

**SELECTBOARD MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 1, 2019 at 6:00 PM
MEETING ROOM – WILLEY BUILDING**

Those attending: Selectboard: Fred Ducharme, Ruth Goodrich, John Cookson, Mike Hogan and Ted Domey by phone
Town Employees: Betty Ritter, Michelle Leclerc
Town Residents: Jennifer Minor, Tammy Marian, Jessica Miller, Stan Boroski, Chuck Marian, Deborah Peterson, Sandy Pond, Marcy Martin, Val Covell, Clair Pike, Rich Hourihan, Lori Augustinack, Jeff Haslett, Skip Bothfeld, Jeff Durgin, Andy Luce, Irv Robbins, Brittany Butler, David Covell, Daniel Peterson

1. Call meeting to order 6:00 pm
2. Approve Agenda mike 1st, Ruth 2nd. Move executive session after #3, Betty wants to add to executive session a legal matter.
3. Approve Minutes from June 18, 2019 Selectboard Meeting – Ruth 1st, Mike 2nd. Motion passed.
4. We then went into Executive Session at 6:02 p.m. to discuss a real estate issue and the Zoning Administrator position. We came out of executive session at 6:29 and continued with the meeting.
5. Public Comment –
 - a. Sandy concerned citizen of Cabot and feeling insecure about the fire department and what has going on makes her feel unsafe and would like to have the select board look at the volunteers, and how it looks for our town.
 - b. Dave Covell wanted to thank you for the sign on Bricketts Crossing Road.
6. CCA – Municipal Planning Grant Approval – Lori the agenda item is missed labeled. I am not here to get approval for a grant. CCA would like to partner with the town with identifying tenants and owners of underutilized property in the town. USDA grant and VCDPG are for work in municipalities. The Municipality would be the applicant. This will be the same grant as they have done before. Fred asked when the first grant was written and that was 2013. In 2015 we worked with Peter Fairweather for revitalization town plan. The CCA would hire a grant writer to do a grant application. The want to move forward, be transparent. Ruth asked how much the grant is and it is up to \$60,000. USDA is similar but not sure. Right now looking to see what entity is worth working with it would be for planning in the village. John would like to see specifically where it would go. Ruth would like to see the plan. Issac Wagner from Brattleboro is the grant writer. Lori reviewed Issac Wagner. John is wondering if there are areas in town that you would like to change. Ruth is asking if they have any ideas where this would encompass. Lori said that from Elm Street to the post office. One of the reasons is to figure out how would we take the village from an 1800 village to a 2020 village? Mike asked if it is a state grant. Fred said you need to have a plan to write your grant. Irv is wondering why you are limited your grant ideas to the village and not focus outside of town. Lori said it is not required but it is an advantage to look in the village. Richie a lot of grants look good but come with hoops you need to jump thru. Is there any criteria that goes with this? Lori is not sure on all the grants but the grant will be very specific on what needs to be done in town. The grant will identify all permits you would need. John with this program the CCA has already bought the brown building. Are you saying that CCA might buy the yellow building or looking for a developer to buy the building. Lori said no that's not what their plan is. Group of volunteers who look at the village to make sure the businesses that are here are thriving. Ruth would like to know who is on the Economic Development Committee are. They are Gary Gulka, Johana Thibeaut, Jan Westervelt, Mike Hogan, Dawn Andrews, Jack Daniels, Peg Hough, Niels Larson, and Jan Westervelt. Mike said it's just a plan. John said the grant is just the plan. Lori said the CCA doesn't have money to buy any property. They are concerned about the whole downtown thrive get strong and stronger. John said that CCA owns a building, Jan owns a building. They are just seeing a building that is underutilized. Would like people to show how it could thrive. John is wondering what other buildings you are thinking about. What is the plan for the \$60,000? Where is this planning going? Are there are any specific plans on those buildings? Lori says there is no current plan right now for the brown building, and it just has been evaluated with an engineer. Chuck says CCA is very knowledgeable but you don't know anything about these grants. Chuck did research and there is a lot of competition for this grant. It has to meet at state and federal requirements regarding lower income population including the homeless. These are meant for more urban towns. Chuck read from his research. The grant has to go thru the municipalities and the final authority is left with the municipality. The community will have to develop a plan. All this information is on the state website so you can understand what's going on. He wanted not against community development. Tammy said that is where things could go if you give blank approval. What the town designates the area than it is open for developments. Chuck has not found any small communities getting this, just cities like Burlington and Rutland where they have some real problems. Fred would like to have the website given to Betty so it

could go on the website. Chuck stated that we have a planning commission and none of this has never has come their way. Lori said Rich Aronson was on it and now Dawn Andrews. They both are or were on the planning commission. Again Chuck emphasized that none of this has come back to the planning commission. Only thing was Karen came back with setback changes in the town. Chuck said all grants are public records.

Jessica talked to Lori about CCA and economic development solely in their hands. It's a private entity but will not show its accounting. Jessica said they have received money from the town. In 2015 received \$10,000, in 2016 \$13,000 from town, and do not have any financial statements. She would like to know how much money went to Fairweather. She hasn't seen anything happened from the Fairweather report. There's no accounting in the town report on how they purchased the building and how they are paying it back. They own a building and sell the building without the town receiving any money. There's no accounting. Lori said economic development has been in the town plan since the last town plan. They took it on because no one else is doing anything with it. CCA decided to take it on and provide more service to the town to do this work. Up until March the system we had was working but the new people at the table to go thru the CCA.

Places in Town developed without the help of the economic development such as the Den, Burt's Orchard.

Richie wanted to know if you the Creamery Visiting Center is going to close are you are going to put it on Main Street. He wanted to know if you tear a building down and can it built back up. Chuck said as long as it was torn down and you have one year for it to be rebuilt. They can't build it closer to the road but in the same foot print and only build up.

Ruth said economic development was done on our side of town by themselves. Sandy moved to Cabot and put her business over the hardware store and she was interviewed by Peter Fairweather and not one person from your community didn't come over and say hello and that really hurt me. Now I've moved my business up the hill without any ones help.

Jessica it appears to him under economic development and wanted to say years ago I wanted to propose ping pong tournaments in the Willey Building and was totally ignored. It would bring money into the town. No one responded.

People are saying that other business have done the development on their own. Jeff is now on the planning committee and the last couple of meeting is in regards to planning on the town. The really issue should be planning with the town, with zoning, and the selectboard. That little stretch you are talking about that all studies are downtown. What economic development is being done for our existing business in the town. The hardware store and the village store has been turned down by CCIF. Jeff thinks that it should be turned back to the planning commission to drive the process. Jeff said the income statement was on the town report but not the balance sheet. He thinks that is should be totally transparent and on the town report and it should be audited.

Chuck noticed on the CCA website that the trail committee is part of the CCA. Lori said they are part of the town. The working landscape group is part of the CCA. Jeff said the CCA meetings are not on the town website and can't find the minutes. Ruth said it helps her to see the exchange from everyone.

7. Faith In Action Contract – Fred the Willey Building committee would like a one year contract from \$650 to \$800 a month rent. This will cover all the expenses. Ruth 1st, Mike 2nd. Motion passed.
8. Class 4 Coverage – Fire Department – Skip they have talked from other towns to see what they do. The chief from Woodbury they have not done a policy at this time but more and more people have been building large houses on Class 4 roads. They also received some feedback for any responses not guaranteed on Class 4 roads, trails, and private roads. They know on Class 3 roads they will be able to get the truck on the roads. They will have to visit again when they learn more. They will try to respond. What they would like to do is have someone in a private vehicle on how the road is and turn around would be. Ruth is wondering if he could do an assessment on the Class 4 roads. Ted is wondering how we can go on a class 4 road in the winter time. Chuck said this came about because Chip Taylor said they don't go out on Class 4 roads. There was no truck that came out. Chuck said he has had logging trucks come up and water tanker trucks go up. Skip said it's a crap shot on going on the roads. Irv disagrees. Chuck said that Chip stated that would not bring the truck up and this is the policy. Chuck said you need to make at least an attempt. Another town has had a big 4wheel truck to get thru the snow. Dave thinks economic development should start with the town. Tammy would suggest the selectboard that if the fire department would not go out on class 4 roads it would affect house insurances and mortgages. Irv said we had logging trucks and chip trucks out of our road. Irv talked to Marshfield and they are willing to come to his house.

Sandy wanted to know what roads were reclassified. Fred explained why Bermingham's road is actually a driveway, Langone road and by Route 215 South, Route 215 North, Harry Thompson's road which goes nowhere. They got rid of them because they are private or nothing on that road. Mike said you have no policy and you will respond to any fire to the best of your ability. Ruth said you will do the best to get that done. Daniel Peterson thinks there should be a written

policy. As soon as people on class 4 roads hear that we might not get there. There are places that you might not be able to get to. Daniel went on a trail to get to someone in the ambulance. If we can't get there, they we would foot it to get there. Ruth said thinks having a policy is to protect the fire department and the town. Jeff thinks we need to have a plan. Richie how many class 3 roads for thrown up to class 4. There were none.

9. Additional member for Trails Committee – Dana Glazier – Betty said Andy would like to have him. John 1st, Ted 2nd. Motion passed.
10. Water/Wastewater
 - a. Other business - Wednesday morning there will a hookup on Sawmill Road and the person is going to be hooked up. Ruth also has talked with Cabot Creamery, Jim Brimblecomb, Randy Bean and someone from Cabot Creamery. They took a tour of the building. They would like to add to our system. They are willing to pump from the RO to the WW plant. They would do testing on the quality water and the volume of the water coming out of that. They are talking 10,000 a day. John is asking what the max that we can carry. Ruth said we can't take more unless we fix the man holes. Cabot Creamer is thinking of giving the town toward new membranes. There would be lot of control. John asked about the amount. Michelle explained the ERU's. Jessica is wondering what is coming down and Ruth said that it is only water. Jessica wants to make sure that it is not announced when the testing would be done. Jessica said if the water is pure why they aren't putting it on the fields. Ruth said they did a big walk thru. Jessica told Ruth to call Susan Baird at ANR. Ruth is open minded about it and think we should be open minded.
11. Road Commissioner
 - a. Paving and Lighting for Willey Building – John is wondering about the project. Fred said the digging and the lighting will be done next week. On the entrance to the parking lot we need to fix the parking lot. It needs to be set up so the wheelchair can be entered before we black top. John said we will take a look at it. Aldo put new risers for the paving and working on the Common Road and will be paved. Posts have been set back on the Common Road/Main Street. Separated them so the loader can go in between them. The Cabot Plains Road has been started. He wanted to give applause with Rona and Tommy and the post office to Elm Street sweeping because they couldn't get a sweeper. A sweeper was delivered Friday and it should have been two weeks ago. The old grader garage is being painted.
 - b. Municipal Road Grants In Aid Program – Grant is for roads that are near streams, any grants on this we will pay on 20%. Mike 1st. Ruth 2nd. Motion passed.
 - c. Other business – Jeff went to a meeting and Coits Pond Road that there was over \$20,000 of damage to that road. There is someone he will call to see if there is money that VTrans might have to help out.
12. Town Clerk's Office
 - a. Orders - done
 - b. Budget Information – Michelle explained that we would like to carryover money from the Willey Building Budget and the Masonic Hall. Ruth motioned that we carryover these funds, John 2nd. Motion passed.
 - c. Other business – the listers are asked her a new source of information regarding solar. They are trying to get a value on the solar project on Don Mitchell's property. The planning commission or the selectboard should have received something when they went on line. Betty will tell them that we have not received them.
 - d. Betty sent a letter to Fire and safety on the Fire Department violations and they did extend it to June 30, 2020. She asked him if there were any policies for class 4 roads. She found out from Mike Tarrant there is nothing in the statutes.
13. Other Business – John nominated the new Zoning Administrator Dennis Marquis, at \$16.00/hour up to ten hours per week with a second by Mike, motion passed. Brittany Butler should lots of interest of doing the job. We propose she learn from him. Ruth motioned that Brittany would "shadow" the new ZA on her own time for a couple of hours per week at no expense to the Town with a second by John. Motion passed.
14. Executive Session – Zoning Administrator-Ruth 1st, Mike 2nd. 6:02 pm, out of executive session 6:25 pm.
15. Adjourn – We adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Ritter, Town Clerk/Treasurer