

**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023, 6:00 P.M.**

1. Call Meeting to Order – the meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Approve Agenda – a motion was made by Fred with a second by Karen with the addition of the highway, other business – mitigation and problems on Cabot Plains. Motion carried with changes.
3. Approve Minutes from August 1, 2023 and August 3, 2023 – RD – one correction 8-1 spelling 6 should be imminent domain, Fred moved that we accept both sets of the minutes as corrected with a second by RD. Motion carried.
4. Public Comment –
  - a. Gary spoke that the Trails Committee has a contract with Burt's Apple Orchard and because of the flooding they need to amend the contract to extend the date to January 31, 2024. The SB will need to approve this extension at the next meeting.
  - b. Jenn – there is a going to be a music event in mid-November at Judy Pransky's home. We will do our best to provide public safety for this and the area. We have not been notified of the need of coverage for this event.
  - c. RD – We may need to remit a surcharge to the waste district for flood trash collection that was at the Common (Bolduc) and the State Debris drop off (at Recycle Center)
  - d. Mike read the article about Executive meetings.
5. Discussion on Jug Brook Road with Simon Villa and Jeff Reck – They would like to have some clarification on the bridge. After much discussion, Sid will look at the bridge and will do what is necessary to bring it up to the standard of 4<sup>th</sup> class road. (*The discussion can be heard on Selectboard Minutes, audio.*)
6. Highway – Flood Relief Update on Roads
  - a. Sid stated there are spots on Houghton Road and Thistle Hill by Knowlton's needs to be shaped. Ditching was done last week on 215 and will continue up to Garney Road. Houston Hill needs to be tended to. Now on Jug Brook. We have a ton of gravel to haul, and Sid found out that the State of Vermont is offering trucks to haul gravel. Overall, we are in good shape. Bothfeld Hill – when stone was dumped, some of the road gave way but we took care of it. Hoping by the end of September we should be in good shape.
  - b. He has two people interested in the opening and has told them many times to come and fill out an application. To date, no one has. We will run it again in the Chronicle.
  - c. Pricing for pickup – He has been dealing with Key Chevrolet of South Burlington that handles all state bids. We have a choice of a Chevy and a Ford. They ordered 50 and only 15 came in. If we order the Ford, we could have it by December for \$59,000 and the plow would cost \$9,500. This would be better to pay for it with the funds set aside for this instead of yearly payments with added interest. We have already approved the purchase of the truck; this is a FYI. Fred wanted to know about the warranty if paid in full or leasing. It will still be under warranty and Sid maintains a good maintenance schedule for all Town vehicles.
  - d. H2O stated they need to fix the manhole cover on Elm Street. Sid will discuss this with him.
7. Flood Relief Update – putting together an inventory – good on the area. Looking for heavy mitigation and we are on the list. ACT 74 – 14 million – resiliency – offering grants. FEMA is very responsive to us. SEOC responsive to the Town. Hazard Mitigation dovetails with a task force. There will be a meeting with Balint and Sanders group on the 29th. (*The full discussion can be heard on the Selectboard Minutes, audio*) RD proposed that we charge the Conservation Committee to form a hazard task force to come back to the first meeting in September. Mike seconded. Gary stated that the CC would like to help with this, but we do need funding. Motion carried. Karen asked Gary to come to the August 29 meeting.
8. Public Safety Infrastructure
  - a. Status of the existing Fire Department Building - we are seeing continuous failure of the bank and inside the building. I Beam is starting to lean. The Ambulance has moved out. We have 2 storage containers coming tomorrow. The State is going to red tag the building. Cleanout has started.
  - b. Plans for a new temporary steel building (121 Walden Road, Rec Field Parking lot) – Reached out to supplier for bids for the temporary structure. Can build in 2 ½ months and if we do a permanent fire station on this property it would be 2-3 years. Meeting with FEMA of the Task Force lead, FEMA conservation and historian – did not see any issues for conservation, green light on the historian and program delivery said go for it. FEMA stated that find the contractor you want. They gave a 24-month waiver for the sprinkler system but need to have 5 exterior doors and a full-blown fire alarm system. Two bays are double, unisex bathroom, and the State will expedite the permits. Ellen – what about the existing building. Eventually it will be taken down, once that takes place and the bank will need work. What about the Creamery – there is an issue of a culvert that is at the edge of the road – grate – half of it is missing seems to be a steady flow – culvert needs to be addressed.
  - c. Update on engineering and related costs for new building site (2466 Main Street) – we are still in the data gathering phase. Surveyors dig come and tag the corner point and pond.

- d. Update on discussions with FEMA – this was covered in b. It is important that this information gets to the people. Karen will get Dean’s notes and perhaps put them in the *Chronicle*. Mike wanted to know why the flags are half-staff. It is lowered because of Wayne Martin, the ex-fire chief.
9. Rec Field Update – RD spoke to many people from ANR and basically no one had any suggestions except to take it to a landfill which will cost. It was suggested that scraping the soil off, spread lime and let it sit. Dana Calkins has been scraping the field. Why shouldn’t we continue to. We need volunteers to dig where the excavator can’t get to. Until we hear from the Department of Health – we assume the pathogens will be destroyed by sun and lime. Karen – has draining problems – are we thinking about draining, different crown. Mike is talking with DEC – take him to the rec field to see what can be done. Frank wanted to know where we were taking it. It is being taken to Justin Hale’s house. There is wide speculation on how much waste was on the field.
10. Clark Sawmill Dam Update – talked with Friends of Winooski – helping with culvert on Jug Brook. Offering to clean up the mess that the damage has done from the dam going. The Fire Marshall condemned it that day. Bigger discussion of what do we want to do. Ed could say he could sell it to the Town. Do we want it. We also get the water rights on West Hill Pond but need to look at questionable areas. Dam needs to be maintained not to be taken down. Mike is working with the Town Attorney. We must decide what to do. Friends of Winooski will remove the debris. They need permission from Ed to clean it up. Gary Katz said that due to the destruction of the dam there is so much debris that needs to be cleaned up and it will take a crane to take a pin stock out. Frank O’Leary has big timbers on his property. Debris is overwhelming in the fields and basically Ed Larsen is liable as he never did any type of work on the dam.
11. Hazard Mitigation – discussed earlier.
12. Town Volunteer Workday, August 19, 2023 -punch list – get rid of trees in yard, how can we move to get debris picked up. Debris pick up that is provided by the State will be done on August 27 at 7 PM. If anyone needs help, they should contact the Town Clerk’s Office, or volunteer and possibly show up with pickup trucks. We could start at 9:00 a.m. to noon – willing to go to areas – sidewalk clean up. Possible potluck. Jenn Miner – stated there are a couple of yards on Main Street and she will get the answers.
13. Town Clerks Office
  - a. Orders - signed
  - b. Other Business: Betty passed out an audit for CV Fiber audit
  - c. WCMH had some brochures in case anyone needed help or counseling dealing with the flood.
  - d. FEMA will be here next week and using the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor to help people with their claims, therefore, we will not be able to use it for any other functions while they are here.
14. Other Business –
  - a. Fred if they are able to do paving, it would be good to repair the culvert by the Creamery.
  - b. Cabot Plains – treating Cabot Plains – 1-2 mile loop as a rally circuit – late at night. Loud pickup trucks. Intersection by Spaulding Farm – spin donuts and tear up soil. Very dangerous for children, pets, etc. There are also problems in the village with dirt bikers – going up and down. We also have problems on Whittier Hill and other spots are becoming a problem.
  - c. Do we know of any plans for home buyouts. No one knew anything at this time.
  - d. Flood Resiliency – looking for grant money.
  - e. Bonnie Dannenberg passed away. President of Cabot Historical Society – certainly preserved history we should do some type of recognition as a selectboard.
15. Motion to Adjourn – A motion was made by Fred with a second by RD to adjourn. We adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Betty Ritter, Town Clerk/Treasurer