

TOWN OF WORCESTER, VERMONT

MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD REGULAR MEETING

01 July 2019

Select Board members present: Ted Lamb, Ben Jones and Paul Hill, Jr.

Select Board members absent:

Guests present: Katie Winklejohn, Brian Powers, Stew Clark, William & Linda Commo, Gary Donahue

Ted called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

The minutes for the 17 June 2019 meeting, moved by Ted and seconded by Ben, were approved.

Public Input: William & Linda Commo came to discuss the trees that border their home and the Town Clerks' offices. These trees appear to be in deteriorating shape and William asked about removing them and replacing them with another tree or shrub that wouldn't grow as high. After discussion the Select Board agreed that William can remove the trees and the Town would agree to purchase some replacements. William will look into gathering some info about suitable replacements and come back with a proposal. In the meantime, he would begin taking down and removing the trees over the remaining summer months. Brian reminded that before new plants could be planted, we would need to contact Dig Safe for clearance to disturb the grounds.

Road Commissioner's Report – Brian invited Greg Donahue from Fresh Coat Asphalt to attend the meeting. Greg works for the company that had given the Town a quote earlier this year in resurfacing Minister Brook Road at a cost of \$34.5K-\$35K. Greg came to explain he had made an error and the cost for the same scope of work would be around \$335K. He blamed this on a new software program he was using to do projections. He offered to work with Brian and the Select Board to come up with a plan of road repairs that he could do for the \$35K figure.

Brian also discussed...

- The heavy rains and floods on May 19th & 20th are not FEMA covered events but will be under the State's emergency grants program. At this time, Brian's estimate is \$184K. He and his crew were able to salvage a lot of road material. Brian also mentioned that Walt Bador had helped out a great deal with road repairs due to the last round of heavy rains.
- Brian is still talking with Jim Cota at the AOT about reviewing the formula they use in determining a town's eligibility for funds assistance in repaving roads.
- The Jones's bridge will be replaced with the generosity of the Agency of General Contractors donating material and cost to replace the bridge, thanks largely to Brian's efforts in bringing this to their attention and having the Governor come out to see first-hand the damage caused to the bridge.

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- Some town residents had asked to place traffic cones along Route 12 during the July 4th holiday time to help direct pedestrians walking from The Landing (Kyle Devitt's property) to holiday activities at Ladd Field. Brian checked with the VLCT and found that the Town could be liable for accidents that may occur. The Select Board decided to not lend any cones for this purpose.
- Brian and Katie have worked on the updated Codes & Standards for Roads form and presented same for Select Board signatures.

Town Clerk's report – Katie reported...

- The newly formed Town Service Committee has sold \$110 worth of the new Welcome Bags, which each cost \$2.25.
- Moved by Ted and seconded by Ben, the town tax rate was set at .6117, with the Select Board approving same.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Stew Clark from the Worcester Planning Commission, came to discuss a letter he drafted with the intent to send it to the owners of the 242 Elmore Road property (aka "The Old Tavern Farm"). The owners are growing commercial grade hemp to process as CBD products. Stew's letter suggest the owners to work with the State in making sure they have obtained all necessary permits for operations. The Select Board discussed the process of talking, face-to-face, with the owners about their operations and to offer assistance in making sure they do have all necessary permits and are in compliance with regs concerning their business. Ted and ben suggested we invite the owners to come to the next Select Board meeting on 14 July to discuss the status of operations and hear about their future plans.

Correspondence: None

Bills: Signed as presented.

Announcements: The next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting will be held at the town office on 14 July 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Attest: Paul Hill, Jr.