

**Town of Moretown**  
**Selectboard Minutes**  
**8/05/2019**

**Board Members Present:** John Hoogenboom, Rae Washburn, Callie Streeter, Jason Aronowitz, (Tom Martin was not present).

**Guests Present:** Stefan Pratt, Mari Pratt, Garrett Bergey, Erin Affronti, Jerry & Wilma Maynard, Nick Logan, Don Wexler, Frank Piazza, Marilyn Spaulding, Katie Martin, Fred Messer, Jamie Murphy, Steven Reissig, Deborah Carroll, Cheri Lundblad, Sue Zekas and Sasha Elwell-Badore

**Meeting was called to order** at 6:00 pm by John.

**Public Comment:** Mari Pratt voiced concerns with the Fire Department not being able to get to her or others, throughout the bridge closure. She lives in Duxbury and is serviced by Moretown's Fire Department. Also, concerned about the dirt roads that will be affected by this project as well.

**VTrans Bridge Presentation started at 6:10 pm:** Rob Young (VTrans), Fianna Barrows (VTrans) and Jennifer Zorn (with McFarland Johnson) were present to communicate the details on the bridge replacement project. The bridge over the Mad River on Route 100B will be closed from June to August 2020 for this construction. This bridge was constructed in 1928 and is now rated at a 5, meaning it is in fair shape. They showed slides of what has been discovered underneath the bridge with deterioration. The bridge will be altered, to have a little less of a curve to it, and widened. It is presently 59' and will be lengthened to 92'. It will be widened from 10' presently to 11' 4". It will be constructed of a pre-fabricated concrete deck on steel girders. The surface will be grooved concrete and not pavement. The new expected life expectancy of the bridge will be for 75 years. VTrans plans on holding another public meeting about a month before the closure, either in April or May 2020. Rob Young will be reaching out to the town regarding the Local By Pass Grant to assist with the extra expenses to the town due to this bridge closure, such as, dust control, grading and/or law enforcement. John H voiced concern about the "mess" (being closure of the 100B bridge over Mad River in Moretown, just north of the Moretown dam. Detour signage was poor, too much traffic on Moretown Common Rd and no enforcement) the town had with the last bridge construction near the Moretown Common. He would like to see more law enforcement. Sue Zekas is concerned about people using their driveway as a turn around and having more wear and tear that shouldn't be. A few people voiced concern about the river flow being impacted, and Rob assured them that the new bridge will be higher, so it should not impact that at all. It will be wider, therefore having increased velocity. There will be concrete put into the bedrock, which will make it stronger. Jennifer Zorn, said that she is available through email for any questions that arise. She also put in that there would be email updates on the project, so as everyone can be informed of progress. There was much concern voiced about the projects going on next year between the bridge, sidewalks and paving of Route 100B. Residents are hoping that the pavement project

will be done after the bridge construction, that way there is less construction traffic. Rob advised that the contractors will set up meetings with the emergency services that will be affected by this project, about two weeks before the start of this closure.

Rae will get with Martin on a continuing issue on Pony Farm Road near Nick Logan's house, that has been an ongoing concern.

The presentation concluded at 6:45 pm.

David Specht, Zoning Administrator asked the board for approval on a new private road name, for the Shephard's on Route 2. They would like their new road to be named Rock Bridge Drive, where they have a permit for 3 new buildings consisting of 3 apartments in each. Jason made a motion to accept, seconded by Callie. All were in favor.

David also wanted to address zoning application fees for deconstruction, asking for a minimum fee of \$20 along with the recording fee of \$15. Rae made a motion to have the deconstruction permit happen with no fee for the permit, John seconded. Rae added that having reduced taxes will be an incentive enough for resident's, making sure they complete a permit so that the listers can re-assess. All were in favor.

John H communicated that he has been speaking with Doug Henson on the "Lone Pine", at the corner of Moretown Mountain Road and Rachel Miltner's property. It seems that this is the last piece of the puzzle for the sidewalk project, and it is actually in the state right of way. In which case, the state will have the ultimate say on whether it is cut down or not. The Board feedback on this was, if it is really a danger, then yes, cut it. Cost is in question, and it's an opportunity to get the intersection improved. John, being the tree warden, Rae asked what he thought about it. John said that he usually defends the tree, but this is a difficult one. Rae thinks that it should go and Jason would like to think about it. Callie seemed a bit neutral and John said that he was going to get back with Doug Henson, getting more information. All were in agreement that, it is a great tree, just in the wrong place.

There was a letter of complaint about Erick Titrud, received from John Martin on Route 100B. John H feels that it is not a Selectboard issue, but in the letter, Erick is taking action as the DRB. So, the Board would like the letter forwarded to John Riley, the chairman of the DRB.

Minutes from 7/15/2019 were spoken about. Rae wanted it clear that he did not speak with everyone involved with the Steve Magill complaint. He felt that the problem was solved after speaking with Steve, so there was no need in talking to anyone else. Also, John wanted to have it made clear, the wording for going into executive session was incorrect as well. It should have been noted that it was for reason #3, because he read out loud the whole thing entirely. For employee evaluation, under reason #3, the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee, provided that the public body shall make a final decision to hire or appoint a public officer or employee in an open meeting and shall explain the reasons for its final decision during the open meeting. Rae moved to accept the corrections and Jason seconded. All were in favor.

John wanted it noted that the wording for reason #3 on the 7/29/2019 minutes, was worded perfectly. John moved to accept and Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Jason asked if they were prepared to talk regarding paying back the reserve fund and whether or not there should be an article for it or just put it in the budget. John thinks that it could just be a line item on the budget. But there will need to be more discussion on this topic.

John read Michelle Beard's letter of resignation, after a bit of discussion the Board would like her to come to the next meeting to talk about what is going on. The Board did not vote to accept her letter, as of yet.

It was communicated that the bleachers have yet to be disassembled, due to being unsafe. It was something that was going to be taken down over a year ago and they are still intact, according to information from Duane Pierson. He asked since the ball was dropped, so to speak, if this was something that the road crew could possibly get done. Rae was going to speak with Martin on this.

The Board was made aware of a state hearing and site visit that is scheduled for September 9, 2019 at 11:30 am. The Board was invited to attend this, it will be held at the Town Office. It's an effort to wrap up some paperwork with a small piece of land in town, having to do with the bridge construction project.

**Warrants signed:** P/R 19040 and A/P 19041

Rae moved to adjourn at 7:45 pm, John seconded. All were in favor.