

East Montpelier Selectboard Meeting APPROVED (05/06/19) MINUTES
April 22, 2019 at the Town Office

Selectboard (SB) members present: Carl Etnier (recording secretary), Seth Gardner, Kim Swasey, Amy Willis; Bruce Johnson (town and zoning administrator).

Others present: Bonnie Waninger, Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) Executive Director; Julie Potter, East Montpelier Planning Commission; Stephen Mills, Times Argus; Ty Rolland, East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD) Chief; Toby Talbot, East Montpelier Emergency Management Co-ordinator and EMFD; Kerrie Garvey, Kateri Gomez, Watershed Consulting Associates; Jan Aldrich, Kate Bean, East Montpelier Recreation Board; Emily Goyette, Mark Lane, Elliott Morse, East Montpelier Cemetery Committee; Florence Morse; Greg Western, Cross Vermont Trail Executive Director.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Seth Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Additions to the agenda

Discussion of Connor Dog Complaint
Black Rock Quarry Update

Review of Minutes

Motion: I move to approve the April 1, 2019 minutes as amended. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Ms. Willis.
4-0

Public comment

None

B. EAST MONTPELIER HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

With the assistance of CVRPC, the town is reviewing and revising its Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with guidance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The purpose of the plan is to guide decisions on what to spend money on to reduce risks to the town.

Bonnie Waninger had reviewed the SB's work with Julie Potter at its April 1 meeting, rating local hazards and updating a table with the status of mitigation actions planned in the previous plan iteration. She asked questions to clarify the work. She also said some other towns included out-of-town hazards in their plans. Ty Rolland and Toby Talbot of EMFD said the only out-of-town hazard the fire department plans for is inundation from a collapse of the dam in Marshfield, and a response plan is in place.

Ms. Waninger encouraged the town to consider what to add to the plan, with four types of strategies generally used in hazard mitigation planning: Alter, avert, adapt, and avoid. She gave examples of each:

Alter—raise house so it doesn't flood

Avert – move house out of flood plain

Adapt – house floods, but I move furniture up onto blocks

Avoid – don't build house in flood plain

She left the town the homework of thinking between meetings about things to do in next five years, for the top five hazards. For example, since electrical outages from storms are concerns, we could work with Washington Electric on clearing trees in the right of way.

C. CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN (LEMP)

There is an annual requirement to adopt a LEMP, which is the new name of the LEOP (Local Emergency Operations Plan). The plan has a new format as well, but it covers the same basic concept of laying out the general framework for an emergency, including contact information.

Motion: I move to adopt the Local Emergency Management Plan. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Willis. 4-0.

D. CONSIDERATION OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN CVRPC AND TOWN RE EMERALD ASH BORER PROJECT SERVICES

CVRPC will provide services to assist the town in its ash tree inventory and development of an emerald ash borer action plan. The town match is in the form of volunteer (or professional) hours.

Motion: I move to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Memorandum of Agreement between CVRPC and the town re emerald ash borer project services. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Swasey. 4-0.

E. PRESENTATION OF THE TOWN'S STORMWATER MASTER PLAN

Presentation by Kerrie Garvie of Watershed Consulting Associates

She will be looking for comments on the draft plan, recently emailed to us.

Ms. Garvie presented the 30% engineering designs for the top five projects previously identified. The SB had no issues with the designs. Work on funding the projects will be done with CVRPC; Ms. Garvie said funding requests were more likely to be successful after the plan is completed.

F. ORGANIZATION OF CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The Selectboard and Cemetery Committee are continuing work on the various elements involved in the shift from a Cemetery Commission to a committee.

Motion: I move to approve compensation of at least \$15/hour for cemetery crew. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Willis. 4-0.

Motion: I move to approve compensation of \$17/hour for Nick Lamson on the cemetery crew. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Swasey. 4-0.

G. CONVERSATION WITH PHILLIP HEINZ REGARDING RECREATION BOARD APPOINTMENT

Mr. Heinz sent a letter to the SB in lieu of appearing and requested it be included in the minutes. It is appended.

H. DISCUSSION OF RECREATION BOARD PROPOSAL FOR YOUTH MEMBER

Recreation board chair Jack Zeilenga emailed a proposal for the terms of the youth member of the board, and the SB likes the approach. The proposal is:

- The youth member will be a non-voting position and will not participate in executive session.
- The youth member term will run from June 1 - May 31.
- The youth member must be between the ages of 16-18. After turning 18 consideration can be given to adding the member, now an adult, as a full board member upon the completion of his/her term if space exists and the board desires.
- The East Montpelier Recreation Board will solicit letters of interest and resumes from East Montpelier youth in the appropriate age range, due by the April meeting. Along with voting for officers at each April meeting, the Rec Board will make their appointment recommendation for the youth member and forward that to the town Selectboard.
- Initially this will run as a one-year pilot. Should the Recreation Board find it to be successful and appropriate we will move to make it permanent and add it to our policies manual. If not, we will make a recommendation that it not be continued.

While the youth member position is currently designated as non-voting, the recreation board flagged that question for possibly revisiting after this year's pilot project.

Owen Myka-Smith, a U-32 junior who was appointed to the position, is working with Ms. Swasey to send a letter of interest and resume to board, to conclude his appointment process.

I. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPORT LETTERS FOR CROSS VERMONT TRAIL

Greg Western, executive director of the Cross Vermont Trail Association, reported that construction on parts of the trail in and near East Montpelier is slated to begin this year. He needs a variety of letters of support for the trail section from the Montpelier line to the east side of the town-owned Benton parcel:

- Letter describing expected local permitting;
- Letter of support for the Act 250 process;
- Letter of support for a Northern Borders program grant, and possibly other grant programs, because steel tariffs have created a need for more fundraising.

Motion: I move to authorize the town administrator to sign the letter saying no town permits are needed. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Swasey. 4-0.

Motion: I move to authorize the town administrator to sign a letter supporting the projects in the Act 250 process. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Willis. 4-0.

Motion: I move to authorize the town administrator to sign a letter of support for the local Cross Vermont Trail project for grant applications. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Willis. 4-0.

Mr. Western said he will come back to the SB to discuss state Bike-Ped grant applications, which the town may put in for the benefit of the Cross Vermont Trail.

J. CONSIDERATION OF CANON COPIER PROPOSAL

Canon came to the town with a proposal to take out the almost-expired current 5-year copier lease with a new 5-year lease that is expected to keep the copier costs on par with the current lease. There will be a new machine in the research room and the machine in that room will become the listers' machine. The listers' current machine will return to Canon.

Motion: I move to approve the Canon five-year copier lease. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Ms. Willis. 4-0.

K. WEC ANNUAL MEETING VOTING AUTHORIZATION

The Town is a member of Washington Electric Co-op (WEC) and has received a ballot for the annual board election. This year, there are more candidates running than positions, so the SB briefly discussed the difficult task of choosing among qualified candidates.

Motion: Whereas all four candidates for the Washington Electric Co-op board appear eminently qualified, and whereas four (4) candidates are vying for three (3) positions; be it therefore resolved that the Selectboard authorizes the Town Administrator to vote for Steven Farnham, Glenn Goodrich, and Anne Reed. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Ms. Willis. 4-0.

L. CONSIDERATION OF VERMONT FORESTS, PARKS AND RECREATION EMERALD ASH BORER PROGRAM GRANT

This is a \$2,000 grant to assist the town in its ash tree inventory and development of an emerald ash borer action plan. A town match is expected, and the match can be volunteer time.

Motion: I move to authorize the town administrator to sign the Emerald Ash Borer Program Grant. Made: Ms. Willis. Second: Ms. Swasey. 4-0.

M. CONSIDERATION OF CONNOR DOG COMPLAINT

Janet Connor filed an incident form describing "more than one occasion" that the dog Ellie, which she said is owned by Brooke MacDonald and Andrew Morse, charged at her and two other pedestrians. The SB has heard of other incidents involving this dog.

Town ordinances call for the SB to convene a hearing within seven days of receiving a complaint of a potentially

vicious dog. The town will ask Ms. Connor to file the proper form to trigger a hearing at the May 6 SB meeting.

N. BLACK ROCK QUARRY UPDATE

Next steps in possible town acquisition of this quarry are scheduling a site visit for the SB and then meeting with the quarry owners, Greg & Rose Pelchuck. Mr. Johnson will work to set up a site visit on May 13, when the SB is on its way to a joint meeting in Calais with the SB there.

O. DISCUSSION ON APRIL 11, 2019 EMFD BUDGET PRESENTATION MEETING

The information on EMFD finances presented was unclear. The SB will follow up with the Calais SB on May 13.

P. WARRANTS

Signed.

Q. OTHER BUSINESS

Town Administrator Report

Central Vermont New Directions Coalition

The coalition sent a document about aggressive marketing of tobacco and alcohol in stores, and how it influences use by youth. They did not identify any stores of concern in East Montpelier.

Update on Smith Lawsuit Against Town

Mr. Johnson reported the Plaintiffs requested additional time for filing a response to the decision to dismiss the case. That motion was denied today; a motion to reconsider is still a possibility, so the case is not quite at an end.

Conservation Commission Concept

Conservation Fund Advisory Committee (CFAC) is looking into the possibility of forming a Conservation Commission, possibly to combine the tasks of a variety of committees, including the Forest Committee, CFAC, EM Trails (if it becomes a town committee, which the group may bring to the SB), Rural Road Vegetation Assessments PAC, and others.

Update on DRB Membership

The DRB is now two members down; Chair Rich Curtis resigned today.

Town Vault Crowding Concept

Mr. Johnson raised the possibility of building bookshelves in offices, to handle papers stored in the vault that don't require secure storage. He said the general concept is that the office is becoming dated and may need significant work if there is no plan to move into a new facility in the near future.

Meeting Schedule

May 2, 2019	7:00 pm	PC Forum on zoning update project at ESF
May 6, 2019	6:30 pm	Selectboard regular meeting
May 13, 2019	6:00 pm	Potential Selectboard meeting in Calais, with Calais SB
May 20, 2019	6:30 pm	Selectboard regular meeting
May 21, 2019	7am – 7pm	WCUUSD board member election at EMES

Zoning Administrator Report

7 new applications since the April 1st SB meeting; 18 applications so far in 2019.

Next DRB meeting will be held May 7, 2019; two warned hearings – a 4-lot subdivision and a duplex in Zone A (residential uses require conditional use review).

R. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: I move to adjourn. Made: Ms. Willis. Second: Ms. Swasey. 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 pm.

Dear Board Members:

To the members of both the Recreation Board and the Select Board; I would like to express the appreciation of both myself and my entire family for the opportunity to serve our town for the past 12 years. The Heinz family; Jessica, Sophia, Ivy, Ester and myself have been proud to bring soccer and other activities to our community and we can reflect fondly on the time spent together as a family working in these projects and helping grow the local programs.

I have worked on similar projects for some 20+ years at different locations in VT and out of state. The pleasure I have found is seeing the joy of the players and the growth and accomplishments they achieve. My proudest moment most recently was looking out at our U32 Girls Varsity Soccer team and knowing I had worked with most of the girls on the field in one capacity or another and recognizing that the East Montpelier program has and will continue to, produce some of the most talented athletes and best team players the high school has seen on the field.

I led the EM Recreation board for many years as the Chair and I value the lesson that this position afforded me. The programs in the WCSU have had rocky times in the past. I had the privilege of leading our group through some of the more difficult of those when I started and together with help from strong volunteers representing other schools/recreation groups, we had brought the WCSU programs to a place of cooperation and a new hope of some unity. I fear that cooperation is at a tipping point and hope the program has some new life throughout the district.

As I step aside, I leave with a heavy heart, as I do not feel my work was complete and I have a head full of ideas to continue to move the program forward. New resources and blood have brought life to projects on the drawing board for many years that were just lacking the volunteer numbers to move them to completion. I am excited to see the roadside cleanup finally getting attention and I want to thank directly the current Chair and Vice Chair of the Rec Board for bringing the vision I had to a soon to be completed state. I hope to soon see the new shed/concessions stand and the performance and outdoor classroom ideas also get attention. The new park I started will soon offer new resources for the whole community.

I ask the boards and the East Montpelier community to consider this as I close out my time and look to a new focus of my efforts. We need to encourage more participation and we need to bring new blood at all levels of our town government. I love to see the experience and dedication brought forward by our current volunteers and board members across town governance and I thank them all for their service. The town is full of unrepresented citizens with fresh new perspectives and new ideas, many younger and/or new to the area; how can we tap this resource and encourage these folks to step up and start a shift to the next generation of East Montpelier citizen participation.

Thank you
Phillip Heinz