

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024, 6:00 P.M.

Those attending in person: Mike Hogan, Fred Ducharme, Karen Larsen, R.D. Eno, Skip Bothfeld, Jeanne Johnson, Betty Ritter, Frank Kempf, Dean Deasy, Will Ameden, Glenn Goodrich, Ruth Goodrich, Robert Ducharme, Marcie Martin, Dana Glazier, Eileen Cairns, Kris Schmitt, Chuck Talbert, Linda Savoca, Constance Hourihan, Amanda Legare, Beth Wade, Stephen Hogan, Ben Vitale, Chris Mead Sandy Pond, Marie Achion, Kerri Mull Cedric Alexander, Johanna Thibault via zoom: Jacqueline Lumbra, Peg Hough, Brian Dirlan, Alisson Hogan, Brittany Butler, Carol Baker, Doug Cooke Heather Winner, Karen Muller-Harder, Miranda Hunt, Rory Thibault, Stephen Gregg, Theresa Lay-Sleeper, Michelle Leclerc, Jim Abbott, Dan Dunham, Karen Abbot, Winston Goodrich

1. Call Meeting to Order – the meeting was called to order by Mike at 6:00 P.M.
2. Approve Agenda - a motion was made by Fred and RD. Mike wanted to know about any other business. RD would like to add under other business: update on post office. Motion carried with addition.
3. Approval of Minutes from March 12 Selectboard Meeting Karen and Skip – Item 12 – In order to move forward with licensing for Fast Squad instead of Fast Track, must have a letter of agreement with emergency transport service; 15 – we would commit to plant another screen of trees. Motion carried with the corrections.
4. Public Comment – Mike spoke of his background over the years and uses Facebook a limited amount. It was initially used to make it a platform to share about your lives, kids, sports, etc. Then it got to be decisive. If you wish to speak but be sure you have done your homework. You don't have to agree with what we say.
5. Highway Updates – Tyler Billingsly (Review of Roads) – this has been deferred to April 2.
6. Conservation Committee:
 - a. Review and approval of Natural Communities Contract – he reviewed this contract – A motion was made by RD with Fred, motion carried to accept this contract and have Mike sign.
 - b. Town Mowing Policy – Conservation Considerations -Cedric Alexander discussed that we encourage private stewardship. There is one area by Town on 215, 4.6 acre, and he would like you to take drive up to take a look at it. He is wondering why it is mowed so frequently. Perhaps once a year would be better. The Rec Field is mowed down for the ticks. If the mowing contract would provide to mow a 10' foot strip on the 215 property and leave the rest of it to get bush-hogged occasionally. Karen wanted to know if the conservation committee could do a sketch. Could you come back to the 2nd meeting in April. Betty will send a copy of the areas to mow to Cedric and see if he has any other suggestions. We will then put the contract out to bid.
7. Discussion of Draft RFP on Emergency Transport Services – Karen is passing out copies. The Board will discuss this and then take questions. First draft was last week, and reviewed it throughout the week. How it was best served in a contract. There are narrative, information and standard business notes. Board is moving forward and may sign tonight. Decided to remove the time frame to the percentage. Originally it was discussed a 25 minute time frame. We are also covered by East Montpelier. (The rest of the discussion was very lengthy and you may hear the rest on Cabotvt.us) RD moved that we draft another RFP for ambulance with a second by Mike (RD motion will be added) Motion carried.
8. Discussion on possible buyout of village property related to Hazard Mitigation – there is lot of costs involved with hazard mitigation. We talked about this previously. We have a choke point at the double culvert. RD has had some conversations re flood resilience with Gary who owns the garage. It is possible that we could have a buyout of the garage and a relocation of his services in the village through the federal government. It is a 2-phase project -municipal buyout it would be town. In order to do this we would enter a suggestion to the Flood Resiliency Task Force (This is not part of FEMA).RD moved that authorize the SB to buyout the Cabot Garage and fill out the grant, with a second by Mike. We need to get on top of this. ASAP. Phase 2 is with an understanding that we help Greg in tandem with the project. Ben Vitale - is there a thought of where this could be. Yes, there are some considerations. State would provide funds of 100%. Property would be appraised (Garage) and cut a check for Gregg. It would have to be a site evaluation. It is possible that there may be cost of cleanup due to the garage being there for many years. Johanna – Is it my understanding that we would be paying for his business at the same time. Yes. This could possibly be an 18 month process. Chris - we could apply for it and may or may not get it. Is there a contingency plan. FRTF will be looking at ways to mitigate this.

Gary stated that we are waiting for the engineering study grant. In this move we are looking at perhaps fuel pumps at the same place. Motion carried.

9. Greg Burt - CCIF update and committee membership – who are the members on the committee. The board appoints Greg as Chair, reappoint Chris Tormey Melvin Churchill will be on until 2025 and Jack Daniels position is appointed. RD moved that we reappoint Jack Daniels with a second by Fred. Motion carried. We will have our next meeting in April and Gregg stated that Jason Monaco would like to stay on. We now have five members. Alex Underwood left the CCIF. The amount in the CCIF General fund is \$670,405 in general fund and \$232,903 in scholarship. Doing better on funds after discussion with Union Bank and their investment fund manager.
10. Cemetery Investment Policy – discussion – high yield CD – offer an amendment to the town’s investment policy, third paragraph – A motion was made by RD that Investments of Cemetery Commission funds and the Cabot community Investment Fund (CCIF) shall not be subject to this policy, but shall be subject to such investment policies as the Cemetery Commissioners and the CCIF Committee may adopt, with the knowledge and approval of the Selectboard, or as the Town Meeting may determine with a second by Mike. Motion carried. RD or Mike would like to attend a meeting or have Gregg come in quarterly to a SB meeting. We need to start looking at how to use the money in the future. Fred – how do you think the UB is working with investment. Gregg – stock market has changed since 2020. Switched to a 30/70%. We have had good conversation with the investment funds and want to stay with them. Gregg – still doing scholarships and it is going well at \$500-750 apiece. We can’t spend the general fund until 2025. RD would like to try a new plan to designate funds and will consult with Gregg on this proposed plan.
11. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan – discussion and possible signing – Peg reported that the PC met last night – Dawn would continue to serve. Elected Bobby Searles, Peg as vice chair. Peg has worked on this adoption to adopt a resolution to go forward with this plan. Resolution was read. A motion was made by RD with a second by Fred to adopt the HMP. Motion carried. The Resolution is attached at the end of the minutes. Gary – we need to pay attention to this plan and annually review it and who is going to be on top of it. Any suggestions – Planning Commission was suggested or the EMC. FD suggested the assistant to the PC. Mike will talk with PC. Jean Goodrich – EMP – Number of years, and issued a great deal of health and wellness, when flood hit and embedded notes. Do we have a shelter in place, an emergency plan. Put out a request and possibly appoint someone the next meeting. Maria – is the Cabot Post Office will be coming to that in other business.
12. Water and Wastewater
 - a. Update from Rodger Sheldon, H2O Innovations was not here tonight, but Betty did note that we discussed the water and wastewater connection to the new public safety building at 2466 Main Street. After much discussion it was moved by RD with a second by Fred that we allow 1 ERU for the PSB and allow water to be connected, with the possibility of an amendment to the ERU. Motion carried.
 - b. Other Business Cabot Church and childcare center – RD discussed that the pipe for WW is not where they thought it was. Mike suggested that we view the ANR pictures of the piping for WW since we cannot seem to see the connection in that area with our maps.
 - c. Marie Achione Goodrich wanted to have a better way of letting people know about the water boil. The Church and the childcare new nothing about it. Betty advised that H2O Innovations went to every home and business tagging it. We now have access to Vermont Alert and will let people know by this means along with the continued door to door notices.
13. Town Clerks Office
 - a. Orders – they were signed.
 - b. Other business – Betty brought up a contract for Michelle for \$35.00 per hour, plus current mileage rate, she would work two nights a week and a Saturday. RD moved that we accept this with a second by Fred. Karen asked what nights and how long. Betty advised that she did not specify nights or how long, but we will work this out for as long as needed. There was no other discussion. Motion carried.
14. Other Business
 - a. The Post Office - The building is owned by Postal Realty Trust, Inc. and – operations all over the country. RD wrote and received a response and assured it will not be closed. Asbestos mitigation will be sometime in April and reconstruction of the interior. Been in touch with our legislatures and postal officials in Maine and Danville. There is every expectation it will reopen. When no one can tell me, best guest – middle of May. RD is in the process of finding a local contractor on the job ASAP. The only roadblock is the asbestos mitigation.
15. Motion to Adjourn – A motion was made by RD with a second by Fred, motion carried and we adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Ritter, Clerk/Treasurer

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

Town of Cabot, Vermont Selectboard

A Resolution Adopting the Cabot, Vermont 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

WHEREAS the Cabot Selectboard recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within the Town of Cabot; and

WHEREAS the Cabot Selectboard has prepared a natural hazard mitigation plan, hereby known as the Cabot, Vermont 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with federal laws, including the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended; the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended; and the National Dam Safety Program Act, as amended; and

WHEREAS the Cabot, Vermont 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property in the Town of Cabot from the impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS adoption by the Cabot Selectboard demonstrates its commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the Cabot, Vermont 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF CABOT, VERMONT, THAT:

Section 1. In accordance with 24 VSA §872, the Cabot Selectboard adopts the Cabot, Vermont 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. While content related to the Town of Cabot may require revisions to meet the plan approval requirements, changes occurring after adoption will not require the Town of Cabot to re-adopt any further iterations of the plan. Subsequent plan updates following the approval period for this plan will require separate adoption resolutions.

ADOPTED by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 against, and 0 abstaining, this twelfth day of March, 2024.

By: Michael J. Hogan Michael J. Hogan (print name)
Selectboard Chair

ATTEST: By: Betty Ritter Betty Ritter (print name)