

Town of Moretown  
Office of the SELECT BOARD

**DRAFT** – unapproved minutes of the 8/20/12 selectboard meeting

Board members present were: Tom Martin, Clark Amadon, Michelle Beard, John Hoogenboom. Reed was unable to attend tonight’s meeting.

Guests included: Dave Bovat, Dean Moulton, Pete Bero, Rae Washburn, Raymond Munn, Travis Blodgett, Rachel Goff, Becky Ciampi, Craig Ciampi, Brittany Ciampi, Jeremy Ciampi, Bob Sargent, Deb Sargent, Evelyn Goss, Tina Lamson, Linda Joyal, Angela Ogle, Bob Graves, Steve Magill, Sandra Wetzel, Clayton Wetzel, Ann Horsman, Lt. Paul White, Sgt. Brett Meyer, Calvin Blodgett, Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board.

Tom called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and gave a brief overview of tonight’s agenda.

**Public Comment period:**

**Raymond Munn** – spoke about signage on Spillway Road and Bridge Road, and about weight limitations on Spillway Road. Ray said there is no sign on Bridge Road, and he doesn’t think Spillway Road will take heavy truck traffic. He asked the board to think about how much it will cost to upgrade Spillway Road to support heavy truck traffic that the new bridge will allow.

Tom advised that the board will look into it when they work on the road maintenance policy.

**Rae Washburn** - Rae suggested that perhaps the flood took the sign on Bridge Road, and added that bridges are rated by the state for what condition they are in.

Ward Brook Road – has places where the road has washed out that he thinks Martin may not be aware. The board will let Martin know so he can get them repaired.

**DuBois & King/Austin Construction contract for the new bridge project and related business –**

**Easements** - Tom reported meeting with Mark Austin and his attorney Sheila Ware earlier tonight about the easement needed to install the bridge. He thinks the Austin’s are all set except for clarification on numbers from the surveyors map; installing a stop sign as you exit Bridge Road onto Spillway Road; and assurance that any damage done to his property during the construction will be repaired. The easement from Sainsbury’s will be finalized later tonight.

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**Funding the project** – The board learned this afternoon that FEMA funding for the bridge project has been guaranteed except for about \$150,000. The board is working to lessen that amount by getting approval for the bridge as an “improved project”.

**Starting the project** - George Austin and the Select Board signed the contract. George said they would mobilize by the end of this week, or the beginning of next week.

**Clerk of the Works for the project** – Both Pete and George feel there should be a clerk of the works, if only for a few hours, two or three days per week. The Clerk would be someone George can reach if he has a problem, but someone with bridge construction experience.

### **Reports & Communication, Announcements –**

**Notice of Cell 4 ANR hearing change** – from August 14<sup>th</sup> to August 23<sup>rd</sup> – 5:30 p.m. at the Thatcher Brook Primary School.

**Valley Couples Club Field** - requesting \$2,000 support from Moretown, Waitsfield, Warren and Fayston. The board will invite them to a meeting to talk about how the “field” serves Moretown residents.

**Letter from Joseph D. Fallon to District 5 Environmental Commission** – notifying them that W. Dan and Lola Noyes failed to be notified by the Commission about the August 14<sup>th</sup> Cell 4 hearing. Noyes requested the hearing be rescheduled. The hearing date changed from August 14<sup>th</sup> to August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Don LaRocca re: Investment Policy/Council** – Discussion continued about guidelines for the investment council. Don said we need to focus on qualified people who are associated with Wall Street and who know the associated risks.

John suggested that he, Don, and Craig Eilers, all having financial investment experience, be on the investment council. John will put together criteria over the next two weeks outlining skills needed to serve on the council. The council will be 3-5 people, chosen by the selectboard.

**Lt. Paul White of the Vt. State Police Middlesex barracks and Sgt. Brett Meyer of the Washington County Sheriff’s Department** - were invited in tonight to talk about law enforcement on the Herring Brook/Lynch Hill loop. Vt. Game Warden Chad Barrett was invited, but unable to attend.

Discussion included:

Deb Sargent spoke about the problem of partying, speeding, a death, racing dirt bikes and ATV’s (some registered/some not), Herring Brook Road. Her biggest concern is racing and speeding. She doesn’t want to witness another death.

Bob Sargent identified the offenders as young people.

Lt. White explained that rural areas do not see the police coverage as someone living in a city would, and further explained that he has 15 Troopers – 1/3<sup>rd</sup> on duty at a time to cover 18 towns. Most of the speeding happens on the interstate or primary roads, so that is where their time is concentrated. Lt. White also spoke about budget constraints.

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Clayton Wetzel spoke about Task Force grants, and wondered if the State Police would be able to work extra hours if they had grant funding. Since Green Up Day, they have picked up over 200 alcohol containers on the loop. He has DUI and public safety concerns.

Lt. White said yes but any Task Force money would be used for graduation weekend/holiday weekends etc. and is not generally used on back roads. Lt. White added that he has not received any calls from Herring Brook Road residents, and encouraged them to call him next time so it can be dealt with. The Middlesex barracks also dispatches the Game Warden.

Sgt. Meyer said every law enforcement agency in the State is hurting for manpower. As far as spending DUI funds (grants) on back roads versus a primary roads, probably not. With the present contract, WCSD is in Moretown 3 hours/week. Sgt. Meyer said he too was unaware of this problem.

Discussion continued from other Lynch Hill/Herring Brook residents, regarding late night encounters with respectable kids; concerns about safety from fire and from fire arm use; gating the loop would prevent local kids from enjoying the recreation. It isn't fair for kids from Northfield to ruin it for the locals; some spoke about riding around the loop, picking berries etc. seeing peoples that are not locals; the number of people present tonight shows there are concerns; the loop is used by walkers and bikers too; fires have been left smoldering near piles of wood chips; concerns about the safety of children living on Herring Brook Road that want to walk the road without being injured; ATV's and mud trucks on private property sometimes cutting down trees; closing or gating the road may not solve the problem because it isn't the local kids causing the problem, and there are several other ways to get to the loop; and there was general support for closing the road to vehicular traffic during mud season in order to preserve the road surface.

Tom said the board has heard the concerns and it will be discussed later. Clayton agreed to look into the Task Force grant.

Lt. White said he will fill Warden Barrett in about tonight's meeting.

Rae asked who they should call – the answer was Lt. White at the Middlesex barracks.

Ray Munn said the kids have scanners and as soon as they hear the call, they scatter.

Calvin mentioned an experience he had with ATV's crossing Cox Brook. He called in the problem and a game warden responded, giving special permission to run the ATV's, and told them who complained. So notifying the Fish & Game doesn't help.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

**7/16/12** – John moved; seconded by Michelle to approve the minutes of 7/16/12. All were in favor.

**7/30/12** – John moved; seconded by Michelle to approve the minutes of 7/30/12. John, Tom, and Michelle were in favor. Clark abstained because he was absent for the 7/30 meeting.

**8/6/12** – Clark moved; seconded by John to approve the minutes of 8/6/12. Tom, John and Clark were in favor. Michelle abstained because she was absent for the 8/6 meeting.

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**more Reports & Communication, Announcement -**

**Animal Control issues** – John reported a call from Brenda Badger that a cat bit a child at her daycare on Jones Brook Road. John spoke with the health department about the issue, but the cat has not been seen since.

A second issue – was a call from Pauline Leboeuf that Mike Long’s dog attacked another dog and it bothers her that it happens.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Blodgett trail #49 decision** – Tom read aloud the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and the Decision as prepared by the town’s attorney Paul Gillies, saying that it is the town’s decision to accept the location of the Blodgett trail as stated on the survey prepared by Rob Townsend of American Consulting Engineers & Surveyors, and the trail will be pinned as such.

Travis wasn’t sure where the access was on the survey, so the board identified its location.

Calvin identified the access as shown on the survey as being on his property, gave a brief history of the area, and asked what the town was going to do.

Tom said we believe the trail is as shown on the survey and Rob will set the pins. Tom advised Calvin of his right to appeal the decision to the court.

John moved; seconded by Clark to approve the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and the Decision as presented tonight, as it pertains to the location of Town Trail 49. All were in favor. The decision was signed.

**Class IV road maintenance** – Rae has concerns about a culvert just past the Van Deusen residence on Lynch Hill. He thinks the town has an obligation to repair culverts on Class IV roads. He said there are a couple of areas that also need dozer work, but the culvert work will require an excavator.

Tom said he will talk with Martin about it.

Deb sees two issues on the Herring Brook/Lynch Hill loop. One is the law enforcement issue; the second is working on the road only to have it ruined by mud vehicles.

Michelle said this will be discussed at the next class IV road maintenance committee meeting, which is 8/27/12 at 5:30.

Craig feels there is a safety issue. Emergency vehicles cannot access the house on Lynch Hill.

Ray thinks people who get permits for residences on class IV roads, agree to keep the road passable for emergency vehicle access.

The board will check into that.

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**Appointments to town boards –**

2<sup>nd</sup> constable – John will call Clarence Wood to see if he is interested.

Planning Commission and Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission– Deb Sargent said she is interested in helping out on the Planning Commission. The board asked if she would be interested in helping out on the CVRPC too.

John moved; seconded by Michelle to appoint Deb Sargent to the Moretown Planning Commission and as Moretown’s representative on the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. All were in favor.

**Town office committee report** – Clark reported that the town office committee meets next Thursday.

**Road Commissioner** – Tom reported that Norm Andrews meets with Martin twice per week. He is putting in time and helping with decision making.

John thinks the ditching on the Howes Road/Mountain Road intersection was excessive, and that it is possible we are out of the town rights of way. He wonders if STOP signs are need at the intersection too.

Tom will talk with Martin about both issues. Tom suggested that the class IV road maintenance policy address measuring all rights of way at intersections.

**Hurdle Road STOP sign** - John still needs to talk with Frank Piazza about the stop sign near/on his property that VTrans said needs to be moved.

**New Business:**

**2012 tax rate** – John moved; seconded by Michelle that the tax rate be set at:

Residential	<b><u>\$1.7655</u></b>	Non-Residential	<b><u>\$1.7418</u></b>
Municipal	0.2271	Municipal	0.2271
Education	1.5384	Education	1.5147

**Vote:** All were in favor.

**Grant for the fire department new radios** – Sean notified Cheryl that the grant application for the new radios was denied.

The board would like a copy of the grant application and a copy of the denial letter to see why it was denied.

**Documents presented for signature** – were a Liquor License for a wedding on the von Trapp farm on South Hill; and an Easement Deed with Sainsbury’s for the bridge project.

**Invoices were reviewed; warrants were approved.**

Tom moved; seconded by Michelle to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. All were in favor.