

Selectboard Memo
January 4, 2016 SB Meeting

Discussion with Conservation Fund Advisory Committee

- Committee members Brian Lusignan and Charles Johnson will be here; the PC and EM Trails were invited to participate in the discussion
- Two key issues:
 - The Conservation Fund was set up as part of a lengthy town effort in the late '80s and early '90s to craft principles and procedures for conserving land in East Montpelier; over 3,000 acres have been permanently conserved (in the sense of development rights easements); the question now is whether the town needs to adjust its conservation principles/priorities given the great success of the conservation effort over the last quarter century
 - The Conservation Fund now hovers around \$5,000, far below its normal level; should the board request voters augment the Fund at 2016 Town Meeting and, if so, at what level

Discussion on Options for Center Road Speed Limit Issue

- The current question is what steps should be taken next
 - VT State Police have been asked to provide enforcement
 - Speed/traffic study is complete, but the numbers don't support a decrease in the speed limit
 - An engineering study could be done, which would take into account factors outside a standard speed study, such as character of neighborhood, multi-modal use, and the like
 - A traffic calming study could be done to evaluate possible alternatives such as speed bumps/tables, sidewalks, signage, etc.

Discussion with Recreation Board

- Last summer the board decided to postpone any action on a possible shift in status for the Recreation Board from town committee to a non-profit entity; based on the original Selectboard creation of the Recreation Board, which was based on a Town Meeting decision to form such a board, this Selectboard decided that any shift away from a town committee would require support from town voters at 2016 Town Meeting
- The Recreation Board is still in support of the shift to non-profit status; the Selectboard needs to determine if it wants to move the issue forward with an article on the 2016 Town Meeting Warning

Consideration of Letter to EMFD Regarding Expansion of Ambulance Service to Other Towns

- The Calais Selectboard has provided a slightly-altered draft, which Chair Wheeler has authority to sign if the EM Selectboard agrees with the wording

Development of Selectboard Report for 2015 Annual Report

- Need to develop concepts board members wish to highlight for the report

Discussion on FY2017 Budget Development

- Continued review of proposed FY2017 budget; highway department numbers are now available

Discussion on 2016 Town Meeting Warning

- Warning currently shows town going first at both Town Forum & Town Meeting; school board members were sent an email asking for comments on the Selectboard's decision to go first and offering a January meeting slot to discuss the issue; no response has been received
- Continuation of the discussion revolving around the Conservation Fund and the Recreation Board issues

Addition to Agenda

- **Rutland Town Resolution on Municipal Input into Solar Facility Siting**
 - Calais recently adopted a resolution crafted by Rutland Town regarding the need for enhanced municipal input during the Public Service Board Certificate of Public Good process for handling applications for solar facilities

Town Administrator Report

- Betsy Catlin's Passing:
 - Thanks to Seth & Kim for representing the town at Betsy's funeral
 - Town made a donation to the VT River Conservancy in memoriam
 - This leaves a huge hole on the DRB – she was both the sole attorney on the board and a specialist in planning/zoning
- Closing on WEC Garage Property:
 - Pushed to Thursday, January 7th
- January 5th Nature Walk on Winston/Silberberg Property:
 - Mr. Etnier has scheduled a walk-about on the property with Naturalist Charles Johnson for Tuesday, January 5th at 2 p.m.
- Potential 500kW Solar Array on Cassani Property in East Montpelier Village:
 - BDE East Montpelier Lazar Solar officially filed an application with the PSB today; no documentation is available as yet; we should receive the formal notice within a couple of days
- The VT Veterans' Home is requesting a link on the town website
- The VT Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is requesting a statement of support
- Meeting Schedule:
 - January 5th 6:30 pm Reconvene for Clark hearing
 - January 9th 10:00 am Inspection visit to Winston property
 - January 18th 6:30 pm Regular SB meeting
 - January 25th 6:30 pm Special SB meeting

Zoning Administrator Report

- See permit activity for 2015; a total of 40 permit applications – lowest total on record
- Next DRB meeting is on February 2, 2016
 - Anticipated applications for town park 'n ride facility; Orchard Valley Waldorf School structure; Laquerre 2-lot subdivision of recently purchased Rappaport woodlot