

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, May 7, 2024, 6:00 P.M.

Those attending in person: Mike Hogan, Fred Ducharme, Skip Bothfeld, Karen Larsen, R. D. Eno, Sid Griggs, Lori Augustyniak, Rose Bothfeld, Dean Deasy, Will Ameden, Dana Robinson, Marcie Martin, Frank Kampf, Ruth Goodrich, Glenn Goodrich, Jenn Miner, Steve Cox, Amanda Otto, Kris Schmidt, Irv Robbins, Robert Rathbone, Leslie Rathbone, Jean Garabedian, Jacqueline Lumbra, Brittany Butler; via zoom: Bob Harnish, Sandy Pond, James Calvin Wakefield, Gary Gulka Deborah Peterson, Michelle Leclerc, Stephen Hogan, Alisson Hogan, Gail Greaves, Heather Winner

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 with a second by Karen. He then asked if there were any changes. Mike would like to add: Public Gatherings, Highway Issues, FEMA Project, under other business: Legislature overview, the Ambulance is pulled out of Executive Session. Approved with changes.
3. Approval of Minutes from April 16 Selectboard Meeting – RD stated Item 11b line from the church does not connect directly to main line, Item 13 – CV Fiber may merge with NEK Broadband not that they have. Karen – 9 Post Office update Asbestos – they are working on this, 11 Rodger will get the prices so we may have a motion to authorize expenditures for the wastewater stations and plant.
4. Public Comment – Ruth read a letter regarding SB meetings. Jenn Miner – There is a rumor going around that don't bother to call Cabot Ambulance as they will not respond. She wanted to make sure that Cabot Ambulance is still serving the community and they should call 911 – this is the way to contact emergency services including the ambulance.
5. Inclusion Week – Norma Cohen – review and possibly approve – they were not on to discuss this.
6. Discussion on Public Gatherings (music venues – noise, parking, adjoining neighbor's property) – additional parking space by the Public Safety Building. Cabot Creamery approached Dean – There is a slight chance that they may be interested in purchasing the dirt covered area. No pricing has been discussed. Steve Cox – why would you put grass in the area when we need parking. Marie the space is available the Creamery using it, is it could that be a space for parking. Parking was a big issue for the upcoming events. Suggested places were the field on Elm Street by the Cemetery, Lori stated that we did a fairly good job for the 4th, another area is old firehouse, Cabot school parking lot would like to reserve for handicap, contact perhaps contact Creamery re Whittier Hill Pond, may be rearranging the parade so Elm Street be available, Larry Gochey's field, Melvin's old field – (need to talk with Morgan as he now owns this). Mike would like to know if we have a shuttle because some of these areas will be far away. Lori – we are working on some sort of plan. We will also need help with parking, which the fire department will be responsible for this. We will have a tow truck on standby if a person is parking in the wrong space and constables available for traffic flow and ticketing someone. CCA will be purchasing stakes and other supplies to be used for other events. We need to post road posting for the parade. Pull together key players, constables, road foreman, Cabot, Sheriff. Karen – when we think about parking, plays, events in Willey Building – develop a parking lot map. RD – why isn't Neighbors In Action on the list. Last year they used it as their marketing. RD-could we park sequentially (fill one area, then move to the next). We also need marking for crosswalk, first-aid station, signs, and maps indicating areas and dates.

Events that will need parking:

The 4th of July Celebration

The Music Festival would have about a 1/3 of the other two.

July 13 – the commemoration event of the flood with music, food, and demonstrations and WB will be a non-parking area. (Willey Building, Parking Lot, Common

July 19 -21 – Jerry Jam Festival (Pransky's private property)

July 25-26 – Arts and Music Festival (Common)

July 28 – 175th Anniversary for Church (Common)

September 28 - Cheese Culture Festival/ Bulk Removal Day

Others with no dates as of this meeting: Apple Festival of some sort and no location yet

Jenn noted that VT emergency management is now asking that we fill out a simple form, type, and number of people. Karen – is this a recommend practice, Jenn said it is not, but wanted to be on radar at this time.

What happens if Common is too wet? We would then move the school parking lot and hopefully not an issue. What happens when we must cancel the parade. SB what is a cancellation policy – who does the cancelling, and they make the decision. Have not talked about the size and noise of the event. Judy Pransky is under a conditional permit. We could have Judy come to the first meeting in place at the next meeting. Lassie – there is no ordinance on private land. Another permit – for state – 2,000. Perform certain hours. We could look at it again. Robert- there is a state ordinance at 10 P.M. Jane – this is a bigger issue than just this issue. Somewhat more proactive. Support events but not a 3-day event. *(There was more discussion that could be heard on the website audio)*

7. Highway – Sid –
 - a. next week village going to get swept; we have 3 grants and trying to get started on these.
 - a. Update on Aldo’s truck – we are being pushed back on his new truck and Sandy is going to try to get the same pricing with a newer truck.
 - b. Steve Bothfeld notified that the bridge on Menard and had settled 3” on 1 side, but it is fixed now.
 - c. We now have a 3’ hole on Mack Mountain. We planned to take care of this next year, but it is now important to get this done immediately. Tyler looked at it and said that if we get rain, the bridge could go. We will be getting a bridge from the State delivered next Monday and will start working on it Tuesday. The road will be closed while we are working on it. He has notified everyone including VT Alert and could possibly use Houghton Road. This will be graded by the end of the week. Mack Mountain Road will be closed tomorrow morning until the bridge is in with a possibility of a two-week closure.
8. Opening of bid for Emergency Ambulance Center – (*due to the length of this discussion this may be heard on the Cabot Website*). Fred did state we need somehow to mediate this. It was suggested to designate two people from the Selectboard and two members from the ambulance for a contract.
9. Recycle Center Contract - RD wrote a 3-year contract. John decreased his weekly pay from \$75 to \$50.00 and that is inadequate. Rise the per week contractor fee to \$100.00. RD felt there is no reason to put out a RFP. He does have exclusive right to collect trash. Mike stated he would like to see the tires go away. RD stated that John needs to work with NEKWM as the own the tires. Mike thought it would be good to start with the fiscal year, July 1 for 3 years. Start July 1 for three fiscal years through June 30, 2027. RD moved that we accept the contract to start on July 1 and amend the contract that he will continue through June 30 until the new contract is in place, with a second by Fred, motion carried.
10. Church Building Sewer Repair (action expected) – The church has incurred expenses of rebuilding the sewer. There was much discussion regarding this. Both Fred and Brittany Butler (Zoning Administrator) felt that if the Town pays for this, we will be setting a precedent for future connections. Mike asked if it would be a hardship for the Church. Skip felt that it would not be. Fred talked with Rodger Sheldon, and he stated it is not the responsibility of the Town. At this time, RD moved so that the town pays for it with a second by Skip. A voice vote was taken RD-yes, Karen-no, Mike-no, Fred-no. Skip recused himself. The motion was denied, and the Church will pay for this.
11. Water and Wastewater
 - a. Update from Rodger Sheldon, H2O Innovations – He was not available.
 - b. Other Business – there was no other business.
12. Town Clerks Office
 - a. Orders
 - b. Other business – We had two open consumption permits: Snow Farm Winery and Lucy and Home Brewing Company, LLC. A motion was made by Mike with a second by RD to approve these two permits. Motion carried.
13. Other Business –
 - a. The legislature should be adjourning by Friday. They are working on several items such as open meeting las, ACT 250, property tax rate, S213 River Corridor, and miscellaneous tax abatements.
 - b. Marie stated that she was glad that the Cabot Ambulance will be in open meeting.
14. Executive Session – A motion was made by Mike with a second by Karen executive session, motion carried. We went into ES at 8:21 p.m. We came out of ES at 9:16 with no decisions made when we came out of ES.
15. Motion to Adjourn – a motion was made by Fred with a second by RD, motion carried, we adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Ritter, Clerk/Treasurer