

11/18/24 Meeting Minutes- Draft

Attendees: Carl Etnier, Seth Gardner, Jen Devine, Thomas Brazier, Zoe Christiansen

Online attendees: Deb Fillion, Scott Hess

Call to Order at 6:31 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda: Need to order a new flag, Listers requested Selectboard to sign an error and omissions form.

Review of Minutes: Nov 4, 2024

1st paragraph fix Sandy Conti, from EMFD spelling on attendees list.

Jeff Cueto emailed changes and the Selectboard accepted revisions.

Seth wants to change the font to a smaller font.

Tom motioned to approve minutes as amended.

Zoe 2nd

Unanimously approved.

Review of Minutes from Town Garage Informational Meeting,

Possibly for the first sentence of second paragraph confirm numbers/assumptions.

No changes.

Carl moved to accept minutes

Tom 2nd

Unanimously approved.

Public Comment

Chair plans to take banner down in front of the building.

Congrats to us and the voters of EM for the Town Garage passing!

SB Site Visit Regarding Easement on a Trail

Ed Deegan wants the town to let go of trail to his property. The trail has trees covering it. There may be value for the town to keep ownership and as a town right of way and it is an asset to the town. People go on his lawn right opposite his house. There are beaver ponds. The Selectboard scheduled a site visit for Dec 2nd before the next Selectboard meeting at 3:30pm.

Hudson House (2812 Route 2, East Montpelier, VT) Demo and Asbestos Abatement Discussion (Possible Motion)

The Selectboard is deciding on selling the house As Is and putting in a right of way to cemetery. The Selectboard would like to clean up the property asap because winter is coming. If the Planning Commission wants to discuss this more, then the Selectboard requests that the Planning Commission attend the December 2nd meeting. Here are the items that they discussed:

1. SB requested the EM Road Crew to **shift the temporary shed and put cement down** at a new location.
2. SB requested ZA to provide any necessary **permit for pouring a temporary concrete structure.**
3. SB requested to **take down the trees on the property and clean up the grass.**
4. If we sell it, we need a right of way that is 65 x 100. And we need a survey.
5. The SB is not leaning towards doing asbestos abatement because it is too expensive, and we need affordable housing. However, the Selectboard will formally decide at the Dec 2nd SB Meeting.

Town Garage Discussion (Possible Motion)

- Kick off Meeting is Friday Morning.
- Need boundary survey completed, including topography. Possibly ask Chase and Chase for a survey.
- WEC Engineering Form the SB wants TA to ask WEC for more information.

EV Charger Discussion (Possible Motion)

This proposal would provide a dumb charger that does not rely on any network and it is the right thing to do.

Carl moves for TA to contract with Dan Cowan

Tom 2nd

Unanimously passes.

Winter Roads Policy Approval (Possible Motion)

Move the second paragraph and make it first paragraph.

Zoe moves to accept policy as amended.

Carl 2nd

Unanimously

Ethics Liaison and Procedure Options Discussion

In order to follow the Ethics Statute, we will need an Ethics Procedure put in place. If the VLCT is doing this work in January 2025, then why reinvent the wheel. However, if Paul Erlbaum thinks we should have something in the interim the Selectboard requested him to write a procedure and present that to the Selectboard or to write a detailed memo. The Selectboard decided we should wait for VLCT to do this January 2025.

Treasurer Report

- The Treasurer updated our investments. Scott plans to meet with her for clarification on 11/19/24.
- \$3.6M taxes were collected.
- 2/4 homes are going to tax sale in early January. The town wants to make a bid for those 2 homes for the price of the taxes owed at that time.

Carl Move to authorize the town to place a minimum bid equal to the taxes owed at time of tax sale in January

Zoe 2nd

Unanimously approved.

Appoint Birgit McCall to Emergency Preparedness Committee (Possible Motion)
Zoe motions to Appoint Birgit McCall to the Emergency Preparedness Committee
Tom 2nds.
Unanimously approved.

The Listers Requested the Selectboard to sign the Errors and Omissions Certificate

This will make the property a single taxable entity and there is no effect on taxes or total grand list. This will combine the property into a single tax bill.

Carl moves to go into Executive Session at 7:30pm
Zoe 2nds
Unanimously approved.

(Executive Session)

Warrants

- Nov 18, 2024, Expense Warrant

Town Administrator Report:

- Funding Request Committee- The Presentation to the Select Board will be December 2nd to start and Dec 16 if we did not complete all the presentations.
- Funding Request Study Committee Meeting was on 11/7/24 and had a few changes.
- Need Sodom Pond Easements from abutting landowners ASAP.

Eliminate Dec 30 Meeting from the Memo.

The Next Selectboard Meeting will be Dec 2nd

- 3:30 The selectboard will do a trail easement site visit
- 5pm early meeting.

Zoe moves to adjourn
Carl 2nds
Unanimously approved.