

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes
May 4, 2021**

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

Town officials present: Laurie Curler, Assistant Town Clerk, and Bonnie Barnes, Zoning Administrator. All town officials participated electronically using Zoom.

Visitors present: Charlie Langworthy, Gail Blasius, Carl Cole, Sheri Arroyo, Al Karnatz, and Jonathan Corcoran

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

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

Jessica James requested a motion to amend the agenda by adding a discussion of the Route 7/Route 22A land as item 4.b. and to move the Personnel Review process – executive session to 4.c.

Red Muir moved to amend the agenda by moving Personnel Review process – executive session to 4.c. and change 4.b. to Route 7/Route 22a land discussion. Clark Hinsdale seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

2. Approve Minutes – Regular meeting, April 20, 2021

Jessica James asked for approval of the minutes for the regular meeting on April 20, 2021. Chris Campbell moved to approve the April 20, 2021 regular meeting minutes as submitted. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. Clark Hinsdale mentioned the term “tossed up” in the Echo Road Trail item and questioned if it should be thrown up. Carol Allen confirmed that John Bull did use tossed up. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

3. Public Comment

None

4. Selectboard New Business

a) Lease agreement with Ferrisburgh Historical Society

The Selectboard has a copy of the lease agreement to be approved. Gail Blasius stated she had left a copy of insurance coverage at the town office. Red Muir commented on the clause regarding maintenance responsibility. The agreement says the Historical Society is responsible for maintenance of the building. Gail said they have done some soffit work and wood repair. Red believes the town is responsible for large budget items. Gail added they do have some siding to repair and would present a proposal to the board before any work was done. Clark Hinsdale and Chris Campbell agreed with Red on the responsibility with Chris citing it’s a landlord/tenant relationship. Jessica James asked for a motion to approve and sign the lease agreement between the Town of Ferrisburgh and the Ferrisburgh Historical Society for the term 6/1/2021 to 6/1/2026.

Red Muir moved to approve and sign the lease agreement between the Town of Ferrisburgh and the Ferrisburgh Historical Society for the term 6/1/2021 to 6/1/2026. Clark Hinsdale seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. Jessica James will sign it at the town office.

b) Route 7 and 22A land discussion

Carl Cole phoned Jessica James to ask if the Selectboard had held any discussions on this property. It was clarified that this is the parcel by the park and ride. Carl Cole said it's been sitting dormant for the last few years due to the issues they ran into historically. He has received some inquiries about it in the past and a call from a broker today with a potential buyer for the property. Carl asked if the town is interested in putting the parcel on the market and expressed he would be interested in marketing it. Red Muir questioned if the parcel should be reappraised. Carl responded that the town appraisal is probably less than its worth. Carl Cole offered to create a proposal to present before the next meeting. Jessica James will contact Justus Devries for an appraisal.

c) Personnel/review process – executive session

At 6:53 Jessica James asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel information for the town as any of this information would put the town at a substantial disadvantage. Red Muir moved to go into executive session. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION APPROVED

Jessica James asked for a motion to invite Bonnie Barnes into executive session. Clark Hinsdale moved to invite Bonnie Barnes into the executive session. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION APPROVED

7:44 - Jessica James asked for a motion to reconvene the open session. Red Muir moved to reconvene the open meeting. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

No action was taken.

5. Selectboard Old Business

a) ACORN Tour de Farms – re: April 23, letter

Al Karnatz and Jonathan Corcoran attended to request the Selectboard reconsider the need for a uniformed officer at the intersections with traffic lights. They take safety very seriously, however, have not had this requirement previously and it's a large expense for their limited budget. Jonathan Corcoran asked why the requirement changed and stated the state police don't require it. Clark Hinsdale shared that his association with farms along with the excellent safety record this group has had makes him open to reconsidering the requirement for uniformed officers. Chris Campbell is sympathetic to the cost for the organization. The amount of changing traffic patterns need to be weighed against keeping the participants and public safe. He believes it's reasonable and prudent and a town responsibility to require the intersection is well regulated. Al asked about the possibility of using flaggers. Chris responded that the flaggers just don't have the same ability to stop a rider.

Clark Hinsdale moved to amend the agreement for the ACORN Tour de Farms and replace the uniformed officer with a flagger at town road intersections with traffic lights. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. Jim Benoit shared his experiences with construction sites and flaggers and has observed that people do not stop for flaggers. The contracts dictate the requirements for flaggers and signage. At a bike event two years ago he witnessed a flagger at the Greenbush Road intersection and the flagger created more of a problem than had nobody been there. In

the past the blue lights have done a good job there. Clark Hinsdale voted in favor. Chris Campbell, Jim Benoit, Red Muir, and Jessica James were opposed. MOTION FAILED

Red Muir asked that the Kelly Brush event be reviewed. Jessica James said she will review it.

6. Selectboard General Business

a. COVID-19 update

Jessica has had discussions about returning to in-person meetings. She has not done any research on the requirements yet. If in-person meetings are held, Zoom should also be available.

7. Other Business

None

8. Correspondence

The Long Point Corporation discussion will be added to a future agenda.

9. Selectboard to approve or Sign

a) Local Emergency Management Plan update and adoption

Jessica James discussed the plan with Chief Wager. They want to use some COVID relief funds to develop a municipal plan. Jessica asked for a motion to approve the Local Emergency Management Plan Municipal Adoption for one year.

Jim Benoit moved to approve the Local Emergency Management Plan Municipal Adoption for one year. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

b) Selectboard Warrant

Jim Benoit moved to approve the warrant in the amount of \$22,269.77. Red Muir 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 8:18. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Allen