

**Town of Moretown
Selectboard Meeting
9/16/2019**

Board Members Present: Tom Martin, John Hoogenboom, Rae Washburn, Callie Streeter, Jason Aronowitz.

Guests Present: Denise Gabaree, Elga Gemst, Jamie Wimble, Elizabeth Burt, Karen Sharpwolf, Jennifer Hill, Cory & Chris Stephenson, John Atkinson, Dara Torre.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm, by Tom. John moved to go into Executive Session at 6:03 pm for, after making a specific finding that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage: confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body. Callie seconded. All were in favor. Motion to exited Executive Session at 6:08 pm by John. Callie seconded. All were in favor. No decisions were made.

Public Comment: Denise Gabaree came in to speak about the liability insurance on the town hall, and asked if there was a way to simplify the process in renting the town hall. She ended up contacting VLCT, and wondered if there could be links on the website or contract added. She also wanted to voice her opinion on the library moving for the winter and thinks that downstairs at the town hall would be best.

Library Trustees came in to present ideas for moving the library to either the town office or to the town hall. Elga measured the town office meeting room and the functionality of it was eliminated, due to the space being so small. She presented some ideas on a diagram with different furniture options, so as to preserve the features that the town hall has. Such as not hiding the display quilts, book shelves not covering windows, etc. Tom and Rae met with some of the library trustees on Sunday at the town hall, to brainstorm and see what the layout and challenges would be. An opinion was voiced that it has lots of potential, it's just a matter of finding a balance between the upstairs and downstairs. Tom voiced that keeping balance on both sides is a must, between the town and the library. It was suggested that possibly putting the children's books on the stage would work, and another was to have indoor/outdoor carpet on the basement floor. Along with some "comfy" furniture, to make the space more appealing. The front door should not be the main entrance used, it should be encouraged that the basement side door be utilized due to the blast of cold air that comes from opening the big door. It was also mentioned that the ceiling in the basement makes it feel very small, an idea was voiced that exposed duct work seems to be an "in" thing these days. So, taking that out would possibly be an option as well. To brighten it up and not feel quite so closed in. Someone tossed out the option of asking the landfill if the space the town office used after Irene could be used, Tom & Rae agree that the library should be in the village and not across town. Cory voiced concern about moisture and mold in the books, if it were moved to the basement. That is something that does spread and would contaminate the other books when the library moved back into their building. Also, that having the two floors is something that Joslin is having an

issue/challenges with, security and keeping an eye on things would be difficult. Cory thinks that the downstairs would be great, just very hesitant about the moisture. Tom pointed out to her that the town office vault, which is brand new, has had humidity issues. He thinks that this needs to be figured out and work together on doing this project. Elizabeth presented numbers to the board regarding the cost of occupying vs. being empty at the town hall. There was brief discussion on what bills would be eliminated and others that would be cut down. The heat would need to still be on at the library (minimally), even though there are no pipes, just for the moisture factor and keeping the books that would be left there in good shape. Tom asked Elga for a drawing of the downstairs, a proposal that could work. Tom brought up the elections, just so that all are aware of the fact that that has to be in the mix and not forgot about. Town Meeting is always held at the town hall. Jamie said that they have a meeting warned for tomorrow (meaning Tues Sept 17) and Jennifer will get in touch with Sasha on Wed, in regards to their meeting and more brainstorming the committee comes up with. She confirmed the correct email and phone number since there was trouble with the initial email letter sent from the Trustees to the Selectboard. Elizabeth asked the board for an extension on submitting their budget since they have a meeting Oct 10 and will be discussing it at that time. The board was fine with them getting it in after that meeting. Tom pointed out that this planning is a great first phase to the temporary fix, a good stepping point. Then after this gets going, then there could be a committee formed for working on a permanent fix. Cory would like it noted that they are not trying to "get around" a town vote on this. Before the next meeting Rae is going to look deeper into the water issue at the town hall and Tom is going to work on the flooring issue, so that there should be some information on the "fixes" that are needed for this move. The next meeting is October 7, 2019. The library portion of the meeting was done at 7:00 pm.

Rae wanted to recap on the library, and confirm that everyone was on the same page, that a concrete decision will be made on the library in October. All agreed. At 7:10 pm Tom needed to leave due to travel for his job. John took over the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Energy Committee: Dara Torre came in to update the board on the Energy Committee. They have been working with the CVRPC and planning on working with the Moretown Planning Commission at the town hall on September 24. The plan is to have a solid draft to the board by December and hold their public hearing and have the Selectboard hold their part of the public hearing in the first quarter of the year, 2020. Dara asked that the board look over and go through the plan, particularly pages 12-24, in the table format. She would like them to touch base with her after going over it, for feedback. The bullet point topics are building quality, heat and transportation. The committee reached out to people at Morefest and received some great input. They heard a lot of "buzz" on the parking in Montpelier. Transportation is usually a hot topic. For future they would like to see electric trucks and municipal buildings have EV charging stations. Dara's thought on it was that the paving project needed to be completed before exploring options for those stations. Dara got her hands on a copy of a winning grant applications for EV charging stations, so that some pointers can be taken from that when the time comes. She will be reaching out to Sasha with a link for the draft plan along with updated information on the Energy Committee to be posted on the town website. Discussion was had on reviewing the plan with the Selectboard and needing to figure out how often it should be updated.

Recreation Committee: John Atkinson from the Recreation Committee/Mad River Riders came to speak to the board at 7:30 pm. He came in to get the board's approval on applying for a grant to do some improvements to the nature trail behind the school and install a skills park in the back field. It would be made of natural materials harvested locally, he thinks it would be fun to run and bike it. The upgrade to the trails would be addressing the tough, steep grade of the trail, to make it not so difficult. He will be sending a map to the board to show what they are looking into doing. John H spoke with John A about the selective timber harvesting of land, and suggested they have a forester come in and do a review for them. They also spoke about working on the Town Forest Management Plan, the current plan is expiring in 2020. John A pointed out that insurance/liability would be insured through Mad River Riders, although there has not been a documented issue thus far. The deadline for the applying for the grant is October 31, 2019, so he would like to get moving on the proposal. John H made the motion to allow John Atkinson with the Recreation Committee to move forward on applying for the grant on this project. Callie seconded. There were a few more questions and then all were in favor.

Reports and Communications:

The board wanted it noted that all of them had seen the letters from Chris Butsch (concerns about the library moving to the town hall), Laura Schaller (thanking the board for the schoolboard letter) and Peter Langella (thanking the board for the schoolboard letter). Catrina Brackett had sent a letter to the board regarding concern at the schoolboard meeting, on talk of the small amount of land that the Moretown Elementary School owns. Tom asked for Sasha to look this information up and she said that she had worked on it with Cheryl last Friday, finding that there is 2.10 acres with the school. The concern was in the negative, and as you review the MOU, "the use of..." and are being charged for half of the maintenance and use of the land, it implies that the school has access to the Town's land. The board feels it needs to be shown as a positive. John voiced that the town needs to make its presence known at the schoolboard meetings. And Tom would like as many as possible to make the schoolboard meetings.

Rae spoke about Halloween and that he had been approached by someone with the suggestion of having a town truck at each end of the village with the orange caution light going on Halloween, for the safety of the trick or treaters. The board thought that it would be a great idea and have it in place for 2-3 hours near the spots where the speed drops down to 30 MPH. All agreed on it.

David Specht asked for the Selectboard's approval on going to a Zoning Training and asked that the town pay for half of it and he was going to ask Duxbury to pay for the other half, each town will pay for \$175. Rae made the motion to approve. Jason seconded. All were in favor.

Minutes amended from 9/03/2019, correct Kristen Hagen to Kristen Geohagen and add her name to the list of guests. On page 2 Jason wanted the sentence taken out, that he stated that a lot can change in three years, also that Cory had said 6,000 books to be moved, wasn't correct. 6,000 books is about what the library has in all. Rae moved to approve the minutes as amended. John seconded. All were in favor. Minutes from 9/09/2019, Rae made the motion to approve. John seconded. All were in favor. Jason abstained, since he was absent from this meeting.

Quick discussion was had on the schoolboard protocols and item G. All agreed that they would speak on this at a future meeting.

Rae said that he still had not had a chance to talk to the Road Crew about maintenance, but plans on doing it when he can.

A question was tossed out questioning if it's possible to have two dwellings on a property, does there need to be a subdivision? The board felt that that is something to ask the Zoning Admin or send the person questioning it to the Zoning Admin.

Jason asked if Sasha had success with Dan Currier regarding the Road Maintenance System. She let him know that he is planning on attending a Selectboard meeting in October.

Errors & Omissions: Edward & Alison Richardson parcel was corrected 5B-069.000 by the listers. Value went from \$418,000 to \$419,700. Acreage correction. The board approved it.

NEMRC contract was signed for their yearly services.

Warrants: 19046 A/P; 19047 P/R; 19048 A/P were approved and signed.

John made the motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm. Jason and Callie seconded. All were in favor.