

**SHARON SELECTBOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, August 25, 2020
Minutes (Draft)**

*This meeting was held in compliance with the
Vermont Open Meeting Law with electronic participation.*

Attending:

Selectboard Members via Zoom: Joe Ronan, Mary Gavin, Kevin Gish

Staff: Deb Jones, Finance Manager, Frank Rogers, Road Foreman

Members of the Public: Michael Sacca, Alliance for Vermont Communities (AVC);
Warren Johnston, AVC ; Dick Rubin, Ashley Community
Forest/Sharon Conservation Committee; Donna Foster,
Ashley Community Forest/Sharon Resident, Marcy
Marceau, resident. Windsor County Sheriff Michael
Chamberlain, Captain Claude Wyant, Deputy Tom Battista,
Sergeant Jim Beraldi.

1. Call to order:

Chair Joe Ronan called the meeting to order at 7:30AM and announced the meeting is being recorded.

2. Approval of Agenda:

SB members agreed to add an item to the agenda - Dylan McCullough Emergency Health Order.

3. Public Comments:

Marcy Marceau commented the Aug 10, 2020 SB meeting minutes should reflect that her comments were on Community Governance.

4. Approval of Minutes of Aug 6 and Aug 10:

Action postponed to September 8th meeting.

5. Ashley Community Forest:

Michael Sacca and Warren Johnston from Alliance for Vermont Communities (AVC) joined discussions and thanked SB members for their efforts during Covid. Michael noted SB members were sent emails on Aug 5 and Aug 13 outlining the history of Ashley Community Forest and proposing that SB agree to ask the voters to vote for the two towns of Sharon and Strafford to work together on an Inter-Local Agreement (instead of hammering out the Inter-Local Agreement first then voting).

SB members inquired ‘What happens if we can’t reach an agreement?’ Michael stated he feels that the selectboards would have to work it out. The SB can anticipate questions from the community members. SB members noted the town just spent a million dollars on roads, and that it doesn’t know the condition of the town budget. They asked whether it makes sense to enter into this inter-local agreement?

AVC members presented a 20 year cost projection for the project. This is not a budget. Overall the numbers reflect very flat projections that would consume the \$20,000 seed money pretty quickly. The Ashley Community Forest is a resource for the Towns. It presents an opportunity for Sharon and Strafford to work together in light of prior VCRD discussions with the 4 towns of Royalton-Tunbridge-Strafford-Sharon.

AVC members would like the town to proceed to a vote. Mary Gavin and Joe Ronan raised concerns about budget impacts. Kevin Gish stated he thinks the Town should move forward with the vote and expressed concerns about the budget issue. Warren Johnston asked that the SB put the question on the ballot. IF the SB agreed, AVC would not have to collect signatures. This will have to be a separate ballot. It would be mailed by the Town.

Dick Rubin cites many folks in the community are in favor of this initiative. He strongly urged the SB to put this initiative on the November ballot.

Kevin Gish made the motion that the SB agree to place the question on the ballot for the November election and that, if permissible, AVC will pick up all ballot mailing and printing costs. The SB needs to follow-up with the Town Clerk on the impact on the November Election. 2nd by Mary Gavin. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Windsor County Sheriff Incident Reports:

Mike Chamberlain joined the meeting along with Deputy Tom Battista, Sergeant Jim Beraldi, and Captain Claude Wyant. Sergeant Beraldi reported on a major incident on River Road last week, noting one of similar nature in Royalton.

WCS conducted the investigation and passed the information to the VSP. The case has been transferred to VT State Police Special Investigation Unit. The lead investigator is Detective Eric Albright at 802-722-4600. Another contact is Julie Gaudette. She is the Director at the Family Place in Norwich.

WCS continues to work with other police agencies with regard to the situation on Harlow Road in Royalton. VSP, Royalton PD, and WCS are all working collaboratively on this.

WCS is currently doing saturation patrols. An incident at Sharon Elementary School was also recently reported. At 4:30 AM a male visited the SES but did not break into school. It has been determined he is homeless and transient. He has been identified, and his family is aware he is transient. Sergeant Beraldi does not think he is a threat to the school. More likely the person was looking for something to eat.

Discussion ensued about how to guide the community conversation on Social Media. Captain Wyant suggested WCS could craft some language to post on the Sharon FB page.

7. Road Foreman Reports:

Frank Rogers had to leave the meeting for an 8:00AM webinar. His reports were postponed to the September 8th meeting.

8. Notice of Proposed TSA Minor Act 250 Permit:

Discussions postponed until September 8.

9. Finance Manager Reports:

Deb Jones reported the requisitions from Pike are not all complete. Pike submitted requisition #3 but it is really requisition #4. Pike is working on getting this squared away. She reported Tasco working on installation of the remote entry doorbell for the rear door at the Town Offices. Tax payments are coming in at a nice pace. Folks are using all means available to pay taxes.

Mary Gavin made motion to authorize the Finance Manager to apply for a LGER grant to cover reimbursements that are COVID related. Eligible costs could include sneeze guards, drop box, and other Covid related expenses. The grant covers the time period of March to December 2020. 2nd by Kevin. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Racial Justice Issues in Sharon:

Joe Ronan indicated the SB is awaiting more information regarding training opportunities. The SB has heard back from Jameson Davis regarding guidance/consulting. Training would be for Town Staff and elected officials. The Davis work would have some cost associated with it; VLCT would likely have some minimal cost and would be directed towards municipalities.

Marcy Marceau asked if the SB had specific goals before it engaged in training and spending tax dollars. Marcy asked what are the prompts, who is doing training, what will end result be, what is cost, what is the whole package? Marcy would like to see this laid out in written form. SB members indicated the Board is still exploring what the opportunities are and at this time there are no specifics. Marcy is asking for the charter for the Town. It was noted Sharon is not a chartered town, so Sharon is guided by VT Statutes. It was suggested that the VLCT document "Selectboard Handbook" may be of value to Marcy. Marcy is looking for a document that gives the SB authority or guidance to pursue national socio-political issues.

11. Coronavirus Planning:

Joe Ronan reported on the IC meeting on August 24. A little uptick in visits to the Food Shelf has been noted. But otherwise it is business as usual. There is a pizza sale to support Baxter Library on Friday, August 28.

12. Emergency Health Order - Dylan McCullough:

Dylan McCullough has indicated tenants will not leave. So as landlord he is not able to get into the trailer to fix the issue. Tenants suggest they could move to one side of the trailer while repairs are under way. It was unclear that this could work as the majority of the repairs would be done in the bathroom—and there is only 1 bathroom in the home. Joe Ronan will follow-up.

13. Approval of Warrants:

Kevin Gish made the motion to approve AP Warrant #1065 in the amount of \$8,157.82, including the following payments: 2 invoices from Northern Tool through Blue Tarp Credit Services \$423.98, Eastern Sales Inc. for pre-printed tax bill forms \$311, Evans Motor Fuels for 2 invoices \$1028.37, 6 invoices from GMP totaling \$450.96, appropriation to HCRS for \$100, Health Equity for \$842.88, audit services through July from Mudgett Jennett & Krogh-Wisner PC for \$4500, and Northeast Delta Dental for \$500.63. 2nd by Gavin. Motion passed unanimously.

Kevin Gish made the motion to approve AP Warrant # 1066 in the amount of \$2,928.86 including reimbursement of \$40.40 to Debbie St Peter for election supplies, payment of 3 invoices from Pike Industries for ledge pak totaling \$2203.20, 2 invoices from Royal Auto for tractor parts for \$100.48, monthly premium from The Lincoln National Life for \$224.04, US Bank for monthly copier fee and maintenance contract for \$143.10, and United Ag & Turf for \$217.64 for tractor filters. 2nd by Gavin Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Gavin to approve and designate the Chair to sign the substantial completion certificate for the paving project. 2nd by Kevin Gish. Motion passed unanimously.

14. Next meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 @ 7:30 AM.

15. Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn by Gavin, 2nd by Gish. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:55 AM.

Submitted by Mary Gavin