

Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes - Approved
August 4, 2020

Members present: Jim Benoit, Chris Campbell, Clark Hinsdale – acting chair, Red Muir

Town officials present: Pam Cousino – town clerk, Laurie Curler – assistant town clerk/treasurer. All town officials participated electronically using Zoom.

Visitors present: Ashley LaFlam, Jean Richardson, Anne Audy, Carol Allen, Janice Perry

1) 6:30 p.m. Call Regular Meeting to Order

Clark Hinsdale called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2) Approve Minutes – Special meeting/site visit, July 21, 2020, and regular meeting, July 21, 2020

Red Muir made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2020, special meeting, as submitted. Jim Benoit seconded. As there wasn't a quorum, the minutes were not approved. Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2020, regular meeting, as submitted. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

3) Selectboard New Business

a. Request for determination of roadside trees – 1004 Botsford Road

There was a letter of approval to remove some dead trees and brush on 1004 Botsford Road by the Houston's from Cliff Mix - the Tree Warden. He approved removal of the dead trees and the exotic invasive shrubs but that the live trees needed to stay as they were in the towns right-of-way (at 19'). Cliff Mix then suggested they contact John Bull the town road foreman for his opinion on plans to fill in the swale as indicated.

After much discussion it was decided that these items shouldn't be brought to the selectboard unless there is an appealed 1111 permit. Otherwise it should just go through the normal 1111 permit process. No action taken

b. Interview potential selectboard minute taker candidates

Anne Audy and Carol Allen both spoke about their desire to serve as the minute taker for the selectboard which is generally for 2 meetings per month. Since Jessica James was not present it will be an action item at the next meeting to chose and appoint a minute taker for the selectboard.

4) Selectboard Old Business

a) 3133 Hawkins Road – tentative hold harmless agreement

There was no action taken since the hold harmless agreement is currently being reviewed by the town attorney's office so we will have it on the next agenda.

b) Building maintenance update

Red Muir gave an update with the four areas in the basement including the basement vault had been repaired. They were injected with material that will expand when it meets water. Since we are currently having a rain event he will go to the clerk's office to make sure there is no water coming in up above or down in the basement. Parking lot lights need to be done. We need to have a plan to install 2 lots in the lower parking lot and adding a head on one of the lights in the middle parking lot. He will get back to the board when we have an estimate on that.

Ashley LaFlam has organized getting Silver Maple Construction to set up a time to review the job and come up with an estimate to repair the boards on the town clerk's office, and perhaps a painter that would have an estimate so that both items could be done at the same time. Carl Cole is dealing with the slate issue on the roof, working with Breadloaf to replace the missing slate and repair the damaged ones. Their recommendation is that the roof on the Sisters property be replaced this year. He feels that they should go with Clover State since they have done work with us before and the pricing was similar to the other quotes when the fire station was done. He was waiting for Miles Jenness regarding the scope of work for the tower so that we can get something out to bid for work next year. They are also working on getting a sign to identify the Union Meeting Hall since there is nothing to identify it right now. Miles has volunteered to make 2 posts that he would donate that would be used to hold the sign. Ashley Laflam went over options for 3 different signs, raised letters about \$1200 and unraised letters about \$950. 802 in Vergennes could do a temporary option with writing on both sides for about \$360. The board is interested in the cheaper sign but it will have to be voted on at the next meeting since this wasn't on the agenda. Jean Richardson gave her support. She feels that it could be paid for out of the non-budget maintenance fund.

Red also mentioned that the Historical Society would like to have a viewing for people to see what the inside of the Union Meeting Hall looks like, following Covid-19 guidelines. Jim Benoit would like to have a number on what will be needed to do a restoration. Ashley will put a scope of work together on phase 1, where it could be usable for under 50 people, then phase 2 that would enable more people to use the building. She is hoping to have numbers in the next month or so. She understands that the town cannot foot the bill for this major project. Chris Campbell would also like to know what the uses for the Union Meeting Hall would be.

Red is going to shut the breaker off at the Union Meeting Hall until he can get in there to determine what is using so much electricity.

5) Selectboard General Business

a. COVID-19 Updates

There were no updates but Red feels that since the Ferrisburgh Central School sits in the Town of Ferrisburgh, even though the town has no control over the school, he would like the district to inform the town about a specific standard operating procedure (SOP). This would include picking the kids up, cleaning, sending the kids home, what happens if someone contacts the virus and testing. Clark mentions that our chair is currently attending that meeting and we will see what she has to share at our next meeting.

6) Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7) Other Business

Clark Hinsdale brought up two items. He will forward a draft letter to the board regarding the Sisters property that is next door to the town offices for their review. Please get back to him if they have any changes since they need to determine if they will be putting a new roof on that property. While researching something else Clark discovered that there was an attempt to have the moorings at Kingsland Bay State Park controlled. In 1996 there were 35 moorings in Kingsland Bay. Some of the people that had the moorings convinced the state that there wasn't a need for them to be regulated. After speaking with the park ranger and neighbors he has discovered that it is quite a zoo there right now between moorings, boats, personal watercraft, etc. Because of this the park currently will not rent out canoes or kayaks due to potential liability. A few people are also concerned that many of the moorings are not installed properly and they would not hold up to a major storm. Clark has reviewed the minutes from 1996 and will get back to the board after gathering more information. It may be that a committee will need to be formed to look at this issue in more detail.

8) Correspondence

a. Vermont Green Energy Systems — 45-day notice of intent to apply for a Certificate of Public Good for a small wind energy system

The town received notification of a Certificate of Public Good.

9) Selectboard to Approve or Sign

a. Certificate of Approval for Location of a Salvage Yard – Palmer's Garage

The certificate of approval for location (COAL) of a salvage yard was last signed five years ago, for a five year-term. After some discussion Jim Benoit made a motion to sign the COAL for 5 years (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025). Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

b. Selectboard warrant

Red Muir made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$10,126.90. Chris Campbell seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

10) Adjourn

Jim Benoit made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Cousino
Town Clerk