

Town of Danville
Selectboard Minutes
October 15, 2020
Danville Town Hall (6:00 pm)

Board Members Present Using Zoom: Eric Bach, Kellie Merrell, Kristin Franson, and Henry Pearl

Board Members Present: Ken Linsley

Others Present Using Zoom: Audrey DeProspero, Keith Gadapee, Chelsea Hewitt, Craig Morris and Mary Wyand

Others Present: Walter McNeil

1. **Meeting was called to order** by Chair Ken Linsley at 6:00 pm.
2. **Additions to the agenda:**
 - Health Insurance
3. *Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Kristin Franson to approve **minutes** of the **Regular meeting of October 1, 2020** as written. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.*
4. **Visitor**
 - Walter McNeil – NEKWMD – Executive Board and General Board met on Tuesday. Three different scenarios for funding for next year's budget which has a \$16,000 increase was discussed. The Executive Board voted for increase, the General Board did not want to make a decision and suggested the information be brought back to the Towns. Also discussed was for the surplus to be put in the Capitol Improvement Fund. There is a four cent increase per capita from 90 cents to 94 cents and recycling/composting will go up to \$49 per trip. In November a definitive budget number will be available for Towns.
 - Chelsea Hewitt –

Movie Night on the Green – requested rain date for the movie Halloweentown to be Sunday, October 18th at 7pm instead of the 17th as previously scheduled due to weather. Social distancing will be performed and use of power from the gazebo is required.

Motion by Kristin Franson, 2nd by Kellie Merrell to approve the date change for Movie Night. Vote 4-0-1 (Eric Bach abstained). All in favor.

Jack-o-lanterns – requested use of the gazebo on the Green a few days before and up through Halloween for people to bring their jack-o-lanterns to be lit by battery powered tea lights and displayed on the gazebo for all to see.

Motion by Kellie Merrell, 2nd by Kristin Franson to approve the use of Town property for the display of pumpkins. Vote 4-0-1 (Eric Bach abstained). All in favor.

Trick or Treating Trail – Girl Scouts and Chamber of Commerce have organized a socially distanced Trick or Treating Trail which will go by the School, the Green, the Post Office to Mountain View Drive, up Highland to Hill Street and then back towards the school. Requested use of the Green and Hill Street Park for handing out candy and parking if necessary. There will be no Trunk or Treat, as it has been cancelled for this year. There will be persons on both sides of the street directing foot traffic. Individuals will be handing out candy and this activity will take place from 2pm until 5pm.

Motion by Henry Pearl, 2nd by Kristin Franson to approve the use of Hill Street on October 31. Vote 4-0-1 (Eric Bach abstained). All in favor.

5. **Town Clerk** (Wendy Somers) absent

Kristin Franson inquired if there was any talk on when Town Hall would be opening.

Ken Linsley noted it is open but by appointment and they are holding until things settle down a bit.

6. **Highway Foreman** (Keith Gadapee)

- The Advisory Shoulder deadline is October 15th – should signs be removed or not.

Consensus was to leave the signs up until the Selectboard hears back from Kate Whitehead.

- General reimbursement for road maintenance will go up next year. It will be called FY21 Class II Roadway, currently known as Paving Structures Grant. The State is bumping up state aid to all towns by sharing the money which is generally grant based.
- Joes Brook Road will be rough for another year.
- Peacham Road proposal to Selectboard – request Selectboard to take out Bond for a few years but do the project next summer. The project will start at the Town Garage and go to Peacham Road. Project will be to reclaim road to grade and then pave. The last time the road was done was over twenty years ago.

Kellie Merrell and Keith Gadapee discussed paving grant figures.

7. **Issues and Information** (All)

- (a) **Class 4 Road – Water Andric** – Henry Pearl distributed scenarios and discussed reclassification to trail and enforcement of the area if designation is changed.

Kellie Merrell discussed no favoritism to throwing up the road. Options discussed were repair road and remove barriers, Class 4 road to legal trail and each option requiring public input. Noted were benefits of the road and use by people, protecting water area and allowing people to use area, an easy access for persons to get to and recreational benefits. Suggested was to ask the Conservation Commission to investigate the usage and benefits. She thought public input would help in the decision of what should be done with the road.

Eric Bach does not favor downgrading roads to trails. Noted was the area will be expensive to fix. He wondered if ATVs would be redirected to main road if they cannot use this area. He also wondered how much traffic it would cause and how would persons who live in that area feel.

Kristin Franson was not sure closing the road would decrease the traffic. Noted was dirt bike traffic had increased.

Mary Wyand noted there was more traffic now than in the past. She did not know if the traffic was going across the wooden bridge or using Water Andric. She inquired if the Selectboard had to open the road or could they leave it as limited use.

Ken Linsley suggested to check with VLCT (Vermont League of Cities and Towns) to see if they could limit the type of traffic that goes over the road.

Henry Pearl to look into limiting the type of traffic in this area.

Ken Linsley suggested to check with VLCT for clarification regarding what was required to go from a Legal Trail to a Class 4.

Keith Gadapee has a meeting scheduled with Pat Ross who works for the Agency of Natural Resources with streams. They are going to look at less expensive alternatives. 1944 history of a similar road was discussed as a comparison to tonight's discussion with emphasis put on proper procedures and research needing to be followed in order to not to land lock area.

Ken Linsley discussed needing legal documentation and investigation completed. Mary Wyand discussed opening the road as a trail and people walking through the brook in order to avoid trespass consequence.

Consensus was for Henry Pearl to follow up on procedure for changing a Legal Trail to a Class 3 or 4, what to do if there is not any Right Of Way left and can a Town have a trail though the water.

- (b) **Town Property Criteria List** – Ken Linsley – a clean version of the Criteria List was to be presented however edits were made so the Selectboard needs to re-review. Selectboard is required to define how Town property can be used by individuals and organizations. Selectboard to review and finalize at their next meeting.
- (c) **Recycle Center Operating Hours** – Ken Linsley – a prior discussion was held with Bob Larose Recycling Attendant regarding cutting back the hours at the recycling center as persons from the Joe's Pond are leaving the area and there are not as many folks using the Recycling Center. Current hours are 7:30 am until 12:30 pm. The new hours will be 8:00 am until 12:00 noon.

Consensus was to change hours for the Recycle Center to 8:00 am until 12:30.

- (d) **Health Insurance** – Kellie Merrell – wondered if Town Clerk Wendy Somers looked into other vendors such as MVP and if the Town should change the Blue Cross Blue Shield current Gold Plan back to the Platinum Plan.

Kristin Franson noted there was a minimal increase to the Town to stay with the same plan. Staying with the same plan would be easier for employees. The HRA was not used much this year and the coverage is still good and it saves the Town money. The current plan is a good quality of coverage. There is nothing wrong with the Gold Plan, it is still a good plan and it is free insurance for the full time employees.

Informational Items: Ken Linsley –

- The Sheriff's report has been emailed, suggested was for Selectboard to review.
- A Certificate of Appreciation to Art Teacher Abby Bartell for painting the repair station at the Railroad Station is to be sent out on behalf of the Selectboard.
- Ray Clouatre finished the work at the North Danville School to change the closet into an exhibit case and a letter is to be sent to him on behalf of the Selectboard.
- Insurance rates are coming down.

8. Financials: Orders to review and sign

Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Kellie Merrell to authorize Chair Ken Linsley to review and sign the Financial Orders on behalf of the Selectboard. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.

9. **Adjourn** – *Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Kellie Merrell to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. All in favor.*

Minutes taken by Audrey DeProspero submitted October 20, 2020 at 01:10 pm.