

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

**Draft** – unapproved minutes of the 1/4/16 Selectboard meeting

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

Guests: Cherilyn Brown, Jonathan Siegel, Tracy Brannstrom, Dare Torre, Cheryl Brown as board assistant

Tom called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**Public Comment period:** No one was present to offer public comment tonight.

**Reports & Communication, Announcements:**

**Rachael Beuchler** – sent an email asking to use the Moretown meeting room (town hall) for her business Grateful Path Dog Training.

After consideration of concerns about the wood flooring upstairs and tile in the basement, it was concluded that there will be no type of animal related events allowed in the town hall. Cheryl will let Rachael know.

**Vermont Agency of Natural Resources** – Notifying the town that the Mad River Resource Management Alliance has not submitted a revised draft Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP), and the town is currently out of compliance. Recognized is the fact that John Malter has family issues he is dealing with, the board (through John H.) will ask John M. for an update on the plan and how the town can help.

**Sidewalk update** – Received from Rachael Beauregard of VTrans were plans designed by the State to add sidewalks to the small bridge (#3) in Moretown Village, during its reconstruction. The Town and State will continue negotiations relating to cost, and schedule the work once the board approves the plan.

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Tom moved to accept the bridge plan designed by VTrans and received 12/28/15, contingent that the cost to the town does not exceed the amount budgeted in the grant application. John seconded. All were in favor.

**Vermont Department of Historic Preservation re: SunCommon project** – Email received from VDHP evaluation of the proposed solar array project on Howes Road. VDHP concludes that the solar array project will have an adverse effect not undue on any historic sites that are listed in or eligible for inclusion in the State Register of Historic Places, provided that a natural species vegetative screen is placed along the western, northern and southern edges of the array.

**A Proposal to change the date for the Informational Meeting** – was put on Moretown Front Porch Forum for comments about having the pre-town meeting informational meeting a week earlier than usual. Two comments were received, both against the idea. No change will be made this year.

*News from Michelle* –

**Delinquent taxes** – Michelle reported talking with Craig Eilers about returning the delinquent tax penalties assessed on the 2015 taxes that were on day late. Craig respectfully declined.

Having a delinquent tax policy listing steps, including forms taxpayers can use if they want to abate their taxes, or a portion thereof. A lengthy discussion followed about having a grace period; or just having payments due the next business day if November 1<sup>st</sup> falls on a weekend. The conclusion was; no grace period will be offered, and taxes will be due on the first business day following the due date if the due date falls on a weekend. Taxpayers who were late in paying their 2015 taxes will be sent a form listing abatement guidelines/process for abating penalty and interest. Any abatement request will go before the Board of Civil Authority where the taxpayer can present evidence for their request for abatement.

**Inventory what is in our town buildings** – All department heads will be asked to provide a written inventory of what we have in our town buildings including make, model, serial number etc. when available.

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Becky will take an inventory of tables, chairs, plates etc., after each rental so costs can be subtracted from any rental deposit if anything needs to be replaced.

**American Firefighters Grant** – On 12/31/15, the fire department applied for a grant for \$325,000 to buy a combination pumper/tanker truck.

**Vacation/Sick leave on pay stubs** – Cherilyn indicated that she plans to set up the payroll system to track vacation time.

**Snow removal of the walk ways etc., at the new town office** – Who will maintain the walkways in the winter will be worked out when needed.

**SunCommon Howes Road Solar Array public comment period** - The question came up whether or not the Selectboard can still submit public comment to the PSB because they filed a notice to intervene. Michelle will find out.

**7:00 – Public Hearing for adoption of the Moretown Town Plan** – Jonathan Siegel and Dara Torre from the Moretown Planning Commission were present. There were no questions.

Comments included emphasis that some of the history ie: Moretown Common historic structures were removed from this draft, and perhaps they should be re-added. In the end, there were no changes made to the draft. There was also discussion that Rutland adopted a Resolution that towns have more say in all applications. Jason will provide a copy to the board.

Rae moved to adopt the Town Plan as presented by the Planning Commission on 11/16/15. Michelle seconded. All were in favor.

## **NEW BUSINESS –**

**Grow Compost** – Letter from James Dumont to Clancy DeSmet of District 5, requesting a ruling from the District firming that there is no longer Act 250 jurisdiction. Mr. Dumont’s letter goes on to state that Grow Compost has no plan or intention of resuming nonexempt activity or nonexempt land use at the site.

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**Reclassification of town roads** – There will be discussion in February about reclassification of some class III roads to class IV roads, that may not be up to class III standards.

**2016 town budget work –**

- Budget - Michelle said she has more work to do regarding the pay scale. She asked for a current pay scale for all employees; and job descriptions from Cheryl for Town Administrator and Grant Manager; and Cherilyn for Town Clerk and Treasurer, including number of years on the job and training/experience.
- The heating budget for the library was reduced by another \$500. No other changes were made from the last draft.

There will be a special meeting on 1/11/16 at 6 pm to finish the budget.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Blodgett trail access** – Tom reported meeting with Calvin Blodgett and Rob Townsend and walked the small area that Mr. Case agreed be used for a new access to the Blodgett trail. Rob is working on a preliminary drawing for the Selectboard and Mr. Case to look over.

**Other documents signed –**

**2016 Certificate of Highway Mileage**

Warrant approved and verified –

P/R #15069            ck# 17439            e-check # 2079-2087

A/P #15070            ck# 17440-17452 and #17455

A/P #16001            ck# 17456-17475

Tom moved; Michelle seconded to adjourn at 8:50 pm. All were in favor.