

Minutes of the East Montpelier Selectboard

June 6, 2016 Meeting

SB Attendance: Chair Seth Gardner, Casey Northrup, Gene Troia, and Kim Swasey; Town Administrator Bruce Johnson

Public Attendance: Road Foreman Mike Garand; Washington County State's Attorney Scott Williams; Eat More Kale Festival Representatives Justin Hoy, Marc Latzky, and Keith Paxman

Chair Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Additions to Agenda:

- **Personnel Matter**
- **Cornerstone Restaurant Group, Inc. Special Event Liquor Permit Application**
- **Consideration of Agreement with Stone Environmental, Inc.**

Public Comment: None

Road Foreman Report: Mike Garand

- **Plans for Roadside Mowing**
 - The town has secured the use of a boom mower from Tenco in Barre for up to four weeks in August at a cost of \$7,200
 - Doug Grout/Bill Smith are on board for the normal one-pass July roadside mowing; contract has not yet been signed
- **Center Road Traffic Calming Options**
 - The speed cart has been returned to the Town of Calais
 - The board agreed to have the road crew repave the raw culvert area in the near future; no speed bump will be installed
 - The board discussed calming options; the current plan is to move forward with a speed limit decrease and village signage
- **Update on Templeton Road Fire Station**
 - The town has offered a contract for carpentry services to Sterry Leno under the terms of the estimate he provided; Mr. Leno has not yet returned the signed agreement
 - Chair Gardner will solicit estimates from other contractors
- **Calais Center Road Culvert Replacement Project**
 - Center Road will be closed at a point just north of the East Montpelier/Calais line from June 14 – 28 to enable the replacement of the large culvert that channels the water flow from Adamant Pond to Sodom Pond under the road just south of the 3-way Adamant intersection; the Town of Calais would like to know if we want additional signage highlighting potential detour routes; the board decided not to ask for more signage since the number of options is large and the bulk of the affected drivers are locals that already know alternate routes
- **Potential Factory Street Culvert/Drainage Project**
 - The new owner of 135 Factory Street would like the town to alter the current road drainage system; the board agrees that this may not be a wise idea due to both the possibility of affecting other properties by altering the drainage and due to the potential damage to the fragile North Montpelier water system's pipelines; RF Garand will follow up with the property owner

- **Update on FY2017 Highway Grant Applications**
 - Preliminary reports are that we did not receive the Better Road grant for Muddy Brook Road; no official word yet
- **Update on Murray Road Culvert Project**
 - Nearing completion of design; intent is to request bids with standard and timber guardrails as optional components; the board determined that it didn't need to approve the bid documents, but would be the entity reviewing the bid proposals

Discussion with Washington County State's Attorney Scott Williams

Attorney Williams briefed the board on a wide variety of topics, highlighting his team's efforts to eliminate case backlog and improve efficiency in case management while providing a fair brand of justice for lawbreakers. Special focus was placed on drug use, crime, and effective punishment. He made it clear that he doesn't believe we've hit the peak of opiate abuse, a thorny problem that calls for innovative, individualized approaches. For some a light touch is called for; for others, time in the federal system may be the right call. Nothing beats seeing a formerly decrepit young person emerge from a punishment cycle cleaned up and ready to move forward.

Board members thanked Mr. Williams for his thought-provoking presentation.

Meeting with Justin Hoy, Halogen Media Works, Regarding East More Kale Festival Planned for Morse Farm on June 25, 2016

Justin Hoy and his assistant Mark Latzky presented details on the scheduled June 25th Eat More Kale Festival to be held at Morse Farm. There will be a wide variety of musical acts along with workshops, children's activities, and plenty of food and beverage options. The festival will run all day, starting around 10 a.m. and ending at 11:00 p.m. There is projected to be between 350 and 500 attendees. Parking will be in the field just north of the old Morse farmhouse on the east side of County Road.

Addition to Agenda:

- **Cornerstone Restaurant Group, Inc. Special Event Liquor Permit Application**
 - As part of the Eat More Kale Festival, the Cornerstone Restaurant Group will operate a beer garden, which will be a discrete, separate area where patrons can enjoy a beer or, perhaps, some wine; Cornerstone, represented by Keith Paxman, presented a special event liquor permit application for the board's consideration
 - Board members by consensus approved the request; Mr. Paxman will provide a corrected application form (to remedy an incorrect address) to TA Johnson; it will be sent on to the VT Department of Liquor Control for permit issuance

Consideration of Conservation Fund Advisory Committee's Recommendation on Proposed VLT/Fairmont Farm Project

The board decided to table this item until a later meeting due to the absence of any committee member or VT Land Trust representative to explain the project and defend the recommendation.

Consideration of VTrans Grant Agreement for Quaker Road Culvert Replacement

The town has received an \$85,000 VTrans Structures Program grant to replace the vastly undersized culvert near the Brown residence on Quaker Road. The 90/10 grant will require \$8,500 in town funding with the state kicking in the remaining \$76,500. Doug Newton, Newton Technical Services, will handle the design with assistance from Chase & Chase Surveyors. The grant runs through 2018, but the intent is to have the project completed in 2017.

Motion: To authorize TA Johnson to sign the VTrans grant agreement for the Quaker Road Culvert. Made by Mr. Northrup; second by Mr. Troia. Passed unanimously.

Update on EM Village Park ‘n Ride Facility Bid Process

The bid process has been delayed as VTrans tweaks the design to incorporate a multi-use path to connect the park ‘n ride with the EM Village sidewalk network. The intent is to run the path from the northeast sidewalk landing at the US Rte. 2/VT Rte. 14 intersection to the park ‘n ride along the property line with the town-owned Old LaPerle Farm property, going east around the intersection’s drainage infrastructure. The hope is to get the project bid documents for both a construction inspector and general contractor out by July. Like the Murray Road culvert project, the board determined that it didn’t need to approve the bid documents, but will handle the proposal reviews.

Update on EM Village Sidewalk Project Right-of-Way Status

The sidewalk project is in a holding pattern as VTrans and our design & engineering team work out the details of the drainage plan, including the issue of the possible replacement of the US Rte. 2 cross culvert running from the Rolland property to the south side of the Village Cemetery drive. The project can’t enter the right-of-way phase until VTrans signs off on the design.

Consideration of Carlton Smith Fund CD Renewal

The Carlton Smith Fund certificate of deposit is nearing maturity. Treasurer Welch is asking for authorization to reinvest the fund’s principal (\$50,000) in another cd.

Motion: To authorize Treasurer Welch to invest the Carlton Smith Fund’s principal in a certificate of deposit on such terms as he deems appropriate. Made by Mr. Northrup; second by Ms. Swasey. Passed unanimously.

Discussion on BDE East Montpelier Lazar Solar, LLC PSB CPG Proceedings: Potential Executive Session

The board discussed current issues in the BDE East Montpelier Lazar Solar, LLC proceedings for a Certificate of Public Good from the Public Service Board.

No action taken.

Consideration of Draft 2016 Town Meeting Minutes

The Selectboard reviewed the draft 2016 Town Meeting minutes provided by Town Clerk Terri Conti and decided by consensus to sign off on the document without edits.

Appointments: Funding Request Study Committee

Motion: To reappoint Sue Racanelli, Paul Erlbaum, and Jeanne Malachowski to one-year terms, ending March 2017, on the Funding Request Study Committee. Made by Mr. Northrup; second by Mr. Troia. Passed unanimously.

Additions to Agenda:

- **Consideration of Agreement with Stone Environmental, Inc.**
 - Chair Gardner presented an agreement with Stone Environmental, Inc. for Amy Marcellis, a Stone water quality specialist, to provide research and evaluation services regarding the wastewater potential on the town-owned LaPerle Farm property for the benefit of the East Montpelier Old LaPerle Farm Committee at a cost of up to \$500
 - **Motion: To authorize TA Johnson to sign the services agreement with Stone Environmental, Inc.** Made by Mr. Troia; second by Ms. Swasey. Passed unanimously.

- **Personnel Matter**
 - Chair Gardner presented a brief update on a personnel matter. No action taken.

Warrants

Members reviewed and signed the warrant.

Minutes

The Chair presented the minutes of the May 16, 2016 Selectboard meeting for consideration.

Motion: To approve the May 16, 2016 Selectboard meeting minutes as amended.

Made by Mr. Troia; second by Mr. Northrup. Passed unanimously.

Other Business

Town Administrator Report:

- Update on Hudson Quiet Title Action Against Town:
 - The Hudson family has indicated that it no longer wants to pursue the effort to obtain the old town hall parcel through adverse possession, although no official change in case status has been received from the court
- Tax Collection Update:
 - Two internal processing errors were remedied, removing two properties from the delinquent tax list

- VTrans Grant Monitoring Review:
 - On May 26th VTrans personnel audited our grant records for the past three years; no concerns were found and the town will remain in the low risk group on the every-three-years review schedule
- Upcoming Meeting Schedule:
 - June 20th 6:30 pm Regular Selectboard meeting
 - July 11th 6:30 pm Special Selectboard meeting
 - July 14th 7:00 pm Likely date for EMFD quarterly budget presentation at ESF
 - July 21st 5-9 pm Community event for Planning Commission's EM Village Master Plan project at ESF
 - August 1st 6:30 pm Regular Selectboard meeting

Zoning Administrator Report:

- 5 permit applications since the last board meeting
- Next DRB meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2016, with a site visit preceding a setback variance hearing for the Stoufer residence at the corner of Center & Brazier Roads
- At its May 17th meeting the DRB denied the Orchard Valley Waldorf School application for a childcare facility and school use of the residential property at 174 Coburn Road

Motion: To adjourn. Made by Mr. Troia; second by Mr. Northrup. Passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned 9:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bruce Johnson, Town Administrator

Approved: June 20, 2016 East Montpelier Selectboard meeting