

Select Board Meeting, Monday April 8th, 2019 in the Cavendish Town Office

Meeting Room at 6:30pm

Present: Bob Glidden (Chairman), Mike Ripley, Sandra Russo, Michael Kell, Stuart Lindberg, Brendan McNamara (Town Manager), Bruce McEneaney (Assistant Town Manager), Jen Leak (Recording Secretary), Ed McEneaney (OkemoValleyTV) and citizens as listed on the attached sheet.

1. Call the meeting to order

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

2. Act upon minutes of March 11th, 2019.

Mike Ripley moved/Sandra Russo seconded a motion to approve the minutes of March 11th, 2019, as written. All voted in favor.

3. Adjust Agenda

Brendan said that he had several adjustments to the agenda. He would like to add two items:

Item # 10.a. Select Board to Consider Approval of a 1st Class Liquor License and Outdoor Consumption Permit for Neal's Restaurant

Item # 10.b. Select Board to Consider Appointment of Ginger Wilk as Town Auditor

Brendan said that item #8. Continued discussion regarding possible Municipal Wastewater Ordinance can be postponed until the next regular monthly meeting in May. He said that he and Randy have discussed this item but are not ready to present it to the Board yet.

The Board agreed to these adjustments.

4. Hear Citizens

Amy Perry was present. She read aloud a letter regarding her concerns that Select Board member Stuart Lindberg has an ethical and moral conflict of interest since he serves as both a Selectman for the Town of Cavendish and as Chair of the Cavendish Fire District Prudential Board. She cited examples of alleged unprofessional behavior. She asked that Mr. Lindberg be removed from the Select Board, and that he recuse himself from all further discussion of this matter.

Carl Snyder was present. He said that he had attended the recent Open House at the new Town Garage and was very impressed. Carl said that he wished to thank everyone who worked on that project.

Bobby Glidden was present. He said that he had also attended the Open House and seconded Carl's comments. He asked if the executive session requested at the March meeting regarding the appointment of the Emergency Management Director had been held. Stuart said that he had revoked his objection to Bobby serving in that position. Brendan added that any discussions regarding that position should be held in open session.

Stuart said that he wished to respond to Amy Perry's comments. Stuart and Amy began a debate regarding the history of relations between the two Fire Departments. Brendan stated that the monthly Select Board meeting is not the proper forum for this debate. He said that Stuart did have the right to respond to the personal allegations contained in Amy's letter.

Sandra said that she was appalled by this situation and agreed that Stuart had a right to respond to the personal allegations voiced by Amy.

Stuart said that, for the benefit of the Town, he would not say anything further.

5. Select Board to discuss approval of additional insurance coverage for proposed recreational hiking trails to be located in Proctor Piper State Forest.

Brendan said that the proposed hiking trail would run through the Proctor Piper State Forest and link the two village areas. Tim Calabrese was present. He said that the Planning Commission has put in an application for a hiking trail which would follow an old logging road from Pratt Hill Road in Proctorsville to Whites Hill Road in Cavendish. He said that the plan has been approved by the State but they are requiring a Town insurance rider. Brendan said that he wanted to discuss this with the Board before investigating the cost of the insurance coverage. Tim clarified that the trail would be hiking only, and no bikes, skis, etc would be allowed.

Carl said that a long time ago a bike trail had been proposed and asked why that hadn't been built. Tim said that the ADA requirements for bike trails made them much more difficult to construct and fund. Tim said that he wasn't sure the State would agree to expand this trail beyond a hiking trail. He explained that the wet hillside would require the installation of culverts in order to construct a bike trail and he doubted the State would approve it.

Bobby added that there is a problem already with dirt bikes illegally travelling in Proctor Piper State Forest, and he thought they might get onto the trail also if it were made accessible for bicycles.

Tim said that the Planning Commission is also looking at developing a trail along an old road which runs from Downer's Four Corners in Weathersfield into Cavendish.

Wendy Regier was present and thanked Tim and John Saydek for all the work they have done on this project.

Brendan said that he would investigate the insurance costs with VLCT and convey that information to the Planning Commission and the Board. The Board agreed.

6. Discussion regarding grant for EV Charging Station on the Proctorsville Green.

Brendan said that the Energy Committee had submitted an application for the first round of grants but it was not approved. He said that they would like to submit another application for the 2nd round of grants to install the same Electric Vehicle Charging Station but in a different area of the Proctorsville Green. Brendan said the first proposed location was between the Murdock's and Outer Limits Brewery buildings and the new proposed location is along the Depot Street side of the Green next to an existing street light and power line. He said that there is a 10% match, which could come from force labor or other funds, and the estimated cost is \$20-30,000.

Carl asked how the electricity would be paid for. Brendan said that the costs would likely be minute so he suggested that the Town could absorb costs the first year and then a credit card system could be installed for the vehicle owners to pay the costs directly if desired. Mike Kell asked if the Energy Committee would write up rules and procedures for using the station. Brendan said that they could, and the Board would then review and approve them.

Mike Ripley moved/Sandra Russo seconded a motion to approve the grant application for an Electric Vehicle Charging Station on the Proctorsville Green. All voted in favor.

7. Select Board to review and discuss enforcement action of the Dangerous and/or Derelict Building Ordinance regarding property located at 53 Depot Street.

Brendan said that this building was discussed by the Board several times last year. He said that he spoke with Rose Kauppinen recently and she said that the demolition process will begin in early June when a family member will be out of school and will be completed by the end of the summer. Brendan said that he proposed to draft a letter outlining the timeline for this process for her to sign and she agreed. Brendan said that he will send that letter to the Board as well.

8. Continued discussion regarding possible Municipal Wastewater Ordinance.

This item will be discussed at a future meeting.

9. **Board to review and consider approval of the Annual Town Highway Financial Plan.**

Brendan said that this Plan is required yearly in order to apply for State highway aid for the Town's Class 2 and 3 roads. The Board reviewed and signed the plan.

Mike Ripley moved/Bob Glidden seconded a motion to approve the Annual Town Highway Financial Plan as written. All voted in favor.

10. **Town Manager to update Select Board on various town projects.**

Brendan said that the Town Highway Garage Grand Opening was held two Saturdays ago, and was well-attended. He thanked everyone who came and added that the crew is very happy with their new space. Brendan again thanked everyone who was involved in this project, including Randy Shimp who performed his regular duties for the Water/Wastewater Department as well as serving as Clerk of the Works for the garage project which saved the Town a considerable amount of money.

Brendan said that the Depot Street bridge project is under way and demolition will begin soon. He said that he hoped the project would be completed by early fall.

Brendan said that mud season has arrived and the Highway crew has been making repairs as best they can, coming in at night when the roads are frozen to bring in gravel. He added that the grader is out for repairs at the moment which has made things a bit more difficult. He asked anyone with road concerns to call the Town Office so they know what areas need addressing.

Brendan said that the final construction for the Sewer Aeration system reburishment will start when the ice thaws on the lagoons, which should be soon.

10.a. **Select Board to Consider Approval of a 1st Class Liquor License and Outdoor Consumption Permit for Neal's Restaurant**

Bob Glidden moved/Mike Ripley seconded a motion to approve the application for a 1st Class Liquor License and Outdoor Consumption Permit for Neal's Restaurant. All voted in favor.

10.b. **Select Board to Consider Appointment of Ginger Wilk as Town Auditor**

Brendan said that Ginger Wilk submitted a letter of interest for the position of Town Auditor and spoke with Peter Labelle about the duties involved. Peter was present and said that the State requires each town to have three auditors, however he has been the only person willing to serve in this position for the last thirteen years. He said that he would welcome having an additional person to work as auditor with him.

Mike Ripley moved/Sandra Russo seconded a motion to appoint Ginger Wilk to the position of Town Auditor for the remainder of a term of one year. All voted in favor.

11. **Update on town wide reappraisal.**

Brendan said that the town wide reappraisal has been in process for the past two years by our professional appraisal company, NEMRC, and is nearly complete. He said that they will be mailing out a booklet by the end of April showing the previous and updated values for all the properties in town. There will be a pre-grievance period May 8-10, and grievance hearings will take place May 15-17. Brendan said that the Listers can also answer questions. Wendy Regier was present and said that she thought the Town had voted to eliminate the position of Town Lister. Jen said that the Listers are allowed to remain in position for 45 days after the Town Meeting vote and are helping to finish this project up.

12. **Other business**

Brendan McNamara – none.

Bruce McEnaney - Bruce said that after the old town garage was demolished, power was needed for the fuel pumps and the equipment in the pole barn. He said that power was supplied from the Cavendish Historical Society, but they would like to have the service put back into the Town's account. Brendan said that he would talk to the power company and have that taken care of.

Stuart Lindberg – none.

Mike Kell – none.

Sandra Russo - Sandra said that she had thought about the discussion regarding the Emergency Management Director position which took place at the March meeting. She agreed that Bobby would do a great job in this position but questioned whether this was a fair burden to put onto any of the first responders who would already be involved in the event of an emergency. She suggested that someone outside of the emergency services, such as Mike Kell, might be a better choice. Bobby said that the Emergency Management Director was more of a planning position but agreed that he could be called away during an emergency. He said he was will willing to continue to serve in that position but was not opposed to exploring other options down the road.

Mike Ripley - Mike said that there was a highway sign on the corner of Pratt Hill Road and Mountain View Avenue which has been knocked over. Brendan said he would have the highway crew stop by for it.

Bob Glidden - none.

13. Adjourn

Mike Ripley moved/Sandra Russo seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:23 p.m. All voted in favor.

Minutes Approved: _____

Date: _____