

Minutes of the East Montpelier Selectboard

DRAFT

June 16, 2020 Selectboard Meeting

This meeting was conducted remotely using the Zoom conferencing platform. Participation options were provided to the public.

SB Attendance: Vice-chair Carl Etnier, Jon Jewett and Amy Willis; Town Administrator Bruce Johnson

Public Attendance: None

Vice-chair Etnier called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Additions to Agenda: None

Public Comment: None

Consideration of Proposed Purchase & Sale Agreement for the Town-owned Old LaPerle Farm Parcel

Pat Malone has submitted a signed purchase & sale agreement, crafted by Attorney Jim Barlow on behalf of the town, for the 45.48-acre remainder portion of the town-owned Old LaPerle Farm property. The 3-acre farmhouse site on the west side of Sodom Pond Brook abutting the park 'n ride facility is not a part of the proposed sale. Mr. Malone provided a \$5,000 deposit. The purchase & sale agreement specifically notes the existence of the fence Marc Fontaine installed around the parcel without town permission and the subsequent use of the property by Mr. Fontaine to graze his beef cows.

On June 1, 2020 the board authorized the substitution of Mr. Malone for Mr. Fontaine as the purchaser of the parcel on the same terms as offered by Mr. Fontaine. The purchase price is \$200,000. Closing will occur at a date to be determined after the statutory process allowing town voters the right to challenge the transfer has played out. Attorney Barlow crafted the required notice of intent to convey town property that, once authorized and distributed, will give town voters a 30-day window to submit a petition challenging the sale. Board members agreed to move forward with the transaction.

Motion: To approve the proposed sale of Old LaPerle Farm parcel as set forth in the purchase & sale agreement, authorize TA Johnson to complete the agreement and authorize Chair Gardner to sign the notice to convey. Made by Ms. Willis; second by Mr. Jewett. Passed unanimously.

Consideration of Resolution on Federal Emergency Aid

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns is participating in a national effort to lobby Congress for direct federal aid to cities and towns to assist in the recovery from the Covid-19 economic

damage. As part of this effort, VLCT is asking selectboards to adopt a resolution targeted at the state's congressional delegation. Although the soft deadline for a town response was June 12th, VLCT is still actively soliciting for more indications of support to pass along to Senators Leahy & Sanders and Congressman Welch.

The resolution essentially states that all municipalities, regardless of size, have suffered consequences related to the pandemic and federal aid should be targeted directly to communities in a fair and equitable manner with reasonably flexible terms to provide municipalities the financial stability and economic opportunities necessary to play their vital role in the nation's recovery. Board members were in support of VLCT's effort.

Motion: To adopt the resolution calling for fair and direct federal emergency aid to reopen and rebuild local American economies and authorize Chair Gardner to sign certifying the adoption. Made by Mr. Jewett; second by Ms. Willis. Passed unanimously.

Update on Cross Vermont Trail Easement over Fairmont Dairy Property (Former Lylehaven Main Farm)

Cross Vermont Trail Association hopes to close June 24th on the trail easement purchase that will extend the trail from the town-owned Benton parcel on US Rte. 2 across the soon-to-be-conserved main Lylehaven Farm property, securing off-road access to VT Rte. 14 and points east. On October 19, 2019 the Selectboard accepted the Conservation Fund Advisory Committee's recommendation that the town contribute \$5,000 from the town's conservation fund towards the easement purchase. The contribution is included on this evening's expense warrant.

Warrants

➤ June 16, 2020 Warrant for Approval

- Board members reviewed the warrant. Following a protocol developed at the board's April 13th meeting to deal with the difficulties inherent in individually signing a warrant during a remote meeting, board members decided to approve the warrant by motion and have Chair Gardner sign the warrant as certification of the board approval.
- **Motion: To approve the June 16, 2020 expense warrant and authorize Chair Gardner to sign the warrant on behalf of the board.** Made by Mr. Jewett; second by Ms. Willis. Passed unanimously.

Other Business

Town Administrator Report

- Casey Northrup's Resignation for Selectboard and Capital Improvement Committee:
 - The Selectboard vacancy notice will be posted later in the week. The board will meet with applicants at the July 13th board meeting.
 - Mr. Northrup's seat on the Capital Improvement Committee is the designated Selectboard slot. Mr. Jewett has expressed interest in serving on the committee.
- Meeting Schedule:

○ June 22, 2020	6:30 pm	Selectboard "special" regular meeting
○ July 13, 2020	6:30 pm	Selectboard "special" regular meeting

- August 3, 2020 6:30 pm Selectboard regular meeting
- August 13, 2020 7:00 pm EMFD budget & service update at ESF

Motion: To adjourn. Made by Ms. Willis; second by Mr. Jewett. Passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bruce Johnson, Town Administrator