

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes / APPROVED**

March 6, 2018

Members present: Jim Benoit, Rick Ebel, Steve Gutowski, Loretta Lawrence. Michael Red+Muir did participate in the first part of the meeting via Skype and then by telephone . until the connection was lost.

Town officials present: No town officials were present.

Visitors present: Sam Alger, Dennis Armell, Christina Brace, Deb Brace, Lisa Brace, Mallory Brace, Scott Brace, Carl Cole, Ziggy Comeau, Robin Curler, Kim Curtis, Scott Curtis, Delanie, Cynewski, Kim, Cynewski, Anna Charland, Amy Dohner, Brittany Fisher, Jerry Fisher, Lauren Fisher, Rick Fisher, Ricky Fisher, Tracy Fisher, Whittaney Fisher, Jaimeelyn Gaboriault, Andy Kirkaldy, Jeannine Longchamp, Sheila H. McGregor, Lindsey Mucia, Jeannette Myers, Sam Puchar, Bessie Sessions, Gloria Stokes, John Stokes, Sally Torrey, Shannon Warden.

1. 6:30 p.m. Regular meeting — call to order.

Loretta Lawrence, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Approve minutes — February 20, 2018, regular meeting.

Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2018, regular meeting, as submitted. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

3. Selectboard new business

(a) Duncan Harris — Kingsland Company — re: listing contract. Due to a scheduling conflict, this agenda item will be moved to the next regular selectboard meeting on March 20, 2018.

(b) Lauren Fisher — dog issues. Lauren Fisher addressed the board regarding health and safety conditions at Heidi's Haven, a home-based animal rescue business owned by Sheila McGregor located on 2512 Sand Road. Using a PowerPoint presentation, which included photos from Sheila's FaceBook page and photos and video taken by Lauren, she detailed the impact this business has had upon her family, the Brace family who lives next to Heidi's Haven, and the surrounding community. Some of the recurring issues include excessive noise from barking dogs in the early morning and during the night, unbearable smells from urine and feces, unsanitary home conditions for the dogs, and unsafe conditions outdoors from Sheila's loose dogs. Lauren said since she now has an infant the most critical issue is a rat infestation that has spread from Heidi's Haven to her home, which is just 15' from Sheila's property line. A lengthy discussion ensued between the board, Lauren, numerous visitors, and Jaimeelyn Gaboriault, the town animal control officer. Sheila McGregor was present at the meeting and responded to questions from both the townspeople present and the board. Rick Ebel stated that the selectboard would follow up on this issue by either changing the current dog ordinance or creating a new ordinance that would address the situation not only for this case but also any other cases that come before the board. Sheila stated that she has already scheduled Terminix to come to her house on Saturday, March 10, 2018. At Jim Benoit's request, Sheila agreed to pay for Terminix to come to Lauren's home the same day. Lauren agreed that this would be a good date to come.

4. Selectboard old business

(a) Review data regarding recording backlog. After discussion, the board decided to ask Gloria Warden, town clerk, for a written description to help clarify the numbers presented by the tabulations and graphs submitted.

5. Selectboard general business

(a) Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission — hall rental agreement — March 29, 2018, 6:00–7:30 p.m. Jim Benoit made a motion to rent the upstairs community hall to the Ferrisburgh Conservation Committee for an education program on March 29, 2018, waiving the rental fee and need for proof of insurance. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(b) Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission — hall rental agreement — October 4, 2018, 6:00–7:30 p.m. Jim Benoit made a motion to rent the upstairs community hall to the Ferrisburgh Conservation Committee for a presentation by Susan Morse of Keeping Track, Inc. on October 4, 2018, waiving the rental fee and need for proof of insurance. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Discussion ensued regarding the commission's request for the town to sign a contract with Keeping Track, Inc. to reserve the event. After discussion, Rick Ebel made a motion to sign the event contract. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(c) Building Maintenance Report. This agenda item was tabled until the next regular selectboard meeting on March 20, 2018. At that time, Red Muir and Bill Wager, volunteer fire department chief, will review bids for a new roof for the firehouse. Silas Towler and Red Muir are obtaining estimates for a new roof for the Ferrisburgh Historical Society building at 6 Little Chicago Road.

(d) Appoint temporary board chair until March 20, 2018, reorganization meeting. Loretta recommended that the board appoint a temporary chairperson until the next board meeting since her term expires tonight. After discussion, Jim Benoit made a motion to appoint Rick Ebel as temporary board chair until the selectboard reorganization meeting on March 20, 2018. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(e) Prevent Child Abuse Vermont — request to show support with a “pinwheel garden.” After discussion, the board decided not to take action on this matter.

6. Public comment

Bessie Sessions asked the board for a clarification of Red Muir's comments made during town meeting (Saturday, March 3, 2018) regarding repairs to the Union Meeting Hall. Steve Gutowski replied that the two roofs would be done first followed by the steeple. Bob gave an estimate for the roofs. Steve said that firm estimates are needed for repair of the steeple.

7. Other business

Steve Gutowski asked about getting a board member to be the new contact person for the Addison County Sheriff's Department. After discussion, Rick Ebel stated he would take on this role.

8. Correspondence

(a) Addison County Solid Waste Management District — volunteers for a Repair Café. By letter, the town was asked by the Addison County Solid Waste Management District to post a volunteer recruitment flyer for an event called Repair Café. The event will utilize volunteer repair experts to teach community members the basics of fixing broken household items.

9. Selectboard to approve or sign

(a) Annual Financial Plan — Town highways FY 2018–June 2019. After discussion, Rick Ebel made a motion to sign off on the Annual Financial Plan computation for the use of grants. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(b) Jiffy Mart — 2018 Liquor License Renewal Application. Jim Benoit made a motion to renew the 2018 liquor license for Jiffy Mart in a single-story building located at 2822 US Route 7 in Ferrisburgh, Vermont. Rick Ebel seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(c) Selectboard warrant. After review, Rick Ebel made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$28,442.56. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. The board will ask Deb Healey, town treasurer, to bill the owners of the home at 941 Woods Road for fire alarm activation.

10. Adjourn

Jim Benoit made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Rick Ebel seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Silveira