

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025, 6:00 P.M.

Those attending in person: Mike Hogan, Jenn Miner, Fred Ducharme, Skip Bothfeld, Charles Miner, Jeanne Johnson, Maria Achionne, Victoria Garrison, Ethan Garrison, Gary Gulka, Sid Griggs, Nigel Waring, Nell McQueeney, Barry Cahoon, Glen Goodrich, Ruth Goodrich;; via zoom: Kris Schmitt, Alisson Lefevre, Peggy Johnson, Steve Hogan, Alisson Hogan, Jennifer Churchill

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 Jenn with a second by Fred, motion carried.
3. Public Comment – Maria – a person lives up the hill expanded the pond, gushing in ditch and goes uphill and under the road all the way down to Lisa Ginette. Always water coming out. Fred, Mike, Ian, Sid, and Lisa get together.
4. Approve Minutes of April 8, 2025 Public Hearing and April 1, 2025 Regular SB Meeting. Betty did include the AI Comments. The Board did seem to like this. A motion was made by Fred with a second by Skip, motion carried.
5. USDA (partnering with Fish and Wildlife) to discuss bear problems and suggestions – Nigel Waring was here reaching out to Cabot to see if we are having problems. We should reach out to Vermont Fish and Wildlife. Items that causes problems: garbage, compost, and chicken coops. They will help with trying to protect property. They can't deal with moving bears.
6. Appointment of NEK Advisor with Alternates - A motion was made by Skip and a second by Fred to reappoint R. D. Eno. Motion carried.
7. Highway Update – Sid started to have sand hauled in. We worked on paving grant and we did not submit due to the small amount we would receive, and even with the grant it would cost the Town \$305,000. The only way to have this done is to have Main Street back to the state. Sid talked with Marshfield and Walden and they are in favor of having 215 belong to the State. At one time state did have 215 as a State Road. The road is not built to have heavy traffic on it daily. There is a tremendous amount of wear and tear on this. It was suggested that we bring in Greg Burt to discuss this.

Meeting on MRG Standards. CVRPC – only town they work with is Berlin, to test the water for phosphorus, changing the culvert will help. And if there is, they will pay for it. We have 5 that possibly and will send this on.

Decision of bids for engineering of Lovely Road – New England Consulting and Tyler Engineering were the two engineers and Sid looked at both of them. New England Consulting does not have a drill for core drilling and would have to add an additional \$3,000. Sid, suggested that we go with Tyler Engineering. A motion was made by Mike that we go with Tyler Engineering, with a second by Jenn, motion carried.

New truck has been assigned to Charlebois and we are hoping to have it by December.

The road person will be meeting with Sid on Friday. He is currently working with Town of Danville. If he decides to go with Cabot, he will start at the end of May.

Fred wanted to know about how much sand we used. We used around 3,000, and he has 18,000 left of salt out of 55,000 tons.

8. Hazard Mitigation Program Grant - Review and Approval of application for village flood mitigation on south and north tributaries – Gary has been putting together Hazard Mitigation and passed around a sample of the application. We have submitted Cabot Village damage estimates, 2011 and 2024, and estimates for what could be done. The grant would be around \$3.2 million. Working with Vermont Emergency Management and submit by April 30. Working with consultants. Approval and authorization to sign the application next week. 75% federal, 25% town – but State would pay for the 25%. Priorities of fundings buyouts, construction project are the lower choice for funding. Submit both projects, we may fund one of the tributaries. North – removing Cabot garage. Concept design plans and go forward. Lot of work and questions of level of detail. Somewhat confident we will have it together for the 30th. Submit hard copy with signature and unsigned. Fred moved that we have Mike signed the grant with a second by Jenn. Motion carried. It has been a lot of work getting this information together. Application with benefit cost analysis, how many days was the town closed. It was intermittent during May 2011 and 2023 Main street – road closure or restricted. Mike wanted thanked them for all the work done by Gary, RD, and Peggy.
9. Extended Dog Kenneling – Nell McQueeney stated they received two dogs. State Police found them and brought them to the pound, and they were posted on Cabot Connects. We believe they are owned by Mike Malone. His ex-wife is talking with Cheryl McQueeney and keeps bothering her about the dogs. Cheryl explained how the process work – gave her how to get them back. Incredibly malnourished. They supposedly had a sitter and no one has contacted Cheryl about them, nor the Town Office. The Humane Society will take one on May 15 and the other on May 23. One is older and may be euthanized if the dog goes to humane society. Ruth and Jenn went up and visited with Cheryl. They have had no communication from Mike. This is the second time within 6 months. He can only get them back by paying kennel fees at \$20/day, have the dogs license and vaccinated. Betty will set up a hearing ASAP.
10. USDA –Mike wanted to update the work to be done summer of 2025 overview and discussion. They will be doing some work flood work and is one of the engineering New England Engineers. Areas are: Elm Street, Lower Cabot Store, Main Street, Cabot maintenance job. \$7-8000. (no fee to the Town)
11. Appointment of CCIF member – Greg Burt is the current chair, Chris Torrney. School -no action
12. Joe's Pond Association – Milfoil Treatment – Discussion – Barry Cahoon on Board of Directors to Joe's Pond. Other lakes and ponds have been unable to stop the spread by non-herbicide. The state was prohibiting herbicide. Put a proposal to Agency of Natural Resources and have very positive. If they get approval later this summer. Lot of public notice. It is injected to all of the plants. We will use less herbicide sooner the later. Vermont Dept. of Health and drinking water program does not require any restrictions on use of water. Small are and check in spring an how much material to be used. It will be hired a contractor. Gary stated that Conservation Committee met with them, and they are supportive of the application. Appears to be a logical way to proceed. Motion was made to support the work Joe's Pond is doing by Fred with a second by Jenn. Motion carried.
13. Water and Wastewater
 - a. Use of Wastewater Investment of \$200,000 to pay for wastewater repairs – discussion and decision - unlimited discussions going forward – the simple thing to do for the repairs that have been done and projected. Investment fund. Those monies will be replaced. Motion for expenses already incurred to be paid by the Wastewater Investment Fund by Fred with a second by Skip, motion carried.
 - b. Other Business – There was no other business.

14. Discussion and Approval of Loan for Willey Building consisting of Repairs to elevator, refinishing floor on 3rd floor, and a defibrillator. We have no fire escape for third floor in the amount of approximately \$50,000 and not have first payment due until May, 2026.. The Willey Building will then have an article on the 2026 warning to borrow money from the CCIF to pay back this loan. A motion was made by Skip with a second by Jenn, motion carried. Betty did advise that we were awarded a \$500, grant towards the defibrillator.
15. Fire Department – discuss and approve Donation Policy – A motion was made by Fred with a second by Jenn, motion carried.
16. Other Business - No other business.
17. Executive Session CEAS Contract 2026 A motion was made by Fred with a second by Jenn. We then went into Executive Session at 7:17 p.m.. We then came out of ES at 7:37 p.m. No decision was made at this time.
18. Motion to Adjourn – A motion was made by Fred with a second by Jenn, motion carried and we adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Ritter, Clerk

Meeting summary for Selectboard Meeting April 22, 2025

Quick recap

The select board meeting covered a wide range of community issues, including water drainage problems, bear management, road maintenance, and animal control concerns. The board also discussed financial matters, such as grant applications, funding for infrastructure projects, and budget allocations for various town services. Additionally, the meeting addressed environmental topics, community services, and administrative tasks, highlighting the diverse responsibilities and challenges faced by the local government.

Next steps

- Betty to email Gary the letter content for the hazard mitigation grant application.
- Gary to put the hazard mitigation grant letter on town letterhead and have Mike sign it.
- Sid to follow up with Roger about the manhole work on Danville Hill.
- Betty to prepare a loan application for the Willey Building repairs.
- Barry Cahoon to submit the herbicide permit application for Joe's Pond.
- Mike to sign the letter of support for the Joe's Pond herbicide treatment.
- Fred and Mike to schedule a meeting with Sid, Ian, and Joe to discuss the water issue on McKinstry Road.

Summary

Water Drainage Issue on McKinstry Road - the overflow of the pond causing flooding problems for several houses. The board decides to arrange a meeting with Sid, Ian, Fred, and the affected residents to address the issue.

The meeting then moved to approve the minutes from previous meetings, with Betty highlighting the use of AI co-pilot to create helpful summaries of the meetings, which is well-received by the board members.

USDA and Fish and Wildlife Partnership

Mike discussed the partnership between USDA and Fish and Wildlife to manage bear conflicts across the state.

He mentioned that they are reaching out to towns experiencing elevated bear problems and are working on spreading awareness about their services. He also mentioned that they have a system in place for residents to report bear-related issues. He further explained that while they can provide guidance and support. He also mentioned that they are working on flyers and social media posts to spread awareness about bear-related issues.

Paving Costs Exceed Grant Funding

Sid and Amy decided not to submit a grant application for pavement work due to insufficient funding. The estimated cost for paving a section of road is \$305,000, which exceeds the available grant amount of \$200,000. Mike suggested involving their legislative representative, Greg, to discuss the issue of road maintenance with the Transportation Committee, particularly regarding Route 215. The group also discussed a potential program through CVRPC that could fund culvert replacements to reduce phosphorus levels in water runoff. Lastly, they consider options for addressing issues with a bridge on Lovely Road, leaning towards working with Tyler due to his comprehensive services and previous positive experiences.

Board Discusses Projects and Scheduling

The board discusses various topics including Tylers project work, employee hiring, sand usage for road maintenance, and water drainage issues on McKinstry Road. Betty plans to meet with Fred, Ian, and Joe to address the drainage problems. Gary is working on a FEMA hazard mitigation grant to fund the replacement of two bridges. The board also touches on scheduling matters and time constraints for meeting attendees.

Grant Application for Hazard Mitigation Project

Betty discussed the ongoing process of completing a grant application for a hazard mitigation project. The application, due next Wednesday, involves a detailed spreadsheet with numerous attachments and requires a benefit cost analysis to demonstrate the project eligibility. The project, which has an estimated cost of \$3.9 million, is a priority for funding, but there is uncertainty about receiving funding due to high demand and limited funds available. The select board has agreed to proceed with the project, and the application is expected to be completed by next week. The board authorized Mike to sign the application.

Mike Malone - Malnourished Dogs Issue

Betty discussed the issue of Mike Malone's dogs that were found and have been in the kennel since April 7th. The dogs are malnourished and have not been registered. Betty. Nell mentioned that the Humane Society can take them and they have scheduled dates to bring them there. The town is owed \$400 for the dogs care. Mike suggested having a hearing soon to determine the dogs fate if Mike doesn't show up or pay the fines.

Water Milkfoil Infestation Control – Joe's Pond

Barry Cahoon discussed the Eurasian water milkfoil infestation in the lake and the efforts to control it. She mentioned the involvement of the State and the local lake associations in the process. He also talked about the use of herbicides for aquatic nuisance species control and the challenges faced in obtaining permits for their use. He mentioned the support from the Conservation Committee and the need for community support for the application.

Mike also discussed the upcoming work on Elbow Street by the bridge and the involvement of the engineering outfit, New England Consulting Engineers. Lastly, he mentioned the appointment of a new member to the CCIF committee.

Wastewater Plant Repairs and Elevator Upgrades

Mike proposed using \$200,000 from the wastewater plants investment account to cover expenses incurred for the plant repairs. The funds would be replenished with other grants and dividends. The board approved this motion.

Betty discussed the need for extensive work on the elevator at the Willy Buildings, including repairs and upgrades. She suggested taking out a bank loan to cover these costs, with the intention of repaying it with funds from a potential voter-approved measure. The board agreed to this plan. Betty also mentioned the need for a fire escape on the 3rd floor of the building and the acquisition of a defibrillator for ADA compliance.

Flood Mitigation Letter and Ambulance Contract

Gary discussed the need for a letter from the town to support a benefit cost analysis for a flood mitigation application. The letter would confirm that roads were closed for at least a week during the floods in 2011 and 2023. Gary asked for the letter to be signed and emailed to her by the end of the week.