

**SHARON SELECTBOARD**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)**  
**July 9, 2018**

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

**Visitors:** Nicole Antal (resident), Michael Sacca (Alliance for VT Communities), Fritz Weiss (Conservation Committee), Peter Anderson (Planning Commission), Warren Johnston (resident), Mike Covey (Williamstown), Mary Russ (White River Partnership)

**Staff Attending:** Deb Jones, Margy Becker, Frank Rogers (Road Foreman)

Kevin Gish convened the regular meeting at 6:30pm.

There were no changes to the agenda.

**Road Foreman Reports:**

Frank Rogers discussed numerous highway maintenance items with the Selectboard. The Board reviewed, but delayed action until July 16, on 3 paving bids consistent with recommendations in the Sharon Paving CIP. The crew will continue to install hardpack on Moore Road. It was agreed the crew will haul 4,000 tons versus a 3<sup>rd</sup> party hauler. Selectmen asked Frank Rogers to conduct one final inspection of guard rails on Broad Brook Road. Final action on Willey Earthmoving invoices is scheduled for July 16.

**Alliance for VT Communities:**

Michael Sacca, representing the Alliance for VT Communities explained conservation efforts underway on property formerly owned by New Vistas. A 230-acre parcel is being considered by several conservation organizations as a potential community forest. The AVC is requesting Selectboard support for its grant application to the VT Housing & Conservation Board in support of this project. 60% of the parcel is located in Sharon and was owned by Rosamund Ashley at one time. The remaining 40% of the parcel is located in Strafford. AVC will ask Strafford to support its grant application as well.

Selectboard members and Conservation Commission representative Fritz Weiss expressed support for the project. They also agreed that a forest management plan which outlines stewardship responsibilities will be essential should the project move forward. Peter Andersen, a member of Sharon Planning Commission, also voiced support for conservation of the parcel as a community forest. Michael Sacca agreed to prepare the letter of support for its VHCB grant application, which the Selectboard will consider and act on July 16th.

Mike Covey of Williamstown presented his idea for conservation of some of the New Vistas land as a wildlife management area. General support for this idea was expressed by many of the meeting attendees and by the Selectboard. Mike Covey will make a similar presentation to the Selectboards of Strafford, Tunbridge, and Royalton. Mr. Covey is not a representative of the US Fish & Wildlife Department. But he works closely with the Department on land-use related

projects. He was informed of the wildlife management area that already exists on the west side of the White River in Sharon.

#### **4-Town Planning Initiative: VT Council on Rural Development**

Selectmen signed a letter to the VRCD which confirms the Town will participate in a planning initiative to build 'prosperous and resilient communities'. VRCD will facilitate. There will be a series of future community meetings as part of this community-wide planning process.

#### **Former Greene's Trailer Park Parcel:**

White River Partnership's Mary Russ and Fritz Weiss of Sharon CC have obtained a \$500 grant for the creation of public access to this White River shoreline parcel acquired by the Town as a result of the post-Irene flood buyout program. A small parking area and mowed path will be established. Eventually steps down the river bank will be constructed. The Conservation Commission pledges to monitor the parcel. A sign for 'Sharon Ledges' will be installed. Mary Russ inquired as to how to acquire and have installed several large rocks to block the old access. She was directed to talk with the Sharon Road Foreman and the new owners of Quimby Mountain Stone. She will contact Chris Bump at District 4 concerning the existing Rte. 14 pull-off.

#### **Ogden Lane – Final Decision and Order:**

Selectmen reviewed and then signed the final decision and order to retain Ogden Lane as a Class 3 town highway. The Board requested a meeting be held during which Road Foreman Frank Rogers and Tom Ward agree to and stake the limits of the right-of-way to assure town and emergency vehicles can navigate the turnaround. Margy Becker agreed to help schedule the meeting.

#### **Municipal Roads General Permit (NOI):**

Selectmen signed the Town's Notice of Intent to apply for a storm water permit consistent with the MRGP. This NOI will be forwarded, with a payment of \$240.00, to the VT Department of Environmental Conservation.

#### **Rikert Driveway Permit Application – Old Stage Road:**

Selectmen expressed their desire to view the proposed curb cut location and to schedule final action on July 16<sup>th</sup> with the road foreman in attendance.

#### **Traffic Control During The Sprouty:**

Kevin Gish spoke of his involvement in arranging traffic control services for this year's Sprouty running event. In September the Sheriff's Department is contracted to be on duty for 5 shifts per week. He asked Selectmen to agree to reallocation of 2 of those shifts to The Sprouty.

**A motion was made by Mary Gavin, seconded by Joe Ronan, to authorize the Windsor County Sheriff's Department to allocate 2 shifts for traffic control duty on September 8<sup>th</sup>, which is the date of The Sprouty. The motion carried unanimously.**

Kevin Gish will follow-up with Mike Chamberlain.

### **Cemetery Mowing:**

**Mary Gavin made the motion to accept Green Mountain Mowing's proposal for Wallace Doubleday cemetery mowing through October 15<sup>th</sup>. Joe Ronan seconded. The motion carried 3-0-0.** Green Mountain Mowing, Jacob Mayer, has been contracted to mow Pomfret cemeteries.

### **Town Office Computer Network Password Administration**

Selectmen reviewed existing policies for access to the Town's computer network admin password. Mike Tisdale Consulting will be asked to explain his company's contingency plans for the Windows server password. He will be asked to comment on how his company's internal security policies conform to best practices utilized throughout the industry.

### **VT Law School Intern:**

Selectmen agreed Joe Ronan should proceed with posting a job announcement at Vermont Law School. The Selectboard seeks a law school intern to assist the Selectboard on a part-time temporary basis with prioritization of development of new ordinances and revisions to existing ordinances. The Selectboard discussed a potential compensation rate of \$12 - \$15/hour.

### **Status of ANR Enforcement – Junk vehicles (Blakeman)**

Mary Gavin reported, generally, that the VT ANR is moving forward with enforcement action against Blakeman Towing concerning junk vehicles stored at locations on Moore Road and Harlow Road.

### **Emergency Relief Grant: Rte. 132 Culvert Repairs**

**Motion by Mary Gavin, seconded by Joe Ronan, to authorize the Chair to sign the VTRANS Emergency Relief Grant #ER0122 for upgrade of a 36" culvert upper Rte. 132. The motion carried.**

This culvert became plugged during the July 1 rain storm last summer. Subsequently pavement and shoulder damage resulted. Nott's Excavating performed those emergency repairs in November 2017. The VTRANS District 4 is lead agency on the project, even though the Town will be the grantee. The VTRANS is coordinating culvert upgrades in other Towns.

### **Building Maintenance Items:**

It was agreed that Margy Becker will advertise for carpentry services to assist the Town with several building maintenance items, including repairs to the handicapped ramp at the Old School House.

**Finance Manager Reports:**

Deb Jones reported on the estimates received from Jerms Plumbing and Robert Tracy for replacement of the water heater in the Town Offices.

**Motion by Mary Gavin, seconded by Joe Ronan, to authorize purchase of a new water heater through Robert Tracy. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Other Business:**

Margy Becker reported on recommendations by Brookfield Service for generator specifications. Brookfield Services inspected the Town Offices and Old School House. Additional generator suppliers will be conducting inspections of the buildings. Margy Becker reported the Town Offices and Sharon Church receive water from the Elementary School well. Water is fed through underground piping into the Old School House, to the Town Offices, and then to the Church. The water pump which is located in the OSH basement. If the OSH is without power - there will be no water in the Town Offices or Church. The Town Office building is designated as an 'emergency operations center'. There will be further discussions concerning generator sizing and how to assure a water supply to the Town Offices during an emergency.

Mary Gavin announced **South Royaltown Rescue** has hired a new director.

The **Selectboard's first meeting in September has been re-scheduled** from September 3 (Labor Day) to the following evening, Tuesday, September 4 at 6:30PM.

**Warrants:**

Check warrants were reviewed and signed.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion by Kevin Gish to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup> as modified. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Mary Gavin to approve the minutes of the June 14<sup>th</sup> special meeting as corrected to reflect inspections of Rte. 132 and River Road pavement conditions. Joe Ronan seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Mary Gavin, seconded by Joe Ronan, to approve the minutes of the June 26<sup>th</sup> special meeting as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Adjournment:**

**A motion was made by Mary Gavin, seconded by Kevin Gish, to adjourn at 9:00PM. The motion carried.**

Submitted by, Margy Becker

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