

Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes – Approved
April 16, 2019

Members present: Jim Benoit, Rick Ebel, Clark Hinsdale, Jessica James.

Absent: Michael “Red” Muir

Town officials present: John Bull, road foreman; Deb Healey, town treasurer.

Visitors present: Anne Agar, Nancy Armell, Richard Becker, Tyson Blanchard, Gail Blasius, Peg Brakeley, Judy Chaves, Tim Davis, Kristin Debellis, John W. Degraaf, Ruth Dennis, Andrew Dombek, Christine Garrows, Brian Goodyear, Charlie Gottlieb, Diane Gottlieb, Craig Heindel, Andy Kirkaldy, Roxie Lauer, Adam Lougee, Kristina MacKulin, Phil Mozecka, Diane Nadon, Erin Parizo, Nick Patch, E. Patton, Karen Petterson, Kurt Plank, Erica Lee Quallen, Jean Richardson, Karen Sentoff, Bessie Sessions, Paul Seyler, Silas Towler, Nora Wright.

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

Rick Ebel, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He asked for a motion to amend the agenda, adding **9 (b) Gilfeather’s Fine Foods — 2019 Liquor License Renewal application**. He noted that **Selectboard Warrant** would be moved to **9 (b)**. Jessica James made a motion to amend the agenda as describer. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

2. Approve minutes — April 2, 2019, regular meeting.

Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2019, regular meeting, as submitted. Jessica James seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

3. Selectboard new business

(a) Public Meeting — US Route 7/Old Hollow Road/ Stage Road intersection improvements. Rick Ebel introduced Erin Parizo, project manager from VTrans. After giving opening remarks, she introduced Karen Sentoff, who gave a presentation of the three options being considered for the intersection: no build, signal, or roundabout. A question and answer period followed. Please visit the town website www.ferrisburghvt.org to read minutes and see slides from the meeting.

As follow up to the VTrans presentation, Rick Ebel asked John Bull, road foreman, how he would maintain the sidewalks if the option chosen for the intersection was a traffic signal. He replied that he would negotiate an agreement with the state based on past projects. After discussion, Jessica James made a motion to go forward with the signaling option at the US Route 7/Old Hollow Road/Stage Road intersection. Clark Hinsdale seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(b) John Bull — highway operations report. John Bull said the road crew is working on repairing road signs, grading roads, and getting ready for the first major project on Ledge Lane, which is partially funded by a Better Back Roads grant of \$18,000. He said there are two projects he is working on in partnership with Addison County Regional Planning: an inventory of the town road network to determine if the road and drainage systems meet the new road and bridge standards, developing a capital plan using the inventory information to bring road segments up to standards. He continued by saying this would be partially funded by a grant of \$8,000.

John talked about a three-hour tour he led on Saturday, April 13, 2019, of the hollow, which went from the North Ferrisburgh Cemetery to the end of the bridge. He explained and answered questions about the upcoming roadwork project to area residents.

John presented to the board quotes to purchase a medium duty low-profile truck with a plow mount and sander, an expense approved by voters at Town Meeting Day. After discussion, Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the purchase of the truck from Heritage and the bodywork from Viking Cives, using the equipment contingency funds and reimbursing the account from the State of Vermont Equipment Loan Fund. Jessica James seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Using maps provided by GroSolar, there was a brief discussion about the placement of the 15Kw solar array to be constructed on town-owned land south of the town offices building. John said he would contact Steve Yates and Lincoln Landé to discuss this further.

(c) Nick Patch — fixed radar speed signs on Old Hollow Road-traffic calming effort. Nick Patch, a member of the North Ferrisburgh Village Association (NFVA), spoke about the association's plan to purchase two activated speed signals (one to face east and one to face west) for Old Hollow Road. Stating the NFVA would pay for the speed signals, Nick asked if the town would be willing to install and maintain the signs. After discussion, Rick Ebel asked Nick to find out more information, such as the cost of each unit, possible placement, etc.

(d) Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission — hall rental request — Emerald Ash Borer workshop on May 30, 2019. Craig Heindel said the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife would be attending the workshop to discuss the issue. Jim Benoit made a motion to rent the upstairs community hall to the Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission on May 30, 2019, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., waiving the rental fee, the \$500 deposit, and proof of insurance. Clark Hinsdale seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(e) Multiple Sclerosis — 2019 Bike MS: Green Mountain Getaway — August 3, 2019. Rick Ebel announced this agenda item would be tabled to the next regular selectboard meeting on May 7, 2019, because the representative from Multiple Sclerosis was unable to attend.

4. Selectboard old business

(a) US Route 7/Old Hollow Road/Stage Road — traffic study update. Rick Ebel said this would remain an agenda item until the matter is resolved.

(b) Arnold Bay Road tree cutting and right-of-way update. Rick Ebel stated there is no news to share. The board is still waiting as the case moves through the court.

5. Selectboard general business

(a) Vermont Greenline Devco — escrow account. Rick Ebel said the escrow account funds were made available to the town for legal fees or research fees related to the Vermont Greenline Devoc project. He said the balance is \$15,341.58. Rick questioned Craig Heindel, chair of the town's Vermont Greenline committee, for advice regarding the balance. He said the escrow agreement has probably expired by now. He agreed to follow up with National Grid.

(b) Homeward Bound — April 1, 2019–March 31, 2019 annual contract. After discussion, Jim Benoit made a motion to approve Option 2, to pay a flat rate of \$600. Jessica James seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(c) Pam Cousino — acting zoning administrator discussion. After discussion, Jim Benoit made a motion to appoint Pam Cousino as acting zoning administrator when the zoning administrator is absent for two or more weeks because of illness or vacation, which will allow her to issue or deny permits when 30 days from receipt of the completed application would elapse before the zoning administrator returns, to issue a certificate of compliance if failing to act would require a closing date to be rescheduled, to provide public notice of meetings of the planning commission or zoning board of adjustment, to post and provide written notice to applicants and adjoining landowners for development review applications, and to post and send decisions of the planning commission and zoning board of adjustment if necessary to comply with statutory deadlines. Clark Hinsdale seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(d) Appointments.

Auditor — 2 terms (March 2020). After discussion, Jim Benoit made a motion to appoint Brian Goodyear as auditor for the term ending 2020. Jessica James seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. After discussion, Clark Hinsdale made a motion to appoint Andrew Dombek as auditor for the term ending 2020. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Fence Viewer — 1-year term. After discussion, Jim Benoit made a motion to appoint Sheri Arroyo and Ron Kampner as fence viewers for the term ending 2020. Jessica James seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Town Agent — 1-year term. After discussion, Jim Benoit made a motion to appoint Bessie Sessions as town agent for the term ending 2020. Jessica James seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Tree Warden — 1-year term. After discussion, Jim Benoit made a motion to appoint Cliff Mix as tree warden for the term ending 2020. Jessica James seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

6. Public comment

There was no public comment.

7. Other business

(a) US Census Bureau New Construction Program. Following discussion, Jessica James made a motion for the town of Ferrisburgh to participate in the 2020 Census Bureau New Construction Program, appointing Bonnie Barnes, zoning administrator, as the town's representative. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(b) Steve Huffaker — Addison County Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). Steve Huffaker, the town's TAC representative, addressed the board regarding three proposals to move VT 22A truck traffic out of downtown Vergennes. After discussion, Jessica James made a motion to have Steve Huffaker express support for "Alternative B – New Alignment" at next month's TAC meeting. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

8. Correspondence

(a) Irene Pierce — thank-you note for dedication of town report to John Pierce. By mail, Irene Pierce sent a note to the selectboard thanking the board for dedicating the town report to her husband, John Pierce.

9. Selectboard to approve or sign

(a) Village Café — 2019 liquor license renewal application (two licenses). Jim Benoit made a motion to approve two 2019 liquor licenses for Village Café. Jessica James seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(b) Gilfeather's Fine Foods — 2019 liquor license renewal application. Jim Benoit made a motion to approve a 2019 liquor license for Gilfeather's Fine Foods. Clark Hinsdale seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(c) Selectboard warrant. After review, Jessica James made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$38,177.82. Clark Hinsdale seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

10. Adjourn

Jim Benoit made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 p.m. Jessica James seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Silveira