

Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes – Approved
June 18, 2019

Members present: Jim Benoit, Rick Ebel, Clark Hinsdale, Jessica James, Michael “Red” Muir.

Town officials present: Deb Healey, town treasurer

Visitors present: Jessy Amblo, Craig Heindel, Melinda Kinzie, Roxie Lauer, Alan McKibben, Susan McKibben, Diane Nadon, Brent Newton, Nick Patch, Jean Richardson, Bessie Sessions

1. 6:30 p.m. Regular meeting

Rick Ebel, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Approve minutes – June 4, 2019, regular meeting

Red Muir made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2019, regular meeting, as submitted. Jessica James seconded. Rick Ebel, Clark Hinsdale, Jessica James, Red Muir voted in favor. Jim Benoit abstained. MOTION PASSED.

3. Selectboard new business

a) Allen Brisson – rental hall agreement – June 28, 2019, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the rental hall agreement and waive the \$25 rental fee. Jessica James seconded. Jim Benoit, Clark Hinsdale, Jessica James, Red Muir voted in favor. Rick Ebel opposed. MOTION PASSED.

b) North Ferrisburgh Village Association - discussion of communications

Rick Ebel opened the discussion regarding the paving of Old Hollow Road and efforts made by residents in that area and a group was formed. Jean Richardson presented a report to the board and gave a summary of the history and mission statement of the North Ferrisburgh Village Association, established in 2014. Jean Richardson presented the board with a new member communication mailer and explained that any activities that needed Town approval was done so dutifully and respectfully. Jean Richardson explained that the North Ferrisburgh Village Association is a nonprofit, it is held accountable to state and federal statutes, need membership to join, has regular meetings with minutes and published regularly by email to all members. Jean Richardson stated that traffic measures have been completed and would like to have residents be able to walk safely. Rick Ebel stated that any individual or group wanting to impact on a road or right of way needs permission and done appropriately and come to the Selectboard meetings. Jessy Amblo addressed his concerns for a designated town center, stated that he contacted state and town authorities to confirm that no town or state funds were given for a walking path. Jessy Amblo stated that he has talked to John Bull and discussed the gravel and paving options. Jim Benoit stated that the governing body over John Bull is the Selectboard and discussed the drainage and customary drainage and paving practices. Jessy Amblo said agrees on safety measures needed and discussed centerline designation and bicycling. Melinda Kinzie stated that she was not asked by John Bull regarding her property receiving gravel or grass along the right of way and discussed watching the process of the paving. Rick Ebel stated that he expected the work on Old Hollow Road to look like what John Bull had discussed and that John Bull had communicated with 90% of the neighbors during a group walkthrough and individual conversations for those who could not attend. Melinda Kinzie discussed what quality choices might be perceived from one neighbor to another. Discussion ensued around organized drafting a cohesive aesthetic vision of Old Hollow Road and a walking path, with versus individual property owner's choice with walking path or not having a walking path. Jessy Amblo stated that he does not want infrastructure and has sent letters and emails and gave positive recognition to the town selectboard. Rick Ebel stated that Arabella Holzapfel had discussed village center designation during the previous selectboard meetings while reviewing and sharing the Land Use Regulation Update regarding town plan and zoning regulations. Rick Ebel stated that Ferrisburgh is a big town and has a high-density area in North Ferrisburgh on Old Hollow Road. Nick Patch stated that the goal of the North

Ferrisburgh Village Association has been traffic calming and not infrastructure. Jean Richardson discussed the history of an ancient sidewalk on Old Hollow Road and being a safe community for families. Craig Heindel clarified that John Bull had communicated with many neighbors and then John Bull offered neighbors a choice of grass or gravel and he then asked for the emails of selectboard members to add to the North Ferrisburgh Village Association mailing list. Discussion ensued on drainage issues and fog lines. Susan McKibben stated that Jean Richardson provides North Ferrisburgh Village Association meeting minutes and are sent to the email list. Discussion on right of ways and property ownership. Discussion ended with cordial thank yous from board members and amongst many of the individuals that spoke.

c) Appointments – Zoning Board, Diane Nadon

Rick Ebel shared that a letter from the Chair of the Zoning Board Norm Smith recommending Diane Nadon and unfortunately Norm Smith was unable to attend the selectboard meeting. Diane Nadon explained that she wanted to join the Ferrisburgh Zoning Board after hearing Norm Smith and Jean Richardson state during our last Town Meeting that they had openings and the request more women on our town boards. Clark Hinsdale made a motion to appoint Diane Nadon to the Zoning Board. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

4. Selectboard old business

a) Building maintenance reports

Red Muir gave an update on the Town Meeting Hall. Red Muir stated that the area companies have yet to respond to him and it is a hard time of the year to get qualified companies, due to the scheduling of summer projects. Red Muir gave an update on the fencing projects outside the Town Hall and Fire Department. Red Muir discussed the Town Office and areas of concern include the front of the building, specifically the front porch and steps. Red Muir discussed the deck needs to be pressure washed and sealed, and possibly capping edges with copper. Discussion on single source work, which is what we do with our electrician and what the best practice that might be to get work done. Rick Ebel stated that many little things need to be done around the office and would like to work on how to get it all done. Rick Ebel stated that minutes are posted and it is public knowledge. Deb Healey stated that a Front Porch Forum post would be another way to inform the public. Rick Ebel will ask Gloria Warden to create a post to state carpentry work needed and the projects that need to be completed. Clark Hinsdale suggested that under \$5,000 could be a direct hire under the building maintenance committee. Discussion ensued on creating a bid email list. Red Muir stated that a boiler leak that was in an area that was repaired previously had leaked again in a similar spot.

b) Town hall roof

Red Muir stated that he had called Breadloaf two times and left two messages to contact him and he did not receive any calls back. Red Muir left a message for Mike at Breadloaf and obtained his email. Rick Ebel stated that Red Muir should contact Breadloaf again via email because it is time stamped and can be easier to follow up on.

c) Vorsteveld tree cutting in ROW update

Rick Ebel stated that there was a response brief filed. Rick Ebel stated that an article discussing this matter in the Addison Independent. Clark Hinsdale discussed two legal theories on how to approach the arguments. Clark Hinsdale stated that he would like to receive drafts from the Town's attorney prior to filing. Clark Hinsdale discussed history of ancient trees and shade trees and brush, that he has background and feelings on both sides of this issue, and fully supports the Tree Warden. Red Muir stated that litigation goes back and forth and would like to be notified of a filing. Rick Ebel stated that he will notify the Town's attorney of our request of drafts to be sent to the entire selectboard for our review. Discussion ensued on reporters and to direct them to attend a selectboard meeting if they or any others have any inquiries. Clark Hinsdale gave a brief history of right of ways and road laying in

Vermont. Discussion on if the legal proceedings move to a court hearing then the selectboard should meet and discuss next steps with town's attorney.

d) Addison County Sheriff's Department contract

Rick Ebel stated that the contract is due for renewal signatures for the next year. Jim Benoit asked Brent Newton regarding the permit book system for trucking. Brent Newton said it went very well and has a posting on Vermont Department of Vehicles for creating a one stop shop for permits for the trucking industry. Brent Newton stated that during the debate with the Addison County Sheriff's Department and City of Vergennes for traffic patrolling, that many complaints were about property crimes. Brent Newton stated that the department is in process for funding a detective for property crimes and working with the Vermont State Police. Funding outside contract hours and is starting to gain support in the county. Rick Ebel stated that he supports that endeavor at no cost to the Town. Brent Newton explained that the true crime in our town is property crime. Brent Newton stated that the Department has struggled with efforts with the Hollow Road speeding and will resume additional covert traffic safety measures after paving. Brent Newton suggests that if there are areas that need additional focus to please contact the Department or let Gloria Warden know and she can communicate that with him. Jim Benoit made a motion to sign and accept the Addison County Sheriff's Department contract for Fiscal Year 2020. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

5. Selectboard general business

a) Office and personnel update – Jan Oosterman – temporary aide. Rick stated that Jan Oosterman has withdrawn the offer to help with recording and help the office. Rick Ebel stated that an emergency light in the meeting room had broken and leaked an acidic fluid that stained the wood flooring and left marks on the wall but has now been repaired. Red Muir stated that the office had issues with air conditioning not working and in communication with Mountain Air to resolve. Red Muir discussed shared secure software that would check for these issues remotely. Rick Ebel gave an update on Pam Cousino that she will be coming back in late July on a part time basis and only with her physician's approval. Rick Ebel also stated that Bonnie Barnes has an injured foot and is unable to stand upright for a long time. Rick Ebel stated that Kristin DeBellis has been volunteering in the office. Rick Ebel stated that Gloria Warden is considering discussing a request for help through the Town Clerks and Treasurers Association. Rick Ebel also said that there was a mouse in the vault and that has been taken care of and there are now traps in the office.

6. Public comment

There was no public comment.

7. Other business

Clark Hinsdale requested that communication of legal matters which are now currently printed and available by hard copy at the office, should be electronically sent. Rick Ebel stated that he will share the emails received with the members of the selectboard.

8. Correspondence

a) Vermont League of Cities & Towns - Health Officer Training Series – June 19, August 14, September 11, 2019. Communication sent to Town Health Officer and Assistant Town Health Officer.

b) Vermont League of Cities & Towns - PACIF Risk Management Workshop – July 17, 2019.

c) Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation – acquired land from Estate of Charlotte E. Tatro, approximately 4.99+/- acres.

d) Incident Command System Overview Training – June 20, 2019, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Rick Ebel stated that he will be attending this training.

9. Selectboard to approve or sign

a) Towns & Cities Financial Management Questionnaire

Deb Healey completed the questionnaire. Rick Ebel reviewed. Deb Healey stated that the signers are Deb, Pam Cousino and Bessie Sessions and that we do not have enough depth in employees and a suggestion would be to have our auditors lend a hand. Deb Healey stated that we are in good shape, we are behind but have talked to auditors for providing a training session but that will be pushed back until Pam Cousino returns.

b) Garaventa LULA maintenance contract

Rick Ebel stated that the contract is the same about as the previous contract. Red Muir made a motion to renew the Garaventa LULA maintenance contract in the amount of \$750.00 for fiscal year 2020. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

c) Vermont Council on Rural Development – 2nd Annual Vermont Community Leadership Summit – August 12, 2019. Jessica James stated that the topics and agenda were not posted on the website for this summit and would like to see those topics before making a decision on attending this year.

(d) Selectboard warrant

After review, Red Muir made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$63,427.97 Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

10. Adjourn

Jim Benoit made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica James

~Town offices are closed on July 4, 2019~