

SHARON SELECTBOARD
Regular Meeting Minutes (Draft)
June 4, 2018

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

Visitors: Peter Neri (Stilmore Road), Cameron Clifford, Sue Sellew (Baxter Library Trustee), Windsor County Sheriff Mike Chamberlain, Captain Claude Weyant, Frank Perron (Pomfret Selectboard),

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.

Public Comments:

Peter Neri informed Selectmen he may need to ask the Town's permission to widen the extension of Moore Road for a distance of approximately 900 feet in order to access his home. Mr. Neri currently accesses his parcel via Stilmore Road (a private road) and through a neighbor's property. This option may not be a permanent solution.

This section of Moore Road was known to be Class 4 at the time Mr. Neri bought his property. It now appears as a Legal Trail on the VT Agency of Transportation Sharon town highway map. Peter Neri stated he did not recall a public process for reclassification of the road from Class 4 to the status of a legal trail. Margy Becker produced file documents which confirm that the correct classification for this portion of Moore Road has been debated over the years and ever since the 1960's, when the Selectmen discontinued the Old #9 Road into Pomfret. That discontinuance process was probably deficient. It was agreed the Town will again further research the status of this last segment of Moore Road.

Margy Becker explained to Mr. Neri it has been the Town's customary practice to require written requests, an informal hearing before the Selectboard, and abutter notifications of proposed repairs or improvements to class 4 roads and legal trails. Selectmen and Mr. Neri agreed to schedule a site visit with Road Foreman Frank Rogers should he need to pursue the alternative access to his property.

Cemetery Mowing:

Cameron Clifford was informed the Town has begun inquiries regarding cemetery mowing. But it would not be until late June or early July before arrangements are in place. Selectmen granted Mr. Clifford permission to inform Greg Tuthill he could mow Wallace Doubleday 2 – 3 times through the end of June. Margy Becker agreed to complete discussions with Jacob Mayer upon her return from vacation later in June.

Road Foreman Reports:

- Howe Hill ditching is delayed a day due to rain. Frank Rogers requested and received permission to have the crew work Friday, June 8th at overtime rates if necessary.
- Road scraping and shaping in the vicinity of the Tatro driveway on Faybrook Road is complete. Material that was cut down was deposited further up the road.
- The surface of Fay Brook is slimey again in the rain. This is attributed to the non-spec material applied to the road after the July 1 storm last summer.
- Willey Earthmoving has begun backfilling on Broad Brook erosion site 1. A damaged precast outlet is lying along the roadside. An undamaged precast outlet has been installed. Margy Becker noted Holden Engineering is to perform an inspection. She will remind them.
- Concrete culvert extensions/repairs: An estimate to extend two culverts has been received from Paul Boles. Frank Rogers will collect two more estimates at the request of Selectmen. The Selectboard will take final action on the bids at the June 18th meeting.
- Selectmen agreed to the rental of a sweeper for \$150/day (Upper Valley Rentals). The road crew will sweep paved aprons throughout Town. It is estimated the work could be done in less than 3 days.
- Frank Rogers will proceed to have the crew make drainage improvements to Drum Heller Road at the pond per discussions held at a recent site visit with Byron Baribeau. The culvert will be extended, an opening left, and uphill ditches will be stone-lined. Frank Rogers will follow-up with Byron Baribeau.
- Selectmen encouraged the purchase of necessary hand tools and box. Frank Rogers will implement an inventory system.
- Risk management training: the status of crew attendance at OSHA 10 trainings was reviewed and agreed to.

Truck 3 Damages:

Deb Jones reported the insurance company declares the truck is not totaled. The insurance payout for repairs is \$6048. The adjustor has received 2 salvage bids – one at \$3500 and one at \$3350. If the Selectboard accepts either bid, the truck will be sold.

Mary Gavin made the motion to authorize Deb Jones to collect the insurance check for \$6048 and to work with White & Bradstreet on truck salvage. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried.

FY19 Grants-in-Aid for Storm Water Best Practices:

Motion by Kevin Gish to submit a letter of intent to apply for FY19 grants-in-aid funding. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried. The LOI is to be submitted to the Regional Planning Commission, whose staff will work with Frank Rogers to identify next summer's project.

Paving Capital Improvement Plan

Mary Gavin reported on further discussions with the engineer who produced the CIP. He has suggested the Town contract directly with firms that perform soils investigations and forgo

engineering oversight of this work. He has advised the crew conduct their own inspections of the culverts on River Road to verify conditions. Two have been noted as potential failures. It is further recommended the Town forgo sealing cracks less than 1/4" diameter.

The Town is in receipt of a Class 2 paving grant. The Board has yet to decide where to pave with these funds. Selectmen agreed to **tour paved roads** with Frank Rogers beginning at **4PM on June 14th**. The meeting will convene at the Town Garage.

Pomfret Selectmen Frank Perron joined the meeting to discuss Howe Hill paving. Pomfret owns about 1.7 miles and Sharon owns 2.9 miles of Howe Hill. The entire road is in bad shape, with one section in Sharon slated for total reconstruction. Pike Industries has agreed to conduct some soils investigations for Pomfret. It was agreed the towns should inquire if VTRANS paving grants could be synchronized, as a joint approach to repairs might enable savings to both towns. The Board will continue to discuss prioritization of paving repairs on June 18th.

Windsor County Sheriff Contract Renewal:

Windsor County Sheriff Mike Chamberlain and Captain Claude Weyant met with Selectmen to discuss a proposed contract renewal. Mary Gavin expressed disappointment at the \$2.00/hour increase being proposed in the contractual rate and concern as to whether the WCS was writing enough tickets. Selectmen then laid out expectations for stricter speed enforcement. Selectmen are requesting the WCS issue tickets at 5 mph over any posted limit. Mike Chamberlain asked the Town to send a formal written request to the Department for this level of enforcement. Selectmen agreed to do so and to publicize its intent to crack down on speeders.

WCS will resume surveys of traffic speed on back roads and report back to the Board in August concerning their findings. Surveys are needed to justify changes to speed limits posted on town highways.

Mike Chamberlain explained new procedures for unbiased policing have resulted in more accountability and reporting for each traffic stop. He asked Selectmen to contact the VLCT and express support for legislation in favor of the Sheriffs' retainage of a percentage of ticket revenues to cover administration costs.

Currently the Town contracts for 16 hours per week. Joe Ronan inquired whether this level of service is meeting the Town's needs. Mike Chamberlain asked the Board to consider meeting in November, at which time future budgets and plans for additional shifts could be discussed. He encouraged Selectmen to strive to achieve funding one shift per day. The Board will take final action on renewal of the WCS contract at the June 18th meeting.

Baxter Library Maintenance Needs:

Iron Lamp Repairs: Sue Sellew explained the Trustee's interest in preserving the wrought iron lamps on the front of the building. They are 90 years old. One is in need of specialized repairs. The State Division of Historic Preservation referred Trustees to Conant Custom Brass. Conant has provided a quote \$2,000 for the repairs. The Trustees have approached the Downer Fund for

help. Selectmen asked Trustees to consider a go-fund-me campaign to raise donations to help offset the expense. Board members also inquired whether Trustees had considered suitable replacements. Sue Sellew spoke of the difficulty in removing the existing lamps and affixing replacement lights to the brick exterior.

Deb Jones noted Ken Wright has repaired the lights recently, and they are in working order. The ‘shock hazard’ has been dealt with. Lamp repairs are thus not necessarily ‘urgent’.

Other building repairs: It was agreed improved **exterior lighting** on the rear of building should be a priority, in addition to driveway repairs to be undertaken by the Sharon road crew. The Town will undertake the work of obtaining estimates and scheduling the work. Selectmen asked that Trustees prioritize the remaining requests for repairs. Selectmen did not express support for running electricity to the gazebo. Sue Sellew noted the Energy Conservation Plan for the library calls for window replacements. She spoke in favor of window replacements that are historic in appearance, though no cost estimates have been obtained to-date.

Sharon Invasive Plant Network:

Selectmen expressed their preference to meet with the SIP Network in a meeting separate from a Selectboard meeting. This would enable more time for consideration of volunteer Committee’s work. Selectmen would also like members of the Sharon road crew to attend. Crew are receiving training in the management of roadside vegetation, and Selectmen hope to hear from road crew members after these workshops about new and best practices.

Construction of Storage Shed – Sharon Fire Dept.

Joe Ronan made the motion to authorize Sharon Fire Department to construct a storage shed on the hillside behind the existing Fire Station on town property, with the understanding the Department will finance, own, maintain, and insure the building. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Ogden Lane Proposed Discontinuance:

Selectmen are in the process of finalizing their written report and order that explains their decision to NOT discontinue Ogden Lane. The Board would like guidance from the Town Attorney as how or whether to craft a decision and order for ‘conditional’ approval of continued Class 3 status. Selectmen again observed obstructions of the right-of-way at a recent site visit, and the Board wants to hold the landowner accountable for keeping the ROW clear. Margy Becker will follow-up with the Town Attorney.

Finance Manager Reports:

Deb Jones reported the Town has received a \$500 PACIF Safety Equipment grant to be applied towards lighting improvements in the Town garage. She requested Selectmen approve the Pay table at the June 18th meeting.

Warrants:

Check warrants were reviewed and signed.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Joe Ronan to approve the minutes of May 21, 2018 as submitted. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Meeting Schedule for early July:

A decision will be made June 18th as to whether to postpone the Monday, July 2nd meeting.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mary Gavin, seconded by Kevin Gish, to adjourn at 9:22PM. The motion carried.

Submitted by, Margy Becker