others to be patient, indicating that problems will not be corrected overnight. Residents noted the Town's use of tire chains on soft roads causes potholes to develop.

Dennis and Laura Tatro explained the road has been built up so much that vehicles, including horse trailers, have been damaged when attempting to climb up over the lip when leaving their driveway. The Tatros have submitted a formal written request for the Town to provide additional gravel to help level the driveway entrance. They have a second driveway entrance where they park their camper.

Kevin Gish noted that there are other driveways throughout Town with the same issue, as roads have been built up over time.

Frank Rogers said he has some ideas about grading, possible scraping, and installation of underdrains in this segment of Fay Brook Road. Bruce Weatherell commented that logging on the property across Fay Brook (Smyth) had caused more water to collect on this section of road. It was agreed that Frank Rogers will meet with the Tatros next week to re-familiarize himself with conditions and to discuss potential solutions.

Re: Loose farm animals: The Tatros asked Selectmen to take note of several incidences when goats, a steer, a bull, and dogs have broken loose from the Smyth property. Just this morning the Highlander steer and bull were loose and caused damage to a neighboring garden. The owner of the animals was home and helped round up the animals. He has pledged to contain the animals. Laura Tatro indicated he has promised to do so before, and the animals continue to get loose. Margy Becker commented on deficiencies in the Town's animal control ordinance. It lacks

language addressing farm or other animals and focuses primarily on dogs. Selectmen agreed to proceed with modifications to the ordinance.

Road Foreman Reports:

Interim Road Foreman Brad Howe reported the following:

1. The steel bridge (over White River) has been swept. The drain ports are ½ open now. The crew will shovel remaining material out of them.
2. The backhoe window has been replaced.
3. The railing at the garage has been installed by Bruce McShinsky.
4. Willey Earthmoving will begin construction Tuesday (the 8th) on Broad Brook bank repairs.
5. The second bank erosion area on Broad Brook Road at guardrails above Debbie St. Peter's house has been seen by VT ANR's Stream Alteration Permit specialist, Scott Jensen. He has suggested a possible approach to stabilization and he has issued a permit. Brad will show the site to Desi Willey, hopefully the week of May 16, and inquire if Willey Earthmoving is able to help with repairs and what it might cost.
6. A list of culvert repairs is completed. M. Becker has worked with Brad to document locations and types of culverts. She reported Scott Jensen had already issued permits for some slope failure repairs on Rte. 132 and on Quimby Mountain Road. Frank Rogers noted the crew will replace the plastic culverts. Cement culvert repairs are to be subcontracted. M. Becker noted specifications for an RFP are still needed.
7. The Wednesday, May 9, site visit to Drum Heller will be postponed to allow Frank Roger's attendance. M. Becker will inform Byron Baribeau and provide the public notice.

Ogden Lane Proposed Discontinuance: 2nd Site Inspection:

Selectmen scheduled a second site visit for 5:30PM Tuesday, 15, 2018. The public hearing will resume at 7:30PM May 21st – which is when the Board next meets.

Highway Policies for Winter Sand and Damaged Mailboxes:

Selectmen made final changes to proposed policies addressing access to winter sand and procedures for consideration of damages to mailboxes due to direct contact by town equipment.

Motion by Kevin Gish to approve the Policy Regarding Damages to Mailboxes from Town Equipment with changes noted. Joe Ronan seconded. The motion carried.

Motion by Mary Gavin to approve the Policy Governing Access to Town Sand Pile, with one correction. Joe Ronan seconded. The motion carried.

Status of Road Crew:

Motion by Kevin Gish to offer Allen Wight the full-time road crew level 2 position retroactively to May 1st, 2018 and per terms previously discussed including a compensation rate of \$20.00/hour. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectmen noted road crew hiring is completed. Incoming Road Foreman Frank Rogers starts work May 16th. The Town will have 3 full-time crew (Frank Rogers, Brad Howe, Allen Wight) and 1 part-time crew (David Armstrong).

Winter Sand – Purchase and Hauling:

Deb Jones shared proposals submitted by Pike and Twin State Sand & Gravel for supplies of winter sand. Pike has bid \$11.25/ton for ‘washed stone screenings’ - a manufactured sand. Twin State has bid \$7.40/ton for ‘screened sand’. Frank Rogers described the differences in materials being offered by each vendor. He has had favorable experiences with either type of material.

Motion by Mary Gavin, seconded by Joe Ronan, to accept Twin State Sand and Gravel’s bid of \$7.40/ton.

It was further agreed the crew will undertake hauling 1,000 tons of sand over the summer season. The Town will solicit bids to haul the remaining 7,000 tons to stockpile at the garage. Deb Jones will proceed with putting out the Town’s RFP.

Sharon Fire Department – Construction of Storage Shed:

Tom Lober reported the Fire Department is ready to proceed with construction of a storage shed. He inquired whether the Department needs a survey of the property. He was informed the Sharon Listers most likely already possess a survey of the parcel, and a copy could be provided to the Department. Margy Becker agreed to follow-up with the Listers.

Tom Lober indicated site clearing and logging may occur this summer. A 30 x 40 steel building with a cement pad is being considered. No water hookups are envisioned. Margy Becker will help research State permit requirements, if any.

Sharon Energy Committee – Temporary Help:

Deb Jones reports the Sharon Energy Committee has received a grant in support of a town-wide survey. The Committee would like to hire temporary help, and Kayleigh Rodig is interested in the project. She is already on town payroll. The grant-funded position entails 30-40 hours of work. The compensation rate will be \$18.00/hour.

Motion by Mary Gavin to authorize the Sharon Energy Committee to hire temporary part-time help for a cost not-to-exceed the grant award. Joe Ronan seconded. The motion carried.

Selectboard Conflict of Interest Policy:

Discussions were postponed until the May 21st meeting.

Selectboard Assistant Report:

Margy Becker asked for further guidance concerning a capital needs assessment of town-owned buildings, indicating that 4 of the buildings are historic in nature and 1 is industrial (town garage). There may be small grants available for assessments of historic buildings from the Preservation Trust of Vermont. She will forward to the Board a list of town-owned buildings, and she will continue her inquiries regarding historic building assessments.

Discussions ensued regarding who might perform an assessment of the town garage. Margy Becker indicated concern regarding the lack of information about a contained drainage system. Weatherization of the town garage doors is also a Board priority. It was suggested Trumbull Nelson, who supplies steel buildings, be contacted regarding an assessment. Frank Rogers also suggested contacting VT Pipeline. They have the capacity to run a camera up the floor drain. The cost of this service will be researched.

Margy Becker further reported IT Consultant Mike Tisdale will be installing the new server this week. She will ask him to provide some input on her draft RFP for website design and development. Selectmen requested an RFP for IT services also be issued.

The Selectboard agreed the Chair will be the Town Attorney's contact regarding court enforcement of the Radicioni Notice of Violation. The Flood Hazard Bylaw Administrator's assistance will be required on an as-needed basis.

Margy Becker announced she will be on vacation in mid-June and will be unable to attend the June 18th meeting. Mary Gavin noted she will be on vacation at the time of the 1st meeting in July.

Approval of Warrants:

Check and payroll warrants were approved.

Executive Session:

Motion by Mary Gavin to enter executive session at 9:25pm to discuss a personnel matter. Second by Kevin Gish. The motion carried.

The Selectboard exited executive session at 9:40PM.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mary Gavin, seconded by Kevin Gish, to adjourn at 9:40PM. The motion carried.

Submitted by, Margy Becker

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