

# SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

## SEPTEMBER 2, 2014

Present: Melinda Gervais-Lamoureux, Mike Worth, James Cross, Bill Hawkins, Mark Castonguay, John Cole, Ed Barber (Newport Daily Express), Janet Dyer, Joel Cope, and Teresa Potwin.

A motion was made by Mike Worth to come out of executive session from the special meeting and open up the regularly scheduled meeting. James Cross seconded the motion, all in favor, so carried. No decisions were made.

Melinda Gervais-Lamoureux called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

Public comment: Janet Dyer was present to inform the board that because of the overwhelming beaver population, the lake level was increasingly high, thus causing erosion of the beach area and loss of beach frontage. The board is also concerned with this, and was aware of the issue. Joel will contact the new game warden about trapping the beaver, and if need be, hire a local gentleman to trap.

Read and approve minutes: The board reviewed the minutes of the August 18, 2014 meeting. A motion was made by James Cross to accept the minutes as printed. Mike Worth seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Buildings and maintenance: Mark will coordinate the repairs to the flag pole in the common park. The board would like to know if they could make the pole shorter, saving this from happening again. Mark will check into this.

Joel informed the board that the Island Pond Maple lease is up for renewal and the company will be signing on for another year.

Joel showed the board the VLCT PACIF surveys; this along with the ISO report shows the town things that need to be done to improve our status for lower insurance rates. The board reviewed this and will look into fixing the suggested items.

Roads: Melinda and Joel met with Dave Antone to go over his criteria and abilities with helping on planning for the Better Back Roads grant. The town has received a \$4000.00 grant to do an inventory of road issues, and this grant would pay for Mr. Antone's services. A motion to hire Dave Antone to do this was made by Mike Worth. James Cross seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Personnel: The board reviewed time sheets, and will go into executive session to do employee evaluations at the end of the meeting.

Cemetery: Melinda updated the board members on the status of the cemetery issue. Melinda stated that the town was in negotiations with all parties involved on the best way to please all

the parties involved. A motion was made by James Cross to go into executive session at this time to discuss how to proceed with the negotiations. Mike Worth seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried. Upon coming out of executive session a motion was made by James Cross to send a letter to both parties and upon attorney approval the town will apply for a disinterment permit. Mike Worth seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

ISO report: This tied into the VLCT PACIF surveys. This also affects our insurance rates and will be reviewed.

Budget report: The board reviewed the budget report.

Unlicensed dogs: The board has authorized Jeff to ticket all dog owners who have not yet licensed their dogs.

Authorize re-application for Ecosystem Restoration grant: A motion was made by Mike Worth to authorize Joel to re-apply for this grant. James Cross seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Park path update: Joel has contacted Bianchi and Garon St. Sauveur on prices for a rock with a plaque for the park path. Joel will also get prices on engraving the granite curb instead of putting up signage about the walking path. The board has authorized the purchase of cement curbs for the Pond's Edge parking lot instead of fencing.

Incident Command System training: A motion was made by Mike Worth to authorize Joel to do this training. James Cross seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

The Island: Done earlier in the special meeting under executive session.

Other business: Joel informed the board about the Northeast Kingdom Tourism and Travel Associations application for the USDA grant to help develop marketing and branding the Essex County area for outdoor recreation for Vermont. The board is very interested in doing this.

Responses to bike lawsuit: This was done in executive session earlier.

The regularly scheduled meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM and the board then went into executive session for employee evaluations.

The board left executive session, and scheduled a meeting on Monday, September 8 to do employee evaluations.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM