

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

DRAFT – Notice of unapproved minutes of the 8/17/15 Selectboard meeting

5 pm – Site visit on Calvin & Nancy Blodgett property where the new access to town trail #49 is being proposed.

6 pm – Public hearing for testimony related to the relocation of town trail #49 access, and discontinuance of the old access

Board members: Michelle Beard, Jason Aronowitz, John Hoogenboom, Tom Martin, Rae Washburn

Guests included: Nancy Blodgett, Calvin Blodgett, Paul Hannon as surveyor hired by Blodgett, Steve Cusick as council for Blodgett, Guy Martin, Joe Martin, Edward Case, Luke Case, Martin Cameron, Martha & Tom Douglass, Travis Blodgett, Brooke Dingleline as council for T. Blodgett, Georgiana Miranda, Dean Moulton, Henry Lewis, Liz Harris, Sarah Nussbaum, Jennifer Tripp-Meade, Don LaRocca, Mimi Clark, and Cheryl Brown as board assistant.

Tom called tonight's meeting to order at 6:10 pm and the hearing began.

TESTIMONY INCLUDED:

Steve Cusick opened the hearing by saying that the proposed new route is a good faith effort by the Blodgett's, and a good way to end this long running dispute of a road going through his garage and apartment and septic. They believe the new access is just as adequate as the old access.

Luke Case said as long as everything is kept on the left side of the fence line, he doesn't see a problem with the access.

Martha Douglass asked for the definition of legal trail. The board didn't have that statute handy.

Guy Martin asked who is going to pay for bringing the road so that a vehicle can cross the brook, so it is the same standard as it was 5 years ago.

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Guy went on to state that since 1989 the access has been by Travis Blodgett's current house. There has been no access since Tropical Storm Irene happened in 2011.

Joe Martin indicated that he lived where the Blodgett's live now and there was an existing wooden bridge where the old access is.

Travis Blodgett stated that there are lots of accesses to this trail, but that doesn't mean they are legal accesses. Travis loves the proposed access.

Martin Cameron said if the town builds a bridge across the brook we would need a permit from the State.

Georgiana Miranda read the definition of Trail from VSA Title 19 Section 442 (3), saying after that this is a trail, not a road, so you aren't going to have to worry about a vehicle access. She stated she also understands that Mr. Martin has another access. Mr. Martin disagreed.

Kathleen Skomitz said in 1984 the right of way was where the bridge was. She bought the property with that access and was able to drive to her residence where the Blodgett houses are now. Now she can't get to her property. The proposed access won't give her what she had before. She isn't happy with the proposal.

David Gage said he is happy this is coming to an end.

Nancy Blodgett said this has gone on way too long, saying they have bent over backwards for the town.

Calvin Blodgett said he had been here longer than the Martin's, and the bridge was not on town property. The bridge led to a farm. It wasn't a town road. The town's surveyor said it wasn't the town trail.

Paul Hannon, surveyor said the town is not responsible for maintaining bridges on legal trails. The issue tonight is moving one trail location to the other. Which is less disruptive? One would remove the trail from the Blodgett's yard. Both areas have challenges as they are pretty rugged areas.

Brooke Dingedine came at this time, and asked if there was testimony tonight about the old access.

Tom Martin told Brooke that tonight's testimony is about to close, and that she should have been present for the hearing.

The hearing ended and testimony closed. The Selectboard has 60 days to make a formal decision.

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General Public Comment Period:

Liz Harris – Liz said she has been woken up early from G W Tatro trucks in the sand pit. Tatro trucks have been working for the town and using the sand pit as a storage yard. She has no problem with the town road crew doing their winter maintenance early morning/nights, but the noise from Tatro is not acceptable. When asked what she thought the solution might be, she said build a tall berm. A berm would also hide the sand pile and area.

Discussion followed about replacing the shrubs with trees suitable for the environment; and about restricting the contractors hours that use the town's sand pit for staging via a policy, that they can't begin work / start equipment until 7 am. Also discussed was asking the State for guidance relating to screening for the sand pit area. John will investigate pricing for trees to replace the shrubs.

Martha Douglass said a nearby town is having problems with squatters and wonders if Moretown has a squatters ordinance. We do not.

OLD BUSINESS:

Henry Lewis water issue – Henry asked if the town found an answer to his water problem. He said that when ditches were dug deep 10 – 12 years ago he began having water problems on his property. It appears a curtain drain is the only thing that will work.

After site visits it isn't clear whether or not this is indeed a road related problem. It was agreed that the town will do the labor to install a curtain drain if Henry buys the materials. Martin will give Henry a price for the materials and he will decide from there if he will pay for the materials.

Moretown Mountain Road renovation – Rae said the road crew did the drainage work and the paving is done.

Martin said GW Tatro still needs to do the line marking and shoulder work.

Meeting minutes – Mimi Clark came in as a result of the ad placed for a person interested in taking minutes for various town boards and committees.

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Mimi explained her work experience, her life in Moretown, and her willingness to serve her community.

The rate of pay for this work is \$15.38 per hr.

John moved to hire Mimi Clark as Moretown’s official minute taker. Jason seconded. All were in favor.

For now Mimi will take minutes for the Planning Commission and the Development Review Board and to cover for Cheryl if she is unavailable or on vacation.

Road Crew vacancy – Applications are due August 20th. To date none have been received.

Grow Compost appeal mediation – No date has been set. Once a date is set the board will decide who will attend.

Old town office building – Rae reported the old town office was torn down today. Does the board want to remove the slab? No. The slab will remain for now.

Reports & Communication, Announcements –

ICS – disaster recovery training – Selectboard members will attend ICS training on Wednesday, August 19, 2015. A special meeting will be warned as there may be a quorum. At least one member of the Selectboard must attend the training in order for the town to be eligible for Emergency Management and Homeland Security disaster grants.

Neighborhood Watch – Don LaRocca asked about the status of signage for Neighborhood Watch. Cheryl indicated that she is waiting until the areas for the “Watch” have been organized and someone has been assigned the liaison to authorities before ordering more signage. So far Hathaway Road has signage.

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New Business:

Library business – Sarah and Jennifer came in to tell the Selectboard about consultants they have hired via donations for programming. They were asked to come in tonight and explain the programmers work and the expense as it relates to the town budget.

The expense is paid via a donation not town funds and so the Trustees can set the hourly rates of pay/hours instead of following the town pay scale.

Sarah and Jennifer talked about two free sites offered to Moretown Library card holders for access to audiobooks and ebooks; ListenUp Vermont, offered through Green Mountain Library Consortium; and OneClickDigital which is similar to ListenUp Vermont but offers different features. Bluetooth compatibility is available

Blodgett hearing testimony deliberation – Tom moved to enter into deliberation for the Blodgett trail decision. Michelle seconded. All were in favor.

Tom moved out of deliberative session at 8:55; John seconded. All in favor. There was no action taken as the result.

Bids for compaction testing services – Bids were received from Vermont Testing and Knight Consulting Engineers. It was unclear from Vermont Testing’s proposal what the total estimate was.

Henry Erickson will be asked to contact Vermont Testing for a maximum price or maximum hours estimated to do the work.

Approval of Minutes:

8/3/15 – John moved; Michelle seconded to approve the minutes of 8/3/15. All were in favor.

8/6/15 – John moved; Michelle seconded to approve the minutes of 8/6/15. All were in favor.

Warrants approved were:

Warrant # 15040 – e check # 1973-1983 / Check # 17083

Warrant # 15041 – Check # 17084-17119

Tom moved to adjourn at 9:05; John seconded. All were in favor.