

Cavendish Select Board Meeting, Monday, October 16th, 2023, at 6:30 pm
Location: Town Office Meeting Room: 37 High Street Cavendish, Vermont

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

Absent: Stephen Plunkard.

- **Call the meeting to order**

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

- **Adjust Agenda**

Rick asked to add two items to tonight's agenda: Approval of minutes from 8-31-23 and 9-11-23, and Other Business at the end of the meeting. The Board agreed.

- **Approval of minutes from 8-31-23 and 9-11-23**

Mike Ripley moved/Shannon Devereux seconded a motion to approve the minutes from 8-31-23 and 9-11-23 as written. All voted in favor.

- **Hear Citizens**

Stefan Beaumont was present. Stefan said that he lives at 88 Depot St in Proctorsville and asked the Board to approve curbing traffic from 3 pm to 6:30 pm this Saturday, Oct 21st, on Depot Street for a block party. He said he is hoping that everyone can come down and celebrate cleaning up after the July floods.

Rick said that the Board needed to approve the road closure. George asked if the Town had "road closed" signs that could be put up. Rick said that he thought so. Rick added that Hartford dispatch would need to be notified for routing emergency vehicles. Mike said that Ludlow dispatch also needs to be notified.

Mike Ripley moved/Shannon Devereux seconded a motion to allow the closure of Depot St from 3:00 to 6:30 pm on Saturday, October 21, 2023, for a block party. All voted in favor.

Reese Brown was present and said that he had tried to email the Town Manager a request regarding the possible sale of the Academy Building, but it wasn't received in time for tonight's meeting. Reese asked to have another discussion with the Board at next month's meeting. The Board agreed.

- **New Business**

1. **Representatives from Cavendish Labs to Speak**

Rick said that Cavendish Labs held an open house last weekend which he attended and invited them to come to tonight's meeting. Several members of the Cavendish Labs were present and gave a presentation on their nonprofit organization and research. They said that they have a website with an email if people have questions.

The Board and citizens in attendance thanked them for coming.

2. **Cavendish Community Conservation Assoc. - Discuss Flood Hazard Preparation**

Robin Timko was present. She said that the CCA has asked Stephen Plunkard to draft a plan to proactively manage the watershed to avoid the same types of flood damages from occurring over and over. Robin said that they are planning an event for November 20th. Margo suggested that Kelly Stettner (Black River Action Team) be involved in this, as she had made a presentation recently which Margo

believed was recorded by OVTV.

Robin said that she hoped residents would begin to think differently about their responses to flooding. She said once the date is set she will send the information to the Select Board and Planning Commission and hoped all would attend.

3. Grafton Cheese- Letter of support

Rick said that Grafton Cheese is looking to open a retail space in Proctorsville at 2568 Route 103. He said that the Planning Commission has already provided a letter of support and they are also looking for a letter of support from the Select Board for a grant application.

George Timko moved/Bob Glidden seconded a motion to have Rick Chambers write a letter of support for Grafton Cheese Company's Proctorsville location. All voted in favor.

Rick added that he has not yet gotten a flood permit from them for the work they are planning to do but he would remind them as the building does sit in the flood zone.

4. Town Plan Energy Chapter

Rick said that the Planning Commission finished their hearing for the proposed Energy Chapter, voted to accept it and have now sent it to the Select Board for approval. He said that the Board will need to hold a hearing. George suggested holding a hearing in early December. Mike suggested that someone from the Planning Commission be present to answer questions.

5. Old Garage Update

Rick said that Weston & Sampson is putting together a plan for the diesel spill cleanup. He said that they will need to do some more testing before the extent of spill is known, and then a plan for future use of the site can be developed. George asked if the Town's insurance will pay for the clean-up. Rick said that the insurance may cover it, and if not, there may be other clean up funds available.

- **Old Business**

1. Roads Update

Rick said that all the Town roads are now open and passable. He said that there is still a lot of finishing work to do, and regular summer maintenance wasn't done so the Highway Department is trying to catch up on those things. Rick said that all the roads are ready for winter. He added that some of the small paving projects may not get done until next year but he hopes to get Depot Street paved.

Rick said that the Town would like to get as many pictures of the flood damages as possible, and asked residents to text pictures to 802-738-6445. He added that this phone is not manned so calls and texts will not be not answered.

George asked if people can email photos if they don't have cell phones. Rick said that texting is the simplest way for the Town to receive them, but pictures could be emailed to him as well.

- **Managers Report**

Rick said that the gravel removal from the Black River is going well. He said that he expects about 30,000 cubic yards of gravel and it looks like good material. He said that it is being piled in the town pit and will need crushing. Rick added he is hopeful that FEMA will reimburse the Town for the cost of

removing it.

Rick said that the Water Department flushed the hydrants last week and a water main broke on Depot Street several weeks ago which was replaced.

Rick said that the clean up on Greven Field started over the last few days. He said that Crown Point Excavating is cleaning up large debris and rough grading the field. Rick said that rebuilding the baseball field will happen later.

Margo asked if the nature trail will be cleaned up also. Rick said that they will remove the large pieces of debris on the trail, and volunteer work crews could start cleaning up the rest when they are done.

George asked if Chris Chadwick is still fundraising for the rebuilding of the baseball field. Rick said that he thought so.

Rick said that he wished to welcome Gladys Seville as a new part time employee in the Town Office.

- **Other Business**

Shannon Devereux – none.

George Timko – none.

Mike Ripley – none.

Bob Glidden – none.

- **Executive Session**

Mike Ripley moved/George Timko seconded a motion to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter at 7:12 pm. All voted in favor.

1. **Personnel**

Mike Ripley moved/Shannon Devereux seconded a motion to exit executive session at 7:28 pm. All voted in favor.

- **Adjourn**

Mike Ripley moved/Shannon Devereux seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:29 pm. All voted in favor.

Minutes Approved: _____

Date: _____