

Town of Danville  
Selectboard Minutes  
December 17, 2020  
Danville Town Hall (6:00 pm)

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

**Board Members Present:** Ken Linsley

**Others Present Using Zoom:** Keith Gadapee, Wendy Somers, Craig Morris, Kate Whitehead, Walter McNeil, and Julia Ursaki

**Others Present:** Audrey DeProspero and Glenn Herrin

1. **Meeting was called to order** by Chair Ken Linsley at 6:00 pm.
2. **Additions to the agenda:** Budget
3. *Motion by Eric Bach, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kellie Merrell to approve **minutes** of the **Regular meeting of December 3, 2020** with changes (page 2 'replacement' to 'replaced' and page 3 'Vote 4-1-0' to 'Vote 3-1-0'). Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.*
4. **Visitor**
  - Catherine (Kate) Whitehead – Advisory Shoulder – discussed information submitted by Doug Morton: average speed in area being 31 mph and advisory shoulder not significantly reducing speed, the need for additional improvements to address speed issue, slowing of traffic on the southbound side due to traffic pattern, additional 'Share the Road' signage and radar speed sign, stencils of bike pictures in roadway, and to continue to next summer with these improvements.

Ken Linsley noted someone suggested to him to have the Advisory Shoulder on one side of the road only.

Kristin Franson noted traffic funneling was needed on both sides to slow down persons.

Current signage on road discussed in regards to visibility.

Kate Whitehead spoke of awareness, a safe designation for bikers and pedestrians and looking at width of center lane.

Julie Ursaki suggested installing speed bumps on either end of the road to slow people.

Keith Gadapee noted speed bumps would need to be seasonal.

Henry Pearl inquired about next steps that should be taken.

Kate Whitehead recommended keeping the signs over the winter months, revisiting again in the spring and taking another look at the area for signage and repainting of the lines.

Selectboard was in favor of continuing the work in this area for improvement and noted there was a need for a sidewalk however, money was not available currently to make sidewalk improvements.

Consensus was to keep Advisory Shoulder and enhance the area next spring.

*Motion by Henry Pearl, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kristin Franson to look at additional improvements and proceed with project next spring. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.*

- Glenn Herrin – Hazard Mitigation Plan – consensus being sought as to whether the Town should proceed with working with NVDA on Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan is a reference for natural hazards that the Town has and what to do with them. An approved plan allows for FEMA funding. Suggested was to put out a public participation survey and to work with NVDA to formulate the plan. The survey would be published through NVDA, a link would be put on the Town's website, information would be sent out via Front Porch Forum and a team would need to be formed. NVDA would do most of the work building the plan.

*Motion by Eric Bach, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Henry Pearl to approve and move forward with the plan and survey. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.*

Ken Linsley noted Mike Walsh tendered his resignation as Emergency Management Director (EMD). Currently Glenn Herrin is Coordinator and Ken Linsley wondered if Glenn Herrin would want the Director roll.

Glenn Herrin noted he wanted to stay in the Coordinator position and the Selectboard Chair would normally fill in when there was no EMD.

- Walter McNeil – NEKWMD - public meeting held on the Waste District budget but there was no comment. There is a \$20,000 deficit that they are hoping to recoup. Prices for recyclables are stable.

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

- Budget reports have been sent to Kristin Franson and Eric Bach to review.
- Figures coming in and Town is close to paying off school so no large carry over.
- Waiting on grants: Digitization, LGER and Aquatic Nuisance.
- HRA and Health insurance inquiry – is the Town staying with Gold Plan and same HRA.

*Motion by Kristin Franson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eric Bach to stay with Blue Cross Blue Shield Gold Plan for 2021 and to continue with same HRA contribution. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.*

- Appropriations are coming in. No new or increases received yet.

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

- Hill Street Project estimate is \$5,000. Inquiry – does the Selectboard want to proceed with prints, planning and estimates for the project.

*Motion by Henry Pearl, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kristin Franson to expend \$5,000 on engineer work to address Hill Street drainage issues. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.*

- Curbing for Hill Street Park – there is plenty of curbing and it will be installed in spring.
- In lieu of Structure and Paving grants that the State of Vermont pushed off due to COVID, the monies have been split between towns. Town of Danville received \$50,717.77. Money is an unexpected revenue due to COVID situation. Keith Gadapee wonder if the money should be spent on pre buying gravel material or use as carryover.

Henry Pearl suggested to put toward paving project.

Keith Gadapee suggested to bump up the paving line for 2021.

Ken Linsley suggested to carry it over and make a decision where it could be best spent next year.

Kristin Franson favored putting it toward paving.

- Green Mountain Power approached Keith Gadapee regarding moving power lines from out of the woods and putting them along highways for better accessibility. Keith Gadapee agreed to let GMP move forward with the project as this has already been done on McDowell and Thaddeus Stevens.

- Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup> Highway Crew to deliver Santa Fund packages as they have in the past. They will be going door to door making 18-20 stops. They will pick up packages at the St. J Fire House with three personal vehicles and go around Town dropping them off.

Selectboard discussed doing contactless drops.

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

- (a) **Cannabis** – VLCT legal opinion was not to put petition forward.

Eric Bach and Kristin Franson were concerned for COVID interaction and safety of individuals should they go forward with the petition and getting voter's signatures.

*Consensus is to review wording suggested by Vermont League of Cities and Towns and to put subject on next agenda.*

- (b) **Class 4 Road – Old Homestead**

Keith Gadapee discussed his estimate of \$42,000 which was the cost to the homeowners to upgrade Old Homestead to a Class 3 road. The estimate was for material only and did not include equipment or labor.

Discussed was the economic standpoint being not a viable option for residents.

Eric Bach discussed feedback he received from people who lived on a Class 4 road. Those persons wanted their Class 4 to stay as a Class 4.

Kristin Franson reiterated a previous conversation discussed at an earlier Selectboard meeting which was that the cost of plowing was an issue for residents to chip in.

Ken Linsley noted the questions at hand were, should the Winter Maintenance Policy be changed, should there be distinction between Class 4 roads, and should all Class 4 roads be plowed.

Kristin Franson noted when people buy on a Class 4 road, going in they know what they are buying.

Henry Pearl agreed with Kristin Franson. He spoke to other towns and they have similar issues and do not provide service to these roads.

Kellie Merrell favored reassessing roads and making decisions on a case by case basis and doing minimal work on roads for public good when it is appropriate and when it can be done.

Selectboard reviewed scenarios of each analysis of Class 4 road with full time residents.

Craig Morris discussed giving the resident the option to decide on upgrading a road from Class 4 to Class 3 at their expense.

*Motion by Henry Pearl, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eric Bach to not provide winter maintenance to any Class 4 road, to reaffirm the Class 4 policy which is not to provide winter maintenance for Class 4 Roads. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.*

- (c) **2021 Town Meeting** – Ken Linsley – Candidates Night is December 28<sup>th</sup> for prospective candidates. It will be a Zoom meeting which will start at 7pm. Information has been posted around Town, placed on the Town's website and the school has been contacted.

Legislative information discussed regarding mailing of ballots and monies associated with possible cost.

Wendy Somers noted mailing of ballots would be easier by request and less expensive for the Town.

Kellie Merrell thought a full mailing to all residents would lower in person attendance at the polls.

Ken Linsley discussed candidates to participate in informational meetings, holding two informational meetings and inviting both candidates and public.

#### **Town Agent & Town Agent for Real Estate**

Ken Linsley discussed striking Town Agent and Town Agent for Real Estate as elected positions as under the Statute they have no authority.

#### **Locations for Meetings**

Eric Bach reached out to churches for in person locations and has received positive feedback. There is no problem so far using the locations for in person attendance for public informational meetings.

#### **Budget**

Special meetings to be held to review budgets. Kristin Franson and Eric Bach are working on draft version of budget.

- (d) **COVID Numbers** – Eric Bach – numbers are creeping up in area. Cluster outbreaks are down. However, we are not out of the woods. Caledonia is in the 2% range but the numbers look higher because we do not have a large population. There are active cases in Danville. The Department of Health is concerned. Even though we are holding steady, we need to be aware. Suggested was to reach out to businesses in the area to see if there is anything specific they need from the Selectboard.
- (e) **Town Agent** – see 2021 Town Meeting
- (f) **DRB** – Bob Magro has requested to be reappointed back to the DRB.

*Motion by Kellie Merrell, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eric Bach to reappoint Bob Magro back to the DRB with his same term expiring 2022. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.*

- (g) **LEMP** – Ken Linsley – Mike Walsh has resigned as the Town's Emergency Management Director effective immediately. The Selectboard Chair is required to temporarily fill the empty position as Emergency Management Director until another person is found.
- (h) **Recycle Attendant Applications** – Kellie Merrell and Eric Bach will interview candidates Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 1-2pm

#### 8. **Financials:** Orders to review and sign

*Motion by Eric Bach, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Kellie Merrell, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eric Bach to adjourn at 8:27 p.m. All in favor.*

Minutes taken by Audrey DeProspero submitted December 23, 2020 at 2:27 pm.