

**Town of Moretown  
Office of the SELECT BOARD**

**Draft – Unapproved minutes of the 7/1/13 selectboard meeting**

Board members present were: Rae Washburn, Tom Martin, Michelle Beard, John Hoogenboom, Reed Korrow

Guests: Dean Moulton, Lisa Ransom, Scott Baughman, Raymond Munn, Dara Torre, Patty Haynes, Rick Haynes, Lo Thamm, Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board

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

**Public Comment:**

**Ray Munn –**

**6/3/13/minutes** - Ray said the minutes from the 6/3/13 selectboard meeting aren't posted on the website yet. Cheryl will check it out.

**Firemen insurance** – Ray asked if there was an answer from the town's insurance about his question relating to insurance coverage for firemen that go to a fire in their own vehicle.

VLCT said if a firefighter was responding to a fire in their personal vehicle and had an accident, their personal auto insurance would be primary. PACIF (the town's insurance carrier) would pay once the personal auto coverage limits were exhausted.

Because this situation would ultimately impact the firefighter's insurance costs, the board would like someone from PACIF to come in to talk with the fire department and with the selectboard about what can be done so that a firefighter's personal vehicle insurance would not be primary if that firefighter was responding to a fire.

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**Approval of the 6/17/13 minutes:**

Rae moved; Michelle seconded to approve the minutes of 6/17/13.

Rae wants to clarify that if the road crew gets behind in grading maintenance because of the rain etc., that it is important enough that he supports them getting overtime to get the work done. Vote: Motion passed. Tom abstained as he was absent for some of the meeting.

**Reports & Communication, Announcements:**

**Flags in the village** – Tom reported that Danny McHugh has seen to it that the flags missing in the village have been replaced.

**MLI business** – There has been no response from MLI regarding Rae’s letter of May 28<sup>th</sup>, about the camera’s on their property (MLI) that reportedly face Grow Compost.

**Better Backroads grant opportunity** – An application was received for Category A (\$4,000) and Category B (\$10,000). The application will be given to Martin. Applications are due by 7/15/13.

**Mad River Resource Management Alliance (MRRMA)** – The board received a copy of a letter from John Malter, Administrator of the MRRMA, regarding the importance of the continued operation of the Moretown Landfill.

**The area by the town’s sand pile** –Tom reported that it was brought to his attention of different piles of debris around the sand pile area. Tom will contact Martin to get together and walk the area.

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**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Host Town Agreement Committee report** – Michelle reported that the Host Town Agreement Committee met last Monday to organize. They will meet weekly on Wednesday morning from 7:30 to 9:00. Each meeting will begin with a public comment period. The committee is reviewing Host Agreements from other towns; making a list of suggested changes/additions to our current host agreement. The committee invites the public to offer suggestions and/or comments.

**Radar signage in Moretown Village** – Michelle gave an update regarding the placement of radar signage in the village. Safe Routes to School Committee member Dara Torre, the contractor, two members of the selectboard, and an AOT engineer, met last Friday to talk about options for placement of new radar signage. The decision was to place school zone and new radar signs at the Fulton/Kingsbury area on one end of the village; and by the firestation/gazebo area in the center of town. The work will be done this summer.

**Highway business – Reed reported as follows:**

**Grading** –Martin realizes the roads need grading, but with all of the rain he feels it would be a wasted effort. Rae noted that the weather was good this last weekend.

Reed will talk with Martin about that.

Rae asked what the road crew is doing with all of this rain.

Reed will ask Martin, but he thinks brush trimming etc.

**Mountain Road resurfacing project** – Rae reported that the project should be done this week. Rain delayed the work somewhat.

**South Hill resurfacing** – Since there is already knotweed present along South Hill Road, Martin would like to put the gravel being stored at Wimbles onto South Hill so that area is better during mud season. Martin feels he can control any knotweed growth.

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John thinks other town's face the same issues because knotweed is everywhere now, so as long as Martin thinks he can control any new growth it is ok with him to use the stored gravel on South Hill.

Michelle noted that Martin had attended training about how to control knotweed, so she has no problem spreading it on South Hill. She noted that since Neal Mostov came to the selectboard alerting them about the knotweed in the stored gravel, he should be made aware that the town intends to use it on South Hill. Reed will let Martin know.

**Lynch Hill road maintenance** – Discussion followed about using the gravel stored in Ciampi's pit on Lynch Hill. Martin said he would spread it this once, then that is it. Martin would like a decision tonight about what the board wants him to do.

Tom feels Dave got a letter from the town when the new road policy was adopted.

Michelle said if we do maintenance work on Lynch Hill, we would be treating it differently than other class IV (B) roads, which means we should offer maintenance to all.

John asked if Dave was able to get a propane delivery.

Rae believes he did, adding that the bad spot at the bottom of the hill was repaired.

Dean questioned the A, B classification for class IV roads, thinking it should either be every class IV road gets some maintenance or all get none.

John wonders if the gravel at Ciampi's would be spread on class III roads in the area if it isn't used on Lynch Hill.

Rae thinks it is pretty course bank run gravel. Reed will check with Martin though.

There was discussion about selling the gravel to Dave and he could spread it on Lynch Hill himself. He would need a road maintenance permit.

Cheryl will ask Dave if he would be interested in buying the gravel (for the cost of storage at Ciampi's)?

**\*more old business later.**

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**Public Hearing** scheduled to solicit public comment and to inform the public about a VTrans Bicycle & Pedestrian Program grant application due 7/26/13, for funding of new sidewalks in Moretown Village on the east side of Route 100B. The total estimated cost of the project is \$375,000, of which 10% of the project cost would be paid for by the town.

Dara Torre explained the proposed sidewalk project (phase 1) and how this section of sidewalk to be reconstructed via the grant was chosen, and about meeting with the selectboard for their approval to go forward with this public hearing and then with a grant application. Dara gave an overview as follows:

- This sidewalk reconstruction will be designed to meet the new ADA Standards, which are 5' wide; curbed sidewalks.
- The project will run from the base of the Moretown Mountain Road village hill, to Hurdle Road, with a cost of \$375,000.
- Project cost include: granite curbs (which are much more durable); engineering; rights – of – way easements if needed; construction; and construction supervision (Project Manager).
- All sidewalk work will remain in the State rights – of – way.
- The five page application is due 7/26/13.
- This hearing is part of the application process.
- The town would need to send a letter of support which includes a commitment for the 10% town match. Dara said if the town is willing to accept less money, it should also be stated in the letter, and how the project would be amended to adjust to the lesser amount awarded.

Public comment included:

- Patty Haynes lives on the east side of Route 100B and therefore her property would be involved in this project. Patty expressed concerns about the sidewalks being 5' wide and curbed. She wonders if it might cut into where bikes travel and also into people's property (because the current sidewalks are about a foot narrower).

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- Rick Haynes spoke about the area in front of their home being narrow; their well is there; a flower garden is there; and the drainage isn't good now. Rick is here to be sure the town is aware that some of the challenges associated with building new sidewalks, are important to the homeowners.
- Dara explained that it would be the position of the project supervisor to work with people to be sure their concerns are addressed; that the plans comply with the new ADA Standards; they address proper drainage; and allow room for safe travel of bikes.
- Lo Thamm lives on the west side of Route 100B in the lower village, outside of this phase of the sidewalk reconstruction. She spoke about the challenge to build a sidewalk in front of her home, which would most likely require a retaining wall. Lo has concerned about that.
- Dara said because of challenges (such as Lo identified) in other phases of the project, and as identified in the feasibility study, is why this phase of the project was chosen to do first. There is also more use of the sidewalk on the east side because of the general store and the elementary school. Dara added that the goal of this project includes traffic calming.

General discussion included:

The project manager would work with people's concerns as they are an important part of the project.

About using a portion of the "Children's Deeryard Fund" to pay the town's share, as the sidewalks certainly benefit the children.

The selectboard will write a letter of support for the project. Dara will forward a draft.

End of Public Hearing

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**\*more Old Business**

**Wimble gravel** – The board believes the gravel is located off Bradley Road behind the cemetery (on South Hill). Martin will get with Carl.

**Classification of class IV roads in the road policy** – The classification listing needs to be approved by the board and added to the road policy. Reed will ask Martin/Norm to come into the August 5<sup>th</sup> board meeting for other road business too, so approval of this list will be tabled until then.

**Blodgett appeal of location of trail #49** – Expert witnesses will be deposed on 7/8/13; and mediation is scheduled for 8/5/13.

**Moretown Landfill business** – There has no response from MLI regarding Rae's 5/28/13 letter to MLI about the security cameras. Tom will contact Mike DiMaggio.

**Village Hill repair** – Reed reported that Martin spoke with Tom Anderson about the need for repair of the Mountain Road village hill; including applying for a VTrans class IV road grant.

**Bridge #41** – There was general discussion about the town paying Austin Construction for a \$24,677.85 overrun from the bridge project. There was also an underrun of \$9,700, resulting in a net overrun of about \$15,000. Rae feels either DuBois and King or Austin Construction should have been in contact with the town for any overrun.

**Town Hall elevator** – Tom reported talking with Joe Gabaree, and Joe should have the elevator ready for Bob Weber (Accessibility Systems) this week.

**Open Meeting Law complaint** – There has been no response from the Attorney General's Office from the selectboard's 5/20/13 letter responding to two complaints for allegedly violating the Open Meeting Law.

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**New Business:**

Tom moved to enter into executive session at 7:45 p.m. to discuss a labor relations agreement with an employee, where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the town and person involved at a substantial disadvantage. The board assistant was invited to stay for the discussion. Michelle seconded. All were in favor.

Tom moved to come out of executive session at 7:55 p.m. Reed seconded. All were in favor.

There was no business as a result of this executive session.

Tom moved to enter into executive session at 7:56 p.m. for contract negotiations, where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the town or person involved at a substantial disadvantage. The board assistant was invited to stay for the discussion. John seconded. All were in favor.

Tom moved to come out of executive session at 8:15 p.m. Michelle seconded. All were in favor.

It was announced that there will be a special meeting held on Wednesday, July 03, 2013 at 7:00 a.m. to continue the discussion on this contract negotiation.

**Over load permits were signed for:** Jack Corse and E. Shatney Trucking

Invoices were reviewed and warrants #'s 34, 35, 37 were approved as submitted. Warrant #36 was reduced by \$24,677.85, the amount Austin Construction invoiced for costs overrun for the construction of Bridge #41. The board signed the warrant as it was amended.

Tom moved to adjourn at 8:30 p.m., Michelle seconded. All were in favor.