

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE STRAFFORD SELECTBOARD  
May 24, 2017

Members of the Select Board present: Toni Pippy (Chair), Brian Johnson, John Freitag, Kate Siepmann, Stephen Marx

Other active participants: Lisa Bragg (Town Clerk), Jon MacKinnon (Road Foreman), Stephen Campbell (Chair, Planning Commission) and Christa Wurm, representing the Recreation Board Also Steven Campbell, John Danner, and Alec Droussiotis (Solar Project Managers)

Toni called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m

#### Citizens' Concerns

There were no concerns expressed.

#### Town Highways

Jon reported that the highway equipment is in good shape and that the crew is "grading as fast as we can" though, with frequent rains, the conditions are not optimal. He also reported a complaint about dust.

Jon has talked with Patrick Ross from the State about switching a structures grant application from a bridge in Taylor Valley to Old City Road bridge #19 which recently has had a wing wall collapse. Jon said that while there is no immediate danger, this bridge built in 1927 will need to be replaced next summer.

The crosswalk between the school and the gym will receive a new coat of paint, complete with reflective glass crystals to add to visibility. It was understood that any further crosswalk enhancements would be the responsibility of the School Board.

A structures grant from the State will cover \$8700 for riprap in repairing Old City Falls bridge #27. We were not awarded a paving grant from the state in this fiscal year, but there is good reason to hope for next year.

Thanks to the work of Lisa and Jon, the Town did receive a structures grant to replace bridge #19 (installed in 1927) on Old City Falls Road.

#### Elizabeth Mine Solar Project

The project managers reported that the lidar data on the roads is in. The Board opted to wait until the completion of the project to examine the final data. Jon and Brian will review when the time comes.

The large ballast trucks will be done on June 6. The flaggers will stop then. The racking is done. Next will be the solar panels that will be transported on smaller, lighter trucks. Given the decrease in heavy trucking, the Managers requested that they release the County Sheriff's patrols. Because the Town also employs the Sheriff to oversee safety concerns, the Board had no objection.

#### Minutes

The Minutes of the May 10 meeting were approved by all except Steve Marx, who had been absent.

#### Correspondence

Four issues raised by correspondence with the Board were discussed and resolved.

#### Town Plan

The Town Plan was submitted to the Select Board on May 17th. The Board is, by statute, required to hold one public hearing before adoption by September 14. The Board felt that three hearings would be preferable and set the dates at June 21, July 19, and August 16. Kate will provide “Digests” of sections of the plan with the aim of informing the public and increasing citizen participation in the approval process. According to Planning Commission Chair, Steven Campbell, the areas of greatest change from the old Town Plan include land use, energy, and tighter definitions. John has communicated with Kevin Geiger of Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission and requested his analysis of the major changes to the Plan.

#### Recreation Board Planning and Programs

Christa Wurm outlined plans for an adventure Jedi Camp to run from June 26–June 30. She assured the Board that the Recreation Board would assume responsibility for requisite background checks and safety provisions for all of the summer programs. John made a motion, seconded by Brian, to approve the Recreation Board’s plans for tennis lessons, soccer camp, and Jedi camp as long as they meet the requirements of our insurance carrier. The motion passed unanimously. So did a motion by John, seconded by Brian, to appoint Christa Wurm to a position on the Rec Board.

#### General

No update was available on progress with the delinquent Stanley and Lord properties. Toni is awaiting response from Town Attorney Paul Gillies.

A motion by John, second by Steve, that the Board approve the purchase of a gift card for Danny Prescott in appreciation of his 30 years of exemplary service to the Town Highway Department. All approved.

The Board expressed great appreciation to Lisa Bragg and Kate Root, who have volunteered to maintain the gardens at the South Strafford Park and Ride.

#### Other

The Board received a letter from Brownie Troop #51829 with their concerns over littering and possible ways to help. The Board appreciated that this group of young people are interested in improving our community, and will encourage people to pick-up after themselves and put trash and recycling items where they belong.

There was a suggestion that the decaying bench at the head of the Common be removed. As liaison to the Conservation Committee, Kate will communicate this and inquire as to whether or not the CC would want this site for a bench memorializing John Hemenway.

Brian moved, John seconded a motion to adjourn. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25

Kate Siepmann

Journeyman (*“a worker who is reliable but not outstanding”*) Recording Clerk