

Selectboard Memo
May 18, 2020 SB Meeting

Consideration of Changes to Recreation Board's Policies & Procedures to Incorporate Youth Board Member: Recreation Board Chair Jack Zeilenga

- Mr. Zeilenga will attend to present the updated policies & procedures document to reflect the addition of a permanent youth member slot; this is in keeping with the plan outlined last spring – try it for a year and, if successful, make it permanent; the Rec Board was very pleased with youth member Owen Myka-Smith's participation over the past year

Appointments:

- **Recreation Board Youth Member: Claire Obeldobel**
 - Ms. Obeldobel will be a senior at U-32 for 2020/21; the Rec Board recommends appointment

Consideration of Support Letter for CVFiber Application to Northern Borders Regional Commission Grant Program: EM Representative to CVFiber Board Tom Fisher

- See draft letter; Mr. Fisher will attend to discuss the planned application for funding to move forward with a pilot project

Discussion on Property Tax Collection

- **Delinquent Tax Report**
 - May 15th was the deadline for Tax Year 19/20 tax payments; the delinquent tax warrant to be prepared by Town Treasurer Welch will show \$259,068 remained unpaid at the deadline, compared to \$183,043 last year, \$152,000 in 2018 and \$168,607 in 2017; current status as of May 18th is \$236,456 outstanding principal for Tax Year 19/20
 - The total all years, including interest and fees accumulated prior to May 15th, delinquent tax as of May 15th was \$294,439 – with all standard interest and fees it would be \$318,003; in 2019 it was \$243,280, including all interest and fees; in 2018 it was \$229,590; in 2017 it was \$243,623
- **Discussion on 2020 Delinquent Tax Fees & Collection Policy**
 - The board should review & refine the delinquent tax collection policy for the current year; it also needs to decide how to handle tax agreements and determine the standards for which properties will be taken to tax sale
 - S.344 has been enacted (no Act # as yet), giving local governing bodies the power to alter the town voted property tax scheme; in particular, the board could devise a more lenient penalty and fee structure for the coming months; one option:
 - Waive penalties/interest through June 15th;
 - Reinstitute 1% interest charges on all delinquencies and add a 1% penalty for the 2019/20 tax year delinquencies on June 16th;
 - Add an additional 2% penalty on July 16th;
 - Add the remaining 5% penalty (to reach the maximum 8%) on August 16th

Discussion on Town Management in Light of Covid-19

- The town office remains closed to the public, but researchers/attorneys can once again access vault materials under the terms originally set up before all in-person actions were banned – one at a time and only by appointment from Town Clerk Laquerre; mandated protocols (masks; health survey; etc.) are in effect for such appointments
- The Recreation Field will be reopened once signage is available in accordance with Governor Scott's relaxed guidelines for such places

Consideration of Name for Private Road off US Rte. 2

- **East Montpelier Acres LLC Development Road: “Cote Drive”**
 - With the new house going in on the road and another on the way, there are now three parcels/4 residential locations on one access off US Rte. 2 – the E911 standards and our ordinance call for the naming of a private road; Jason Cote-Wong, the owner of 4023 US Rte. 2 (the original residence; across from the Carpet Barn) and developer of the parcels above the house, would like the new road name to be “Cote Drive.”

Development of Selectboard’s Summer Schedule

- The board previously discussed cutting back, at least a bit, on summer meetings; this year the only true conflict is the standard one on Labor Day, the 1st Monday of September
- Potential schedule:
 - June 1 regular meeting
 - June 22 special meeting, in place of June 15
 - July 13 special meeting, in place of July 6 & 20
 - August 3 regular meeting
 - August 24 special meeting, in place of August 17
 - September 14 special meeting, in place of September 7 & 21
 - October 5 regular meeting – back to normal schedule

Warrants

- **May 18, 2020 Regular Warrant for Approval**
 - Just like other recent warrants, this evening’s regular warrant needs to be approved as normal, which generally is shown by a quorum of board member signatures; given our current limitations, the board should once again approve the warrant and authorize Chair Gardner to sign to that effect

Town Administrator Report

- Update on EM Village Sidewalk Project:
 - Pre-construction meeting scheduled for May 21st; contractor intends to start by late May with a target end date in late August
- EM Signpost Upcoming Issue Deadline is June 1st:
 - Any interest in placing a note on taxes or other issues?
- Online EM Land Records:
 - The digitized town land records are now available online at: <https://i2d.uslandrecords.com/vt/eastmontpelier/d/default.aspx>
 - There are a few minor kinks that still need to be worked out
- Fence Issues:
 - Fontaine fence around town-owned Old LaPerle Farm parcel
 - Malloy fence at 30 Cutler Heights
- Meeting Schedule:
 - June 1, 2020 6:30 pm Selectboard regular meeting
 - June 11, 2020 7:00 pm EMFD budget & service update at ESF

Zoning Administrator Report

- 3 new applications since the May 4th SB meeting; 13 total applications in 2020
- The next DRB meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2020; 1 warned hearing for a reconfiguration of the Northrup residential and business properties on US Rte. 2; there will also be at least two sketch plan reviews for subdivisions