

Selectboard Memo
November 19, 2018 SB Meeting

Discussion on Issues Involving Old LaPerle Farm Property

- **Presentation by Marc Fontaine of Proposal for Agricultural Use of Northern End of the Old LaPerle Farm Property**
 - Abutting property owner Fontaine will present a concept for expanding his beef cattle range onto a portion of the LaPerle property
- **Discussion on Replanting of Old LaPerle Farm Property Riparian Buffer with Michelle Braun, Executive Director, Friends of the Winooski River**
 - Ms. Braun will present a plan for planting native trees/bushes along Sodom Pond Brook
- **Consideration of Proposals for the Deconstruction &/or Removal of the Old LaPerle Farm Property Farmhouse**
 - The deadline for submission of proposals for the removal of the LaPerle farmhouse was November 15th; one proposal, from Guthrie & Amber Perry, was received

Consideration of Real Estate Proposal for Hodgeman Parcel: Potential Executive Session

- William Hodgeman and Diane Conlin, brother & sister, inherited an undeveloped 3.0 acre parcel when their mother, Irma Hodgeman, passed away in 2002; the parcel is the remnant of the family's holdings along VT Rte. 14 N at the north end of EM Village; the parcel abuts the northern property line of the town-owned LaPerle property's farmhouse area (the southwest corner of the parcel; west side of Sodom Pond Brook) and is bordered by VT Rte. 14 N to the west and the brook to the east; Paul Winters owns the developed 2-acre lot to the north of the Hodgeman lot, with the upper western part of the town's LaPerle parcel above that
- Mr. Hodgeman and Ms. Conlin are offering to donate the parcel to the town with the understanding that all transaction costs will be borne by the town

Update on Smith Lawsuit Against Town: Potential Executive Session

- The Smith family is suing the town in an effort to alter the provision of emergency services to their North Street property; the original suit named both the town and Montpelier; Montpelier has been dismissed from the action and the original action against the town was also dismissed; however, the plaintiffs were given leave to amend the complaint, which now names the town and TA Johnson, both individually and in his role as E-911 coordinator, as defendants
- VLCT, the town's insurer, declined to provide coverage for the original lawsuit, but is now willing to defend both parties under a reservation of rights agreement; the reservation deals with the possibility that a judgment may be outside the scope of insurance coverage; due to similarity of interests and no apparent conflicts, VLCT has assigned one attorney, Mick Leddy of McNeil, Leddy & Sheahan, PC, to defend both parties; Mr. Leddy will work with Town Attorney Bjornlund
- The board needs to determine whether it will accept the reservation of rights; Attorney Bjornlund believes it is a fair agreement and recommends accepting the coverage; he does have some lingering concerns regarding protection of TA Johnson if interests diverge; if the board decides to do so, it needs to accept the agreement and authorize Chair Gardner to sign; TA Johnson also needs to accept the agreement in his individual capacity

Town Administrator Report

- Plans to Deal with the Effects of the Emerald Ash Borer:
 - Workshop on preparedness and management scheduled for November 28th, 4-6 p.m.
 - Grants are available to municipalities for the development of plans to deal with the issues
- Update on 2018/19 Tax Year Property Tax Payment Status:
 - As of November 15, 2018 (Installment #1 due date):
 - Due for Installment #1 \$3,718,056.80; paid \$3,504,920.10; remaining \$213,136.70 (5.7%)
 - Due for Installment #2 \$3,718,058.82; paid \$784,581.51; remaining \$2,933,477.31 (78.9%)
 - Last year at this time:
 - Due for Installment #1 \$3,642,193.80; paid \$3,489,576.35; remaining \$152,617.45 (4.2%)
 - Due for Installment #2 \$3,643,194.11; paid \$847,523.40; remaining \$2,794,670.71 (76.7%)
- Rekoerie Alliance, Inc. Request for Town Support:
 - The organization, a VT non-profit that provides information on addiction prevention, is requesting \$500 from the town to support its mission; the request came in too late to be included in the standard FY2020 funding request process
- Meeting Schedule:
 - December 3rd 6:30 pm Regular Selectboard meeting
 - December 6th 7:00 pm Joint Calais/EM/EMFD budget meeting at ESF
 - December 10th 7:00 pm Joint Calais/EM meeting on EMFD budget at Calais
 - December 14th 5-7 pm Annual town volunteer appreciation party
 - December 17th 6:30 pm Regular Selectboard meeting

Zoning Administrator Report

- 6 new applications since the November 5th SB meeting; 53 total so far this year
- Next DRB meeting will be held December 4, 2018; one hearing for the final plan review of the proposed 4-lot subdivision of the O'Hare property at 835 Dodge Road