

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes
February 16, 2021**

Members present: Chris Campbell, Jessica James, Clark Hinsdale, Michael “Red” Muir

Absent: Jim Benoit

Town officials present: Laurie Curler, Assistant Town Clerk, Deb Healey, Treasurer. All town officials participated electronically using Zoom.

Visitors present: Jean Richardson, Jean Bushey, Ashley LaFlam, Carl Cole, Doug Fletcher, Walter Reed III, Judy Elson, Nick Patch

1. 6:30p.m. Call regular meeting to order

Jessica James called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. Approve Minutes – Regular meeting, February 2, 2021

Jessica James asked for approval of the minutes for the regular meeting on February 2, 2021. Chris Campbell moved to approve the February 2, 2021 regular meeting minutes as submitted. Red Muir seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

3. Public Comment

No public comment

4. Selectboard New Business

(a) John Bull – highway operations report

John Bull was unable to attend due to the snowstorm.

(b) Echo and Dean Road trails

Jean Bushey summarized the letter she had emailed to Jessica James regarding the Echo and Dean Road trails. Neighbors are using her property to access a trail on the property. It has never been a road and is now overgrown yet people find it on the town road map (labeled legal trail) and walk across her property to access it believing it's a public trail. Jean asked what could be done to remove the road from the map or show where Echo and Dean Roads end. Clark Hinsdale recalled a legislative ancient road bill where towns could remove roads that didn't exist from the map. No one present could recall specific action taken on the statute. Chris Campbell stated this is a public safety issue, as first responders use these maps to find the quickest route and are often misled. Clark Hinsdale asked if others had road front property on this road which would require a public hearing. Jean Bushey replied yes and they all feel the same way. Jessica James will research the history of the ancient roads statute and then determine next steps.

(c) Open bids for repair to steeple at Union Meeting Hall

Three bids have been received for the repair to the Union Meeting Hall steeple. Red Muir asked if the total amount of the bid could be presented tonight and then the bids forwarded to the Building Committee to compare the details of each bid before making a recommendation to the board. Jessica James agreed and proceeded to open the bids. Silver Maple Construction presented a bid of \$89,655. Neagley and Chase presented a bid of \$124,000. Skip Jack Building presented a bid of \$65,637 with a comment that in the contract they would add a clause not to exceed \$70,000. Laurie Curler will scan and forward the bids to the Building Committee.

(d) Tree tapping at Union Meeting Hall green

The Ferrisburgh students would like to tap the maple trees on the Union Meeting Hall green. Chris Olson sent a letter with an assessment of the trees and all but 2 appear healthy. Clark Hinsdale asked if they used 5/16 spouts, also called health spouts, or 7/16 spouts. Nick Patch responded that they use the 7/16. Clark indicated the 5/16 is recommended as a healthier option that allows the tree to heal over more quickly and prevent disease. Jean Richardson offered the school some of her spouts and a drill bit if needed. Red Muir moved that the students be allowed to tap the trees. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
MOTION PASSED

5. Selectboard Old Business

a) Vorsteveld tree cutting in ROW update

Jessica James and Clark Hinsdale received an email asking them to meet with Kevin Kite before the mediation. They will schedule a time. Doug Fletcher expressed his appreciation to the Selectboard for their time and patience while following through on this issue.

6. Selectboard General Business

a) COVID-19 updates

Jessica James was contacted from the Department of Health due to the highest case count yet of 11. A business with 35 patrons reported 27 cases. She notified Bill Wager and the superintendent. She asked that everyone be very mindful when they are out and make the right choices to stay healthy. Those 70 and older are now able to schedule their vaccinations.

7. Other Business

Red Muir reported the boiler at the town office was not working. He reset it and found a leak in some flanges. It is currently running and Mountain Air will check it out on Tuesday.

8. Correspondence

a) Jane Werner – Regarding Bay Road beach at Long Point Corporation

A letter was received from Jane Werner expressing her concerns regarding the road work performed on Bay Road and the timeframe for a resolution. Clark Hinsdale mentioned that recently a number of local people who traditionally fish in the bay have been escorted out. He is very concerned that the Long Point leadership doesn't have a background in the historic relationship between the town and Long Point. He sees this coming to the fore and the 1946 agreement is a very important matter and the legal relationship between the town and Long Point needs to be brought to the fore and updated if needed. Chris Campbell again expressed his concerns regarding setting up special committees and the precedent it sets. He also stated that if Long Point wants to have a public road maintained by the town then all residents have the right to access that road. Jessica James added that they needed town employees to get through budgeting and town meeting before taking the next steps.

9. Selectboard to approve or Sign

a) Selectboard warrant

Jessica James asked for a motion to approve the warrant. Red Muir moved to approve the warrant in the amount of \$88,006.28. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
MOTION PASSED

10. Adjourn

Jessica James asked for a motion to adjourn. Red Muir moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:26. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Allen