

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes
April 16, 2024**

Members present: Clark Hinsdale, Jim Benoit, Walter Reed II, Steve Fleming

Town officials present: Pam Cousino, Town Clerk, Laurie Curler, Assistant Town Clerk, John Bull, Highway Superintendent

Visitors present: Bessie Sessions, Jeanne Kelly, Erik Carruth, Bonnie Barnes, Matt Leonard, Craig Heindel

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

Clark Hinsdale called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Approve Minutes – Regular meeting April 2, 2024

Jim Benoit moved to approve the regular meeting minutes for April 2, 2024 as presented. Walter Reed II seconded the motion. Walter Reed II, Jim Benoit, and Clark Hinsdale voted in favor. Steve Fleming abstained. MOTION PASSED

3. Public Comment

Jeanne Kelley asked if the state is now doing the town appraisals. Clark Hinsdale stated that the state decided to perform a study before proceeding and are still in that phase. The town has sent out requests for proposals from appraisers and will be reviewing them in May to determine who will conduct the Ferrisburgh reappraisal.

4. Selectboard New Business

a) John Bull – Highway Operations Report

John Bull reported they have started the Bay Road project on Long Point. The base will be built up by the end of the week and stumping will begin next week. The plan is to complete the project by May 1.

They have been working on grading roads this week and will begin mowing next week.

He rented an excavator for the next 4 weeks. They will replace a culvert on Monkton Road that will require a road closure. They also have a culvert to replace on Shellhouse Mountain Road that is very deep and will be doing ditching on that road. They were awarded a storm water mitigation grant for that road. He has also applied for paving and structure grants.

They will be painting crosswalks at River's Edge and in the Hollow. He has researched the property boundaries near River's Edge as requested by Clark. He reached out the US Core of Engineers and is waiting for a response.

On May 10th Ferrisburgh will host a road crew picnic for Addison County and southern Chittenden County crews and invited the Selectboard to join them.

Walter Reed II thanked John for responding to a sink hole issue at Button Bay. John said they will dig it up to see what's causing the problem.

b) Public land access being denied by private and commercial interests – Erik Carruth

Erik Carruth presented his concerns regarding signs at River's Edge and Kingsland Bay that have been posted recently. Erik has questions about the right of way, posting of the property, and some improvements that have been made in the right of way. He reported that the boat ramp

at River's Edge stops the flow of traffic, a lot of trees have been cut, and bank fishing is not allowed. Clark Hinsdale stated that the Trails Committee will research this as they inventory public recreational resources.

At Kingsland Bay Erik reported that Posted Land signs have been put up. He reached out to the Game Warden and the signs have been changed to Safety Zone signs. Erik displayed pictures showing the location of roads and signs. He stated cars are parked along the side of the road. He spoke with the Commissioner of State Parks, and they stated they will be putting in a parking lot to resolve the issue.

It was decided to invite the manager of the state parks to a future meeting to discuss topics covered at this meeting. Clark Hinsdale suggested Erik meet with the Trails Committee.

c) Process for RFP reappraisals

Pam Cousino stated she researched the reappraisal process from previous years. After discussion it was decided to open the bids at the May 7th Selectboard meeting. They will be sent to the Listers for review and a special executive session will be held to review the RFP's with the Lister's, get their recommendations, and select a bid.

5. Selectboard Old Business

a) Union Meeting Hall Update

None

b) Brown Church Update – RFP for the sale of the Methodist Church

A request for proposal was presented to announce the sale of the Methodist Church.

Jim Benoit moved to approve the RFP for the sale of the Methodist Church with Pam Cousino as the contact person, to be posted as soon as possible, with a response date of 30 days from date published. Steve Fleming seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

c) Approve Ordinance Regulating Livestock Running at Large

The ordinance has been reviewed by Kevin Kite and was presented with his recommendations.

Walter Reed II moved to approve the Ordinance Regulating Livestock Running at Large. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

6. Selectboard General Business

a) Appointments: Tree Warden – (1 year term) – Joe Nelson

Jim Benoit moved to appoint Joe Nelson as the Tree Warden for a term of 1 year. Steve Fleming seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Deputy Tree Warden (1 year term) – Reilly Laberge

Jim Benoit moved to appoint Reilly Laberge as the Deputy Tree Warden for a term of 1 year. Steve Fleming seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Fence Viewer – (1 year term) Red Muir and Art Cohn

Jim Benoit moved to appoint Red Muir and Art Cohn as Fence Viewers for a term of 1 year. Steve Fleming seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

7. Other Business

Jim Benoit stated he commends the road crew for all the work they have done this year.

Walter Reed II reported he will be attending a meeting with the 5 towns and working on a uniform contract with VARS. He will be asking for a financial report and if they have conducted audits.

8. Correspondence

a) Letters from and to Robert Harnish and Norman Cohen – Vt. Declaration of Inclusion

A letter was received from Robert Harnish and Norman Cohen and replied to by Clark Hinsdale.

9. Selectboard to Approve or Sign

a) Liquor and Tobacco License Approvals

- 1. Global Montello Group, Corp. (Tobacco Substitute Endorsement)**
- 2. Jolley Associates, LLC (Tobacco License, 2nd Class Lic., & Tobacco Subst. Endorse.)**
- 3. Clark Golf Mgt. LLC (Third Class Restaurant Bar Lic., First Class Rest/Bar Lic., Outside Consumption Permit)**
- 4. Basin Harbor Club, First Class Boat, Second Class, First Class Hotel, Third Class Hotel, First Class Rest/Bar, Third Class Rest./Bar, First Class Rest./Bar, Third Class Rest./Bar, Second Class**

Jim Benoit moved to approve all liquor and tobacco licenses as listed in 9.a). Walter Reed II seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

b) Selectboard Warrant

Walter Reed II moved to approve the warrants for, \$44,810.96. Steve Fleming seconded the motion. Walter Reed II, Steve Fleming, and Clark Hinsdale voted in favor. Jim Benoit abstained. MOTION PASSED

10. Adjourn

Jim Benoit moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Walter Reed II seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Allen