

**SHARON SELECTBOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES (DRAFT)  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020**

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

Selectboard Members Attending via Zoom:	Joe Ronan, Kevin Gish, Mary Gavin
Staff Attending:	Deb Jones, Margy Becker, Frank Rogers
Other town officials attending:	Galen Mudgett, Lister
Guests:	<i>noted by agenda item</i>

**1. 6:30PM Call to Order:**

Joe Ronan called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

**2. Review/Approve Agenda:**

Mary Gavin made the motion to approve the agenda without modifications. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**3. Public Comments:**

Joe Ronan and Kevin Gish announced The Sprouty is underway and finishes up this weekend – September 28. For more information consult The Sprouty website at [www.thesprouty.com](http://www.thesprouty.com).

**4. Road Foreman Reports & Highway Business:**

Frank Rogers reports the crew has finished putting hard pack on Cross Road. Royalton contributed 2 10-wheelers as a mutual aid project. The crew will resume 5-day week schedule on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**5. VT State Police Lieutenant Barb Kessler and Windsor County States Attorney Ward Goodenough:**

*Joining Discussions: Lieutenant Barb Kessler, WCSA Ward Goodenough; Sharon/Royalton residents Brenda Blakeman, Sandy Clavelle & Ken Alton, Vince Gross & Colleen Trudo, Marcy Marceau, Lui & Nick Tarr.*

Joe Ronan commented there appears to be an increase in serious and illegal activity in town. He inquired whether the VSP agrees that this is a real trend and whether increased activity is occurring in other towns?

VSP Lieutenant Barb Kessler indicated the VSP is not seeing an increase in crimes being committed during COVID, because more people are at home and able to protect their

properties. She acknowledged Sharon is seeing a ‘wave’ of activity, and Harlow Road is one bad spot. The VSP continues to partner with the States Attorneys’ office on that issue. Overall, however, Barb Kessler reported calls to the VSP have declined since COVID.

Joe Ronan noted residents have supplied the VSP with a lot of documentation of repetitive behavior at the Harlow Road property, and that restraining orders and/or trespass orders have been issued. Yet people are wondering what more could be said, generally, about prosecution of the case. Barb Kessler and Ward Goodenough responded they could only address the public record. They explained many aspects of criminal procedures including restraining orders, domestic relief orders, trespass orders, detentions, arrests, factors considered in conditions of release, procedures for arraignment, and when police records become public. Ward Goodenough informed residents no state agency is tasked with enforcement of conditions of release “COL’s”. COL’s are enforced by local law enforcement officials. Arraignments are public record. Neither Kessler nor Goodenough were aware of any arraignments in Sharon.

Lieutenant Kessler reviewed types of information the VSP feel are important for building a case. She encouraged witnesses to step forward, noting that ‘anonymous tips’ are relatively unhelpful in court. She spoke about the fact that drug crimes are seen as ‘victimless crimes’. Offenders can be out as soon as 20 days after arrest and become repeat offenders. Society and/or ‘policing’ policies are not correcting the societal issues causing drug use and distribution.

Kevin Gish spoke again of all the reports and information residents in the Harlow Road neighborhood have been providing the VSP over many months. He noted frustration of residents at perceived inaction on the part of law enforcement officials. Ward Goodenough spoke highly of the VSP personnel in the Royalton barracks and suggested residents continue reporting incidents directly to the VSP.

Sandy Clavelle noted incidents involving discharge of semi-automatic and automatic weapons at night, and the insecurities area residents feel. Lieutenant Kessler again urged residents to contact the VSP dispatch to report incidents. The VSP communicates with Royalton PD. At this juncture, and after forty-five minutes, Joe Ronan called the discussion in order to proceed with other business. SB members thanked Barb Kessler and Ward Goodenough for attending the meeting.

## **6. TSA and OSH Building HVAC Improvements: Update of E-VT Grant**

*Joining discussions: Andrew Lane, TSA; Ken Wright; John Roe, President TSA Board.  
Recusal from discussions: SB member Kevin Gish*

SB discussions resumed about the details of and cost-sharing for proposed ventilation equipment for the Old School House building. Mary Gavin noted her continued concerns regarding the lack of specifications and concerns regarding the project budget and apparent ‘unknowns’.

Andrew Lane noted specifications had been provided by Alliance Mechanical. He summarized the cost proposal, which includes a Town share in the project of \$20,000. The \$20,000 reflects the \$16,000 shortfall in grant funds + \$4,000 in estimated exclusions. The proposal is for TSA to forfeit rent up to \$20,000. Any additional costs above the \$4,000 in exclusions are proposed to be split 50/50 between TSA and the Town.

Andrew Lane pointed out TSA would be leveraging 80% of the cost of improvements on a building it does not own. The building is being brought up-to-date *because* the school is there. And the legislature may fully-fund the project.

Joe Ronan indicated he thought SB members were in agreement with the concept of proposed improvements. He asked if the TSA would agree to redirect some funds to the Town, as a 'split-the-difference' approach – meaning the Town would be responsible for the \$16,000 shortfall in the grant funding only and not be accountable for the \$4,000 in exclusions.

Mary Gavin inquired about the reheat coil, and Ken Wright addressed her concern. He then suggested he work directly with the Town, as a volunteer, to oversee installation of the ventilation system. He further stated he thought there was room for potential savings in the project. After further discussions a cost share proposal was agreed to.

**Motion by Mary Gavin that the Town participate with the Sharon Academy to install an ERV at the Old School House, with the expectation that TSA provide \$65,475 in grant funds and the Town provide TSA \$16,000 as an advance from the Old School House Fund toward the project. The Town expects repayment of the \$16,000, when Efficiency VT fully-funds the project, and the Town is not to be held accountable for overages on the project. Joe Ronan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously 2-0-0, with Kevin Gish recusing himself from the vote.**

#### 7. Ashley Community Forest Vote:

*Joining discussions: Michael Sacca, Robert Linck (VT Land Trust), Jenn Hayslett, JT Horn, Warren Johnston, Patrik Kelly (Stafford SB), Galen Mudgett, Sharon Lister.*

The Selectboard further discussed the upcoming votes in Strafford and Sharon on acceptance of the Ashley Community Forest and implications for future ownership and management of the property. Michael Sacca indicated he agreed with the idea of Strafford and Sharon utilizing the same language for the ballot. He clarified the Ashley Forest exists as one parcel. It is not subdivided. It would need to be subdivided, should the towns decide to accept individual acreages. But that is something the towns have to work out and beyond the scope of the Alliance of VT Communities' involvement with the project.

Galen Mudgett indicated the Town had just received the survey. There appears to be clear access to the parcel from Strafford yet not from Sharon. He has been researching the deeds which are referenced in the survey notes. He is unsure whether the note refers to the proper deeds. Michael Sacca indicated the deed to Debra Fisk identifies an approximate 100 foot ROW to Rosamund Ashley. The actual status of this ROW is in legal review.

Galen Mudgett further pointed out that Clifford Farm Road is a class 4 road, which is maintained by the abutting landowners. The contested access point to the Ashley Forest parcel in Sharon is approximately 1.1 miles up Clifford Farm Road. He questioned whether or not the Town would have to upgrade Clifford Farm to a class 3 road, in order to provide public access. Why would private landowners want to pay for upkeep of the road? Michael Sacca indicated the Ashley Forest Committee might consider itself a 'neighbor' in this instance and contribute towards maintenance of the road.

Joe Ronan summarized the remaining decisions before the towns being a) timing of the vote, b) wording on the ballot. An additional question is whether or not ownership of the parcel will be left as an open question.

Bob Linck, Vermont Land Trust, indicated the towns should, at minimum, *manage* the community forest parcel together. Joe Ronan concurred it makes sense as a cooperative project between two towns. JT Horn, member of the Strafford Conservation Commission, commented that integrated management makes the most sense and that a collaborative management structure is needed. Jenn Hayslett of Strafford agreed.

Pat Kelly indicated the Strafford SB would next meet on Wednesday night, Sept. 23. He sees the project as a good opportunity for the towns, though it is a little complicated. He wonders if the towns could do without the inter-local agreement and concentrate on a joint management plan.

Joe Ronan closed discussions at approximately 8:45PM, noting that the SB would follow-up with Sharon Town Clerk regarding the December vote, and then it would concentrate on language for the ballot. Galen Mudgett stated his opinion the town line is a boundary and that the ballot language would need to consider two (2) parcels.

#### **8. Crescent Lake Dam Safety - updates from landowners:**

*Luis Bango joined the meeting* to provide a progress report concerning preparation of an emergency action plan (EAP) to address 1) a leak, or 2) a breach of the Crescent Lake Dam located on Downer Road. Luis and his wife Joan spent the summer moving to the property and settling in.

Mary Gavin spoke of Sharon Fire Chief Nathan Potter's plans for emergency response and mutual aid in the event of a breach. The SFD has gone door-to-door to obtain names and phone numbers of all homes that lie within a potential inundation pathway. It was agreed Nathan's plans for emergency response would be included in the EAP. Luis Bango confirmed he is continuing to use the template the State of Vermont provided him. Mr. Bango is also commencing review of the structural aspects of the dam with a civil engineer. Drought conditions have lowered the risk of an unsafe situation. Selectmen again thanked Luis and Joan Bango for their continued efforts. Luis agreed to share the revised EAP, once it incorporates relevant maps and Nathan Potter's landowner contact and mutual aid plans.

**9. Windsor County Sheriffs: Review of Fair/Impartial Policing data:**

Discussions were postponed to future meeting – the date to be determined.

**10. Finance Manager Reports:**

Deb Jones provided brief reports, indicating collection of the first installment of property taxes went well. She will provide a final report on the paving project at the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. To-date there has been no warrant for reconciliation of school taxes.

**11. Planning Commission Appointments:**

Margy Becker reported planning commissioners could be appointed for the remainder of their unexpired terms, unlike elected officials who can only be appointed to fill vacancies until the next annual or special town meeting. **Motion by Mary Gavin to clarify the SB's motion of September 8<sup>th</sup> should read "to appoint John Roe and Lee Semik to fill vacant positions on the Planning Commission for the remainder of three-year terms expiring March 2022". The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.**

**12. Town Health Officer Matters:**

Joe Ronan provided a brief update on the status of his involvement with the rental housing inspection at 146 Dyer Road, Sheri Knox property. He has not heard back from Dylan McCullough's attorney regarding the inspection at his property on Broad Brook Road.

**13. Selectboard Assistant Reports:**

- SB Meeting Schedule Change: the Selectboard will not meet on Monday, October 12; it will hold an additional meeting on October 26.
- The 2020 town report format was discussed and agreed to. The Board will further consider mailing the report to all residents.

**14. Coronavirus – planning/updates re: remote meetings:**

The next IC meeting will take place September 30. Mary Gavin will attend. Paul Boles has donated the concrete pad for the new elections ballot box. The ballot box is located at the rear of the Town Offices.

**15. Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion by Kevin Gish, seconded by Mary Gavin, to approve the minutes of September 8, 2020 as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Mary Gavin, seconded by Kevin Gish, to approve the minutes of September 14, 2020 with changes noted. The motion carried unanimously.**

**16. Approval of Warrants:**

**Motion by Kevin Gish to approve Warrant 1074 for \$20,427.31** with invoices for 1qtr of **ADT** \$203.67 (Tasco is way behind in installs), **Northeast Delta Dental** for October \$446.18, **Eastern Sales** for tax bill envelopes and checks for the Gen Fund checking \$297, **EJ Pringle/Midway Station** for gas for highway small equipment \$20.90, **Green Mountain Mowing** progress billing \$422.50, **Indus** crack sealing with \$12,000 put toward the operating budget and 2246.12 toward infrastructure, **Innovative** for \$4700.94 for 5001 gallons of calcium chloride, and \$90 to **Maine Oxy** for cylinder lease for 1 yr. **Mary Gavin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion by Mary Gavin to approve Warrant 1075 for \$4,677.69**, which includes 3 invoices to **HP Fairfield** totaling \$3191.47, mostly for parts for the Western Star's drive shaft and hydraulic pump, **Pike Industries** for ledgepak for stockpile and Moore Rd totaling \$777.68, **Royal Auto Parts** has 4 invoices totaling \$141.95, Ted Green service for the F550 \$198.91, and **TENCO** for \$367.68 for a Tenelene chute for the 2017 Freightliner. **Kevin Gish seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion by Mary Gavin to approve Warrant 1076 for 14,927.21** includes **US Bank** copier fee of \$143.10, **VLCT PACIF** quarterly insurance payment of \$14702.18, **VMCTA** annual membership for Debbie and Margaret for \$55, and **WB Mason** water supplies for \$26.93. **Kevin Gish seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion by Kevin Gish to approve Warrant 1077 for the Old School House in the amount of \$4,248.57** includes **Countryside Alarms** for \$30 for increase in cost for annual inspection sticker, Jerry Swasey dba **Swasey & Sons** for 2 invoices totaling \$2,110 for the water softener installation and the UV light maintenance, and **VLCT PACIF** for OSH quarterly insurance in the amount of \$2,108.57. **Mary Gavin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**17. Adjournment:**

**Kevin Gish made the motion to adjourn at 9:02PM. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.**

Submitted by,  
Margy Becker