

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

Draft – unapproved minutes of the 11/16/15 Selectboard meeting minutes

Board members present: Jason Aronowitz, Tom Martin, John Hoogenboom, Michelle Beard, Rae Washburn arrived about 6:30

Guests included: Travis Blodgett, Tracy Brannstrom – Valley Reporter, Martha Douglass, Jonathan Siegel, Dara Torre, Ron Shems – Town Attorney, John Wakefield – Vt. Air Quality, Matt Chapman – Vt. ANR Attorney, Cheryl Brown as board assistant

Tom called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Public Comment Period:

Travis Blodgett – mentioned that the minutes of 10/19/15 on the website still represent inaccuracies. Tom explained that the 10/19 minutes are still in the process of being corrected.

Travis asked when the public hearing was to alter legal trail #18 (formerly TH #51 Showacre Road). As far as the board knows, trail #18 hasn't been altered, but Martin is checking on that and Travis was supposed to provide photos of the area he proposes as completely altered.

Reports & Communication, Announcements –

Vermont Superior Court – Grow Compost – Notice of voluntary dismissal of Grow Compost of VT LLC revocation appeal entered by the town.

Vermont Transportation Board – Public Hearings – scheduled to gather public comment about highway safety, bike and pedestrian safety and possibly the legalization of marijuana. The is 11/17 at Thatcher Brook School.

Blodgett litigation – Notice of Appeal by Blodgett of the Selectboard decision regarding laying out a new trail and discontinuance of a portion of a trail.

Status conference on Tuesday, December 15th at 1:00 pm at Vt. Superior Court.

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Meeting place change – Michelle noted Duane Pierson is ok with the Selectboard using the school for their winter meetings. The board agreed to move the meeting place. Michelle will contact Duane and arrange for access.

“Spring into Moretown Festival” – Michelle noted that the energy fair seems to be shifting to a community fair. Town participation for the event would be appreciated. Michelle will keep the board informed on any news.

Approval of Minutes –

10/19/15 – After a final review of the 10/19 draft minutes as amended, Jason moved to approve as amended. John seconded. All were in favor.

11/2/15 – Michelle moved to accept the minutes as amended by John to include: *page 2 – Michelle believes Grow Compost is in general a compost facility, but didn't necessarily agree with the language of their “pulling a fast one”; **and during Tom's motion to enter into executive session with Cherilyn, JB and Cheryl were invited to stay for the discussion.*** John seconded. All were in favor.

*Plan for the minutes next time Cheryl needs time off.

- Have a sign-in sheet going forward
- Setup a meeting with Mimi to review how the recorder works; and ask her to attend a Selectboard meeting so she can familiarize herself with the process

OLD BUSINESS:

2016 budget work – A draft worksheet which included department budget requests was reviewed. Jennifer Tripp Meade and Martin Cameron will be invited to the 12/7 selectboard meeting to go over their requests.

The board would like an update from Mike Woods regarding the \$16,000 unspent to date from the 2015 budget, to update the tax maps.

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American Firefighters Grant (AFG) – Cheryl needs to meet with Steve Smith to get the necessary information to sign up for a DUNS number and register the fire department into the Federal SAM system, both of which are necessary elements in applying for the grant to purchase a new tanker.

John Wakefield, Matt Chapman & Ron Shems – re: Grow Compost (GC) appeal settlement conditions – A condition of the appeal against ANR withdrawing GC’s certification was that Moretown residents have a contact person to address any odor issues pertaining to the G C facility and thereby having the means for State enforcement. John Wakefield from Air Quality is that person. He and Matt Chapman were asked to come in and discuss how the process for odors will work going forward, and to discuss concerns about how anonymous calls to John W. have been handled / recorded in the past. Discussion included:

- John is committed to getting to the site of the odor complaint quickly, and he likes to meet with parties involved.
- The method of detecting odors is the nose, and experience. If a complaint leads to a violation and litigation, the testimony of the officer that experienced the odor complaint is the court witness.
- The public will have access to the complaint log per the settlement agreement with ANR.
- Spot checks will be done and included on the complaint log.
- No smells have been detected to date by John at GC.
- The question was asked if GC keeps a log of when they turn their piles or get new materials, to see if odor complaints coincide.
- Question about if State regulations need to be revised; ie: compost/AG combined facilities. Matt believes the current regulations amended six or so years ago are adequate.
- There was discussion about if a person calls an anonymous odor related complaint, John must report that complaint as anonymous, without speculation or recording of who he thinks that person might be. ANR Compliance & Enforcement Division has regulations for anonymous complaints. John understands and respects the comments of the Selectboard.

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Planning Commissioner’s re: Town Plan – Jonathan and Dara are here tonight to pass the Town Plan draft to the Selectboard for adoption. Jonathan explained the changes made since the last draft, such as landfill closure language etc. Also discussed was at the next re-write in five years, talking about removing the “history” section from the Town Plan and having a separate document for historical information. Jon noted that the page numbers need to be included on the website copy.

Michelle moved to accept the town plan draft as written and presented tonight, and to schedule a public hearing on the Town Plan adoption for January 4th. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

Vermont Watershed Grant application – Dara said the grant application is due Friday, for a \$3,500 flood resiliency study. There is no town share, but it might be favorable in the selection process if some money is budgeted ie: \$200.

The Planning Commission would be the applicant. The Selectboard provided a letter of support for the application.

Tom moved that the Board support the grant via a letter provided by Dara tonight, and budget \$200. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

More old business:

Blodgett access - Tom hasn’t heard back yet from Edward Case regarding use of his land for a new access.

Sidewalk project – Still waiting for VTrans to decide if they are going to do anything with bridge #3 (small bridge in the village), so the town knows how to proceed with the sidewalk design plans. We should know in a couple more weeks.

Sandpile screening – Quotes for the trees are pending.

Town Office project – Nothing new to report.

Capital Budget – Jason reported meeting with Steve Smith and Martin Cameron. Next he needs to meet with Cherilyn.

Tax Anticipation Loan is due in June, 2016 – and must be paid prior to the town being able to get another TAN. The town is waiting for \$279K from FEMA for bridge # 41.

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New Business:

11/9/15 Schoolboard meeting minutes – The Selectboard met with the Schoolboard on 11/9/15. Discussed included:

- Commuter parking lot - The town owns the parking lot, and will be maintaining it this winter. Martin will be estimating a cost to do so.
- School consolidation – The idea of consolidation seems to have potential for discussion, and the School Directors are thinking about what consolidation means to the school.
- School budget – There is a favorable budget projection this year.
- Park & Ride grant – A park and ride grant will be applied for to make improvements to the facility. Restrictions for use need to be looked researched.

Warrants for approval – A/P #15057- ck# 17300, 17301, 17303, 17312, 17313

#15058 - ck# 17314 - 17350

#15059 - ck# 17351 – 17364

P/R #15060 - e-ck# 2048 – 2056

Other documents for signature:

Flood loan refinance documents in the amount of \$125,000

Sidewalk expense requisition

GK Services application for credit for uniform rental

Meeting adjourned at 8:35.