

**Cavendish Select Board Meeting, Monday, April 15th, 2024, at 6:30 pm**  
**Location: Town Office Meeting Room: 37 High Street Cavendish, Vermont**

**Present:** Bob Glidden (Chairman), Mike Ripley, George Timko, Shannon Devereux, Dave Norton, Rick Chambers (Town Manager), Jen Leak (Recording Secretary), Patrick Cody (OVTV) and citizens as listed on the attached sheet.

- **Call the meeting to order**

Bob Glidden, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

- **Approval of Minutes from March 14<sup>th</sup> & March 27<sup>th</sup> 2024**

*Dave Norton moved/ Shannon Devereux seconded a motion to approve the minutes from March 14<sup>th</sup> & March 27<sup>th</sup> 2024 as written. All voted in favor.*

- **Adjust Agenda**

There were no adjustments.

- **Hear Citizens**

Tim Calabrese was present. Tim said that the Planning Commission is having an open forum to discuss the proposed draft subdivision regulations next Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at the Proctorsville Fire Hall at 5:30 pm. He said that they will have food and someone from Mount Ascutney Regional Commission will be there.

Abe Gross was present and asked if there was a plan to fix the walkway on the Mill Street bridge. Rick said that he didn't have a plan yet but he was aware it needed fixing.

- **New Business**

1. **Town Plan Energy Chapter Discuss and Possible Adoption**

Tim Calabrese was present and gave some background information on the proposed enhanced energy plan and why the Planning Commission wanted to add it to the Town Plan. He reviewed maps of the recommended areas for solar, wind and hydro power installations in town.

George asked how often it would be updated given that standards change every year. Tim said the Planning Commission is looking at revising the Town Plan since most of it was written in 2015, and it would need to be readopted in 2028. He added that, since Cavendish has no zoning, it's important to have a strong Town Plan.

Maureen asked why adopt energy chapter now if the Town Plan will be readopted in 2028, since the data in it is already outdated. She suggested waiting a year. George said that the energy chapter has been discussed for several years already, and the data can be updated but at least we would have something in place now. Tim said that Act 250 doesn't oversee energy projects, so having the energy chapter in our Town Plan allows the Town to have more input on their placement.

Abe asked if the hydro dam counted toward the Town's renewable energy goals. Tim said that he thought it did, as does the Town's solar field.

*George Timko moved/Dave Norton seconded a motion to adopt the Energy Chapter into the Town Plan. All voted in favor.*

2. **Greven Field Discussion**

Rick said that he wanted to move forward with a plan for Greven field. Rick said that fences and sheds cannot

be placed there, but an open field and grass baseball field can be rebuilt. He said that t-ball or pick-up baseball games could be played there, but it may be iffy for little league without a backstop and fence. Rick suggested that other recreation activities which don't require equipment or sheds can be encouraged. He asked the Board for their thoughts.

Dave said that he would have a hard time spending money on a field that will flood again. He added that it was flooded during the rain last Friday. He asked if Cavendish teams would use the baseball field in Ludlow this spring. Rick said that was correct. Rick added that any baseball field in Greven would need to be grass only, not clay.

George asked if there could be a fence with an open bottom to allow water through. Rick said that he didn't think so.

Bob said that he agreed Greven would flood again and was not worth putting money into. He said that the Remote Control Car group would not rebuild their track at Greven.

Rick said that maybe a picnic table and grill could be placed there. He said that he thought the plan for Greven would be part of the overall flood resiliency plan.

Abe said that he thought there could be a backstop down to the ground which could be temporary or removable. He added that there wasn't much flat space available in town and it should be used. He suggested using storage trailers which could be removed, perhaps by the fire department, if flooding was forecasted.

George asked if Fletcher Field was a better location for a baseball field. Rick said that it wasn't.

Shannon said that she liked the idea of encouraging different kinds of recreation which didn't require fences. George agreed that different community sports at Greven would be good.

Stephanie Knockenhauer, Recreation Director, was present and suggested having some storage space at Greven which could house balls and movable goals for soccer would be ideal. She said that Ludlow has a removable fence which she could look into. Rick said that he wasn't sure if any part of Greven was high enough for a storage shed. Dave suggested waiting to make a plan until after the flood resiliency study was done.

Abe asked how much higher a shed would need to be to avoid the floods. Rick said that he thought it would need to be a lot higher and a survey might be needed to find the boundaries of the field. He added that elevating an existing building might be permitted but probably not placing a new one.

Mike asked where in Ludlow the school baseball teams will be playing this spring. Stephanie said that they can play at Dorsey Park and maybe the high school field.

Abe commented that the concrete dugouts in Ludlow did not wash out last summer. Rick said that anything proposed to be built in Greven would need state approval and he thought that was unlikely.

### **3. Review and Sign Town Highways Annual Financial Plan**

Rick said that he met with Meghan Brunk from VTrans who put this plan together. Rick reviewed it with the Board.

*George Timko moved/Shannon Devereux seconded a motion to accept the annual Town Highway Financial Plan. All voted in favor.*

### **4. Annual Certificate of Compliance Road and Bridge Standards**

Rick said this certificate states that the Town has an inventory of culverts and bridges, and that our adopted standards meet the minimum state requirements.

*George Timko moved/Bob Glidden seconded a motion to accept the Annual Certificate of Compliance Road and Bridge Standards. All voted in favor.*

## **5. Discuss 2024 Paving**

Rick said that he had a local contractor give him an estimate of about \$220,00 for paving Whitesville Rd. He said that the Town has \$250,000 in the paving fund and he would like to put this project out to bid. Rick said that the base of the lower end of Whitesville Rd needs replacing while the rest of the road just needs to be repaved. He said that the town needs to replace several culverts along the road as well.

Rick said that Quent Phelan Rd needs a hydraulic study for a failed culvert at the bottom of the hill which won't be done until late summer. Rick said that the culvert should be replaced before it would make sense to pave it.

Mike asked if the town was eligible for any state funds. Rick said that we are eligible for a structures grant, but he thought it could be delayed and used for the Quent Phelan Rd culvert next year.

George said that there are also culverts which need replacing on Twentymile Stream Rd near Bates Mansion and on Brook Rd. Rick said that the Twentymile Stream Rd culvert needs a hydraulic study. He said that there are other culverts in town which need studies done also.

George commented that if we keep adding to the paving fund every year then maybe we can catch up. Rick said it would be a better use of money to pave roads before they get in really bad shape.

The Board agreed Rick should put out a bid for repaving Whitesville Rd.

## **6. Yearly Local Emergency Management Plan Update (LEMP)**

Rick said that this plan needs to be updated every year. He said that he has reviewed it and updated a few phone numbers. Bob Glidden, Chairman, signed the LEMP.

## **7. Old Town Garage Additional Site Investigation**

Rick said that the testing which was done after the diesel fuel spill has found some additional contaminants on the site. Rick said that some more study is required to determine if anything else needs to be done. He said that the additional work might be covered by insurance, but if not the petroleum clean-up fund might cover it. He added that these chemicals are found in diesel fuel but could also be from paint or other materials from the old garage.

George asked if there is a plan to move the diesel tank down to the new garage site. Rick said that he hasn't talked about it recently. Dave asked if the fuel pump is locked. Rick said that it is not since the fuel company will not deliver if it is locked and unattended. Rick said that it will be moved at some point and then will be locked.

Rick said that he had a contract to sign for the additional site investigation if the Board agreed. The Board agreed and signed the contract.

## **8. Flood Resiliency Study Funding Update**

Rick said that he was hoping to have someone from regional planning here tonight but they were not. He said that the Flood Resiliency Study will cover Cavendish, Ludlow and Plymouth and the grant agreement needs Select Board approval and signatures. He said that this grant is through VT Emergency management and will cover the town match so there will be no out of pocket expenses for any of the towns.

Mike asked if there was any discussion about dredging materials out of the river. Rick said that Ludlow was trying to do some dredging but he didn't know if the state will allow it. Mike said that the rain last week wasn't that heavy but the silt in the river made the flooding worse. Bob added that there are also a lot of trees in the river.

George asked if there had been any fines to Ludlow for dumping sewage into the river during the floods last

summer. Rick said that he didn't think so.

- **Managers Report**

Rick said that he wanted to thank Mitchell Benoit and Miguel Seville for helping at the transfer station.

Rick said that he is now submitting some FEMA projects for reimbursement.

- **Other Business**

Dave Norton – Dave said that he also wanted to thank Mitch for doing a good job at the transfer station.

Shannon Devereux – none.

George Timko – none.

Mike Ripley – Mike said that last month he saw a letter addressing concerns about the ambulance service here in town. Rick said that he plans to put that discussion on the May agenda.

Bob Glidden – none.

- **Adjourn**

*George Timko moved/Mike Ripley seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:25 pm. All voted in favor.*

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_