

Town of Moretown
Office of the SELECT BOARD

Draft – Unapproved minutes of the 9/17/12 selectboard meeting

Board members present were: Tom Martin, Clark Amadon, Michelle Beard, Reed Korrow, John Hoogenboom

Guests included: Lisa Ransom, Scott Baughman, Dean Moulton, Martin Cameron, Tom Badowski, Steve Garten from SAIC, Bob Sargent, and Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board

Public Comment period – none tonight

Approval of the 9/17/12 minutes - Clark moved; Michelle seconded, to approve the minutes of 9/17/12 as written. All were in favor.

Reports & Communication, Announcements –

Town of Braintree – requesting a description of Moretown’s administrative assistant duties. Cheryl will send them the information.

Ryan Foster – private road name – Ryan requested approval to name a new private road off Cobb Hill Road, Foster Hill Road. Ryan received approval from the E-911 Coordinator prior to submitting tonight’s request.

Tom moved; seconded by John, to approve the new access for Ryan Foster be named Foster Hill Road. All were in favor.

Holly Ward – turning around in the mill yard – Mr. Ward would like the selectboard to somehow stop people from turning around in the mill yard, stating that the dust has a problem with his machinery, or he may have to put up signs. He suggested turning around at the town hall instead.

Discussion followed that the town has no control of vehicles other than the town vehicles. Reed said he will talk with Martin about our trucks turning around someplace other than in the mill yard. During the discussion Martin arrived.

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Martin said it would be a huge inconvenience for the road crew not to be able to turn around in the mill yard to go up the village hill, and wondered if it might be possible to talk with Holly about the town doing dust control.

Scott said there is no way to physically make that corner from Middlesex direction with a long truck.

Tom will talk with Holly to see if the town can work something out so that the town trucks can still use his yard to turn around.

Deborah Feldman – requested a selectboard member be available to respond to any complaints for the next two events planned at the Bliss Ridge Farm. Tom and Michelle will plan to be available if needed.

Letter from Mark Fischer – A letter from Mr. Fischer received on 9/5/12, regarding his thoughts about the cell 4 expansion project, was forwarded to board members earlier. The board will invite Mr. Fischer to the October 1st meeting when other neighbors of the cell 4 project plan to come in.

Tom told Lisa Ransom and Scott Baughman that neighbors near the expansion project have asked to be on the 10/1 agenda, and asked if they want to come as well, or if they have comments they would like addressed tonight.

Lisa said their concerns are being addressed by the DRB and Act 250 at this point.

Misconception that the selectboard had not addressed complaints about the landfill - John said there seems to be a misconception that the selectboard received complaints about the landfill, and did not address them. John made it clear that the selectboard has not received complaints.

PPL Gas to energy project – request for support for the PSB – Tom Badowski provided a draft of a letter for the selectboard to sign that would give town support for PPL, to submit to the Public Service Board when they apply for a certificate of public good to add a third engine to their facility at the Moretown landfill.

The board is hesitant about signing the letter without knowing if PPL needs to go before the Moretown Development Review Board, and want to call John Riley for clarification before anything is signed.

John moved; Clark seconded, to give Tom Martin authority to talk with John Riley for his thoughts about the town supporting PPL's gas to energy project, via a letter to the Public Service Board. John, Clark, Reed and Michelle were in favor. Tom abstained from voting. Motion passed.

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OLD BUSINESS:

Town Offices - Steve Garten from SAIC, hired by the State of Vermont to help towns with financial recovery from FEMA for Tropical Storm Irene, came in tonight to talk with the board about how/what documents need to be submitted to FEMA to get all money we can for a new town office building. Steve said the object is to show FEMA it is beneficial to public good to move the facility, since the old town office building is in a flood plain. Once a plan has been chosen, the board needs to send it to Ben Rose so together they can work toward submitting the proper documents to FEMA for a relocated project.

Steve said we do need to ask for an extension right away though for a change of scope from the original PW, and in the extension request note that the town plans to ask for a “permanent relocation” of the town offices to maximize taxpayer dollars, once a decision has been made about what to do for a town office. Clark will write a narrative for the extension request.

Bridge #41 replacement – Last week the town applied for approval as an “Improved Project”. To date there has been no word from FEMA. Cheryl will give it another 10 days or so, and if there hasn’t been word by then she will ask Ben Rose for a status report.

Highway business – Martin reported:

- The back side of the common TH# 05 – Martin plans to work with Norm to stabilize the portion of the bank that faulted this spring.
- There is a large wash at the bottom of TH#05, just off the pavement, that was caused by Irene but missed during the initial assessment. Since the original work was a large project (over \$63,000) we need to ask for a scope change for the Th#05 PW, to include the newly discovered damages – submit photo’s, Lat/Long, estimates from contractors for the work etc., with the request for change.
- The village hill needs ditching work. Martin said we should rent a rubber tracked machine to do the work. He will get quotes.

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- We need temporary help for snowplowing small roads this year.
- The Ward Brook erosion problem will be repaired by the road crew.
- Sidewalks in the village need repairs. Martin thinks the road crew should patch them which might help short term, because their poor condition is hard on the equipment when snowblowing. The board approved the road crew to do patch work on the sidewalks.
- The town still needs to haul about 1,000 cy of road sand. Martin will review the budget and possibly hire a contractor to haul 500 cy of it. The road crew would haul the rest.
- Equipment to snowblow/mow. There was discussion about the need to upgrade the John Deere tractor with a multi-purpose heavy duty unit.
- The town will maintain the school parking lot this winter. Martin met with Duane Pierson about the school's needs for maintenance. The road crew will smooth up the yard so it's easier to plow.
- Knotweed – Martin had a conversation with the State knotweed coordinator that will be heading the upcoming seminar that the road crew plans to attend. The coordinator would like to take photos of the stockpile of river gravel that shows evidence of knotweed to us as an example for the class if the board approves. The board had no problem with that.
- Dickerson Road guardrails – F.R. LaFayette will be re-installing the guardrails that had to be taken down in order to do flood repairs. It was not part of E.A. Grandfield's contract to put the rail back up once the work was done.
- A High Risk Rural Road grant will pay for new signage on the Moretown Mountain Road. Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission – Transportation Division helped Martin with a survey of the needs and with the grant application that is due September 24th. Currently John Hoogenboom has the application and will drop it off to Martin for mailing. Guidelines for road signage has changed so the new signage for the Mountain Road will be 1' high with 9" lettered green reflective sign.

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Hurdle Road signage - John is still working on the visibility of the stop sign exiting Hurdle Road onto Route 100B, partially covered by Frank Piazza's shrubs.

Investment Policy – John will talk more with Craig Eilers about being on the investment council; the board will further review the policy and invite Don LaRocca to the 10/1 selectboard meeting.

New Business:

Snowplow/fuel bids - Bids will go out for snowplowing, and are due 10/1/12. Fuel bids will go out in May or June next year.

Temporary Road help - The board will advertise for temporary road help to snowplow roads this winter.

Class IV Road Maintenance Policy – Michelle provided a final draft for thoughts from the board and/or for adoption if approved tonight.

- There are a few class IV roads that Martin doesn't know where they are exactly, but he said someone in town might be able to identify at least some of them, so there will probably only be 2 or 3 class IV roads that the location is unidentifiable.
- Changing the wording for group B; doing away with it altogether; or doing away with offering landowners a choice for a yearly upgrade, fearing that if significant work were done to a group B road by a landowner/manager, it could be upgraded to group A classifications costing the town more money than what is currently being spent.
- Dean Moulton thought if there are roads that can't be identified they should be thrown up so the town doesn't have to pay for surveys at some point. He said why allow a road you can't find to exist, and talked about "phantom" roads. Dean also questioned improvements to group B classified roads to the extent that would change the classification and warrant additional maintenance by the town.
- Written notice will be sent, along with a copy of the adopted policy, to all residents impacted by the policy adoption.
- Martin will work to find the currently unidentified class IV roads.

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Reed moved; seconded by Clark, to **adopt the Class IV Road and Trails Policy** with the minor change to a word on page 1 (last paragraph – residents may request yearly a change in *grouping*..) from classification to grouping.

More discussion:

Finding the missing roads is a separate issue from adoption of this policy, because the policy is about maintaining the roads we have now in a consistent and fair manner;

Dean's suggestion about discontinuing class IV roads that can't be located is an important issue that the board should think about and discuss at a later meeting;

About if a group B road is significantly improved to group A conditions (for a development etc.), the town would have to provide class A maintenance, but that could be prevented by use of the Road Maintenance Permits.

Vote: Reed, Clark, Tom and Michelle were in favor. John voted no, thinking Dean's suggestion should be considered before the adoption. Motion passed.

Michelle will provide a clean copy. The selectboard thanked everyone on the Class IV road maintenance committee for their hard work.

Invoices were reviewed and Warrant #'s 60, 61, 62, 63 were approved as submitted.

Other documents approved:

Safe Routes to School grant agreement - A Maintenance Agreement between the State and Moretown was signed, for a Safe Routes to School Grant, to implement highway safety improvements relating to school-age children walking and bicycling to school. The improvements include signage, pavement markings, sidewalk improvements on town highways, and radar speed feedback signs.

Overload permit for Huntington Homes, Inc. was signed.

Liquor License from Hyzer Industries, Inc., was approved for the 9/22 event at the Bliss Ridge Farm.

Clark moved; seconded by John, to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. All were in favor.