

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025, 6:00 P.M.

Those present in person: Mike Hogan, Fred Ducharme, RD Eno, Karen Larsen, Skip Bothfeld, Betty Ritter, Brittany Butler, Frank Kampf, Sid Griggs, Dana Robinson, Ruth Goodrich Marie Achionne, Marcie Martin, Victoria, Ben Vitale and Son, Will Ameden, Dean Deasy; via zoom: David Barnett, Kris Schmidt, Sandy Ponds, Stephanie Searles, Matt Nally, Alisson Hogan, Steven Hogan

1. Call Meeting to Order – the meeting was called to order by Mike Hogan at 6:00 p.m.
2. Approve Agenda - A motion was made by Fred with a second by Karen, Mike would like to add under Other Business: FEMA, Town Report, Training, Report Section and RD would like to add grant activity flood mitigation project approved. Motion carried with the additions.
3. Approval of Minutes from December 17, 2024 Regular Corrections: SB Meeting working expenses we pay them, there are so many people on other committees and it would cost it money, most grant has a line item for administrative costs – A motion was made by Fred , with a second by RD and December 19, 2024 Budget a motion was made by RD with a second by Fred. Corrections to this meeting: RD offer clarification – 5th paragraph – since we no longer have Town Meeting to weigh in on budget and petitions (RD – stated the budget is absolutely bare bones and if someone wants to have more in the budget they should petition for it, this is a way of adjusting the budget. Australian Ballot involves more people – the final bottom line, most towns when look at the draft and to make changes, it is a process. It is important to go through the petition process on final bottom line spending. Fred – stated that the roof repair and painting should be \$4.260. Motion carried with corrections.
4. Public Comment –
 - a. Dana shared about the First Night weekend. It was exceptional and it was more than in the last 4 years with an increase of 15-20%. Volunteers came through. The quality of the program was exceptional, smiles all around. It was a great weekend for Cabot. He did have a few comments about the auditorium specifically. Around 5:30 or 6:00 Nick Trautz slipped, and he scraped his ear coming from the balcony. We did not have a first-aid kit and felt that we should have one in all rooms. He also mentioned that we should have treads on the steps going to the balcony. He also mentioned that the floor has changed in the past 3-4 years. It is getting thread bare and should have 2 coats of polyurethane. There is a lot of sand, salt and grit carried up by people. Ruth mentioned they did have a first responder at the scene quickly and offered assistance. He did go and get checked out but declined the offer of ambulance transport.
 - b. David Barnet – online what is the current update on West Hill Pond. Karen responded that we have set aside \$20,000 when the plan is implemented. At that time, we will have more info. In signing off on the West Hill Pond community, a scope of work to propose to drain the sleuce. They need a permit and can without the owners of the dam have to sign it. The State eyes are on the structure, they are on pause now but will be here in the spring. EAP – they are still working on the downstream impact, that process continues. They will include what to do in preparation. Her communication was sent to all West Hill Pond members and David did say that he received this information. He feels that the state wants to take it down.
5. Highway Update – road looks okay, but trouble with ice and used mud blades and save a lot. Mike – talked about personnel policy on vacation for highway employees. He will have accumulated 240 hours and could lose 91 hours of vacation time he has earned. Because of his extensive work in 2023/24 flood he was unable to used very little vacation. He suggested paying him the time he would lose shortly. Mike suggested that we get rid of the 240 hours. Karen asked if would like to be paid for this 91 hours. He stated that if we lift the amount of hours we can transfer he would be happy with that. Fred saw no reason to have it 240. A motion was made by Mike with a second by Fred to remove the cap, motion carried. Sid is working on grants in aid -hearing and should hear shortly. Betty asked that we sign the Highway certificate for the amount of miles in Cabot for 1st, 2nd, 3rd class roads and trails. It was signed.

6. Water and Wastewater
 - a. Other Business – water and wastewater There was business to discuss.

7. Town Clerks Office
 - a. Orders – were signed
 - b. Other business – Betty explained about the liquor license scam that infiltrated the Department of Liquor Control.

8. Other Business –
 - a. Amy with FEMA will be meeting on Thursday regarding the second flood should hear within the next few weeks and what the funding on the new fire station. b.
 - b. Mike suggested extra articles: he will write on the financial, Karen will write on West Hill Pond, and RD to write on Flood Resiliency.
 - c. Karen on training issues for board members. We have lots of volunteers but still need to do training. There is a list on VLCT, but Betty will be sending around. Mike stated that Betty was on one today for review of Town Meeting, there is one coming up with WW grants that Mike is going to attend. Boards should go to at least one per year. It is important for up-to-date changes in law. Put out training to town officials on Cabot Connects. Learning opportunities ahead.
 - d. Performance evaluations are enormously helpful. Reflect on one’s work and plan for success. If you plan for 2025.
 - e. Sid and Amy is overseen by the SB. Betty to do an evaluation for Shirley. Meeting with committees once a year, even make a recommendation. More requirements are coming all the time.
 - f. RD – Task Force – damages from the floods – we were tasked on very short notice – benefit cost analysis. More we can show the better. We need to reflect on the cumulative damage in 2023-2024. Threw together a damage list – circulated a survey among private homeowners. Some did not submit the survey. Cabot Creamery – loss of damage – came to one-half. Peg Moulton – what the entire village mitigation would cost – does not include the moving of the garage and buyout. 6.5 million. We will be submitting. This will include hiring of equipment. Mike will work with Amy to get this information.
 - g. Cabot Garage and Buyout – Lisa Kolb stated that before we go further, we need to an asbestos and lead configuration. RD is meeting with Greg and Mike on Monday and received the appraisal and see how likely we are to move forward. We will need to get a planning grant. Scope and relocation and of garage. Connor Contracting is helping with scoping out and how we may employ the money.
 - h. Flood Mitigation – Lyford Brook is the tributary behind us and Menard Tributaries possibly be the North Tributary. Concept designs of SLR of North Bridge and Lyford Brook and we are looking to meet with landowners – cost estimates from SLR in the coming weeks. If we decide to go through with this, we need to assure Gregg – we can get grants. Relocation cannot be total funding from grants, borrowing from Gregg and other means. This needs to be done very soon.
 - i. Post Office – RD stated that he will be in contact with a person who can trigger the safety inspection is in Portland after calling 7-8 numbers. He will talk with the district manager, but he never answers the phone in El Paso. Dennis mentioned to Betty that he would give her an update before the meeting tonight. This never happened.

9. Motion to Adjourn – A motion was mad by Fred with a second by RD, motion carried and we adjourned at 6:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Ritter, Clerk