

Town of Danville
Selectboard Minutes
November 5, 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: Keith Gadapee, Tom Ziobrowski, Ginny Incerpi, Dora Palmeiri, and Mary Wyand

Others Present: Audrey DeProspero

1. **Meeting was called to order** by Chair Ken Linsley at 6:00 pm.

2. **Additions to the agenda:**

- Grand List Corrections from Listers.

3. *Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Henry Pearl to approve **minutes of the Regular meeting of October 15, 2020 with changes.** Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.*

*Motion by Henry Pearl, 2nd by Kellie Merrell to approve **minutes of the Special meeting of October 29, 2020 as written.** Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.*

4. **Visitor**

- Tim Ide discussed acreage error that resulted in a reduction in property value and Grand List, another reduction in the Grand List that was due to a discrepancy in land, and a new home that was built which increased the Grand List.

Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Kristin Franson to increase the Grand list by \$332.00 and to approve the two reductions and one increase as presented by the Listers in their letter dated 11-4-20. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.

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

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

- Met at Water Andric and looked at current situation however no conclusion was drawn.
- Snowstorm caused a few equipment break downs. The new truck is due to arrive December 10th. Truck #10, which is to be traded in, is having issues.
- New radar speed sign arrived. Various locations have been chosen: Hill Street, Peacham Road in school area, Brainerd, and North Danville Village. The device is portable and can be relocated with minimal problems.
- Requested meeting for strategic planning to consider a Bond vote at Town Meeting with the Highway Department Sub-Committee members, Henry Pearl and Kellie Merrell.
- Met with Tillson Tech who won the Fibernet Award grant by the State under the Cares Act. The meeting was to see if permits were required. The work to be done will be on the Green Mountain power poles that are already in the easement area. The timeline for completion is by the end of 2020. There is 100 miles of fiber to be installed and six weeks to complete. The work is to start this week.

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

- (a) **Class 4 Road – Water Andric** – Henry Pearl – Reclassifying a Town highway to a trail, the change can be made based on the public good and visa versa.

Keith Gadapee noted that when or if MRGP (Municipal Roads Grant Program) takes effect for Class 4 roads, gully erosion will require fixing.

Kristin Franson inquired about the Class 4 policy, under the maintenance section, did the road need to be kept passable.

Keith Gadapee discussed the policy saying passable, but noted the policy did not indicate passable with what type of item (car, bike, etc.).

Kellie Merrell noted the Streams Engineer Patrick Ross emphasized how many times he had been to this site which is a very active area.

Dora Palmeiri has issues with motorized vehicles using the washed out area. Her concern is for liability. She is okay with people using the area for leisure such as biking and walking. She wondered if there was a way to resolve this issue.

Henry Pearl discussed motorized vehicles and the ROW (right of way) belonging to everyone in the Town. Originally this area was a liability concern so the Town closed the Road. Referenced was Class 4 policy regarding maintenance by the Town.

MRGP was discussed with notation regarding the area would need to be fixed however other towns were turning these types of roads to trails.

Ken Linsley noted the MRGP could be changed at a later date to include trails.

Discussed was making the finding difficult in the reverse, to reclassify a trail back to a Class 4.

Kellie Merrell discussed liability being lessened if the Town downgraded the road to a trail.

Mary Wyand inquired if there would ever be money available to fix and open the road.

Keith Gadapee noted grant opportunities were not available for Class 4 roads.

Eric Bach suggested to work toward a solution for the Class 4 road to see whether the Town can keep it all open.

Kellie Merrell spoke of Ron Rhodes who does bioengineered types of fixes, along with Forest and Parks individuals who administer grant programs.

- (b) **Town Property Criteria List** – Selectboard discussed items to make Town Hall building and property more useful.
- (c) **Rescue Building update** – Ken Linsley – complaints have been received about rotting boards around the building so Bob Larose has replaced some items however others need to be done. The trim on the building is in need of paint and there are other routine maintenance items that need to be done.

Eric Bach volunteered to trim the hedging around the generator.

Consensus was for Eric Bach to trim the hedging around the generator.

- (d) **Town Meeting 2021 – format and plan** – Ken Linsley – Town Meeting will be different due to COVID-19: we will be speaking to a variety of folks, possibly voting by Australian Ballot, using Zoom to host the meeting, election of officers and positions will not be able to be done by floor nomination, and there are concerns of how to determine candidates on ballot (self-nomination or petition). The Informational meeting can be virtual via zoom and have one person present.

Ken Linsley suggested Selectboard review VLCT (Vermont League of Cities and Towns) information, identify concerns and decide what other information is needed. He also suggested the Selectboard write down the issues they would like addressed and submit to Audrey DeProspero by Thursday so they can be submitted to VLCT.

Information currently asked and received:

What if we can't comply with the guidelines or anticipate more people attending than is allowed? Selectboard should adopt the Australian ballot system for Town Meeting Day.

How do we switch to Australian ballot? Selectboard must vote, by approval of a majority of its total membership, at a duly warned meeting to adopt the Australian ballot system of voting.

If we vote by Australian ballot, do we have to hold an informational hearing? Yes.

Does the informational hearing have to be warned? Yes.

Can we hold the informational hearing remotely? Yes.

How do we hold a remote informational hearing? All members, staff, and members of the public may attend and participate in the remote hearing (e.g., by telephone, Zoom, GoToMeeting, Skype, etc.). Each selectperson who attends electronically must identify themselves when the meeting is convened and must be able to hear and be heard throughout the hearing. The selectboard will not have to designate a physical location in order to meet and, therefore, no one is required to be physically present for the hearing. The selectboard must post information on how the public may access the hearing electronically. This information must be included in the agenda and we recommend including it in all notices or announcements as well.

- (e) **Denise Stuart President of the Danville Woman's Club letter** – tree on Green – Audrey DeProspero – letter received from Denise Stuart, President of the Danville Woman's Club requesting permission for the Danville Woman's Club to replace the broken tree on the Danville Green as one of their projects. They are seeking to know what type of tree it was and whether the Highway Department can assist in planting a new tree.

Kellie Merrell suggested they choose a native tree to Vermont.

Ken Linsley spoke of the Route 2 project and the plan/design for trees that were planted.

Eric Bach spoke of use of the Green and the issues with the trees that are currently on the Green.

Consensus is to not replace the tree at the current time.

Selectboard thanked the Danville Woman's Club for their gesture.

Ken Linsley suggested the Selectboard identify a project the Danville Woman's Club can work on in the future.

- (f) **Street light modification** – Audrey DeProspero – Jacon Mayer of 552 Peacham Road (old Gallerani's place) had an issue with the street light right above his property. Green Mountain was contacted and a visit to the site was done. Green Mountain determined that they could move the light to one pole further north with no charge to the Town.
- (g) **Fibernet Award** – See Highway Foreman Report
- (h) **Website posting** – Audrey DeProspero – an email was received from Amy Collett who is a freelance writer who wanted to put together a resource guide for the Town's website. The information was forwarded to the Selectboard for review and opinion.

Consensus was the content was better suited for the Chamber of Commerce.

Website information was discussed based on community volunteers to fill vacant seats on committees.

Informational Items: Ken Linsley –

- Cares Act funding assists customers of water and sewer to help pay overdue fees associated with hardship. A municipality has to register for those people in need to get assistance with monies. Town Clerk Wendy Somers has registered the Town to help Town's people reduce some economic impacts.

8. Financials: Orders to review and sign

Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Henry Pearl 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 8:31 p.m. All in favor.*

Minutes taken by Audrey DeProspero submitted November 9, 2020 at 1:58 pm.