

**Town of Moretown  
Selectboard Meeting  
Via conference call  
06/01/2020**

**Board Members Present:** Tom Martin, John Hoogenboom, Rae Washburn, Callie Streeter, Don Wexler

**Guests:** Cherilyn Brown, Cheryl Brown, Sasha Elwell-Badore

**Meeting called to order** at 6:02 pm by Tom

**Public Comment:** There was none. John updated the SB on the Lone Pine, it came down on Monday (6/01). He described the process and was very impressed with how smoothly it went. He said that David Westerman and Michael Brown both stepped up and have some ideas for some of the wood from the tree. They are willing to volunteer the time to make some items for the town to enjoy.

**Abatement Hearing for Linda Vantine 6:05:** Cherilyn explained that the Governor passed a temporary Statute for the Selectboard to be able to conduct Abatement Hearings, due to the Covid-19. Normally it would be the Board of Abatement. Linda Vantine is asking for the board to abate the remainder of her taxes, \$2760.81, she has made an attempt to pay even though she has had a hardship. There was discussion about who's name is on the tax bill, there are three people responsible for the bill. There was no motion made, the SB would like more evidence to make a more informed decision. John recalled previous Abatements, with similar circumstances and would like to look back and see what was decided on those as well.

Cherilyn let the SB know that the Grievance Hearing were held last week. The Listers have 7 days to make decisions from the date of the hearing. The landowner has 14 days from the date of mailing of the result of grievance notice in which to appeal to the Board of Civil Authority. Then the grand list can be lodged, and the SB can then set the tax rate once tax appeals are finalized.

**Sidewalk update 6:20:** John advised that construction will be starting where the Lone Pine was, next week. Rae said that Dubois is done at the fire department as of that Monday. He also advised that things are looking pretty good and the storm drains should be done by the end of the month. He said that they will have a water truck on site starting Tuesday to help keep the dust under control.

John was concerned because a group of little kids were in the village, on a treasure hunt. He stated that there is too much construction going on right now for that to be happening.

There were concerns discussed about the traffic into the school/town office. It is only one way, by entering the driveway for the school and exiting by School Street on the town office side. Dubois is getting some new signs and they should be up by Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Rae inquired about the requisition being sent to John late in the day and John said he saw it and it looks good. He will be getting that over to Cherilyn.

Brief discussion was had on the catch basin near Deborah Carroll's residence. Rae said that he has spoken with Deborah and there is no reason for rip rap stone at the end of the old drain pipe. She asked about "clean-up", after the job is done. Rae said that she would have no problem with paying for it, as it wouldn't be much of a charge. Since Dubois' machines are right there, it would be easier to do since the propane tank and septic system is so close by. Rae said that it could be done by the end of the project.

Nothing new on the Bridge construction.

**Reports & Communications 6:30:** Don had not heard back from the Waitsfield Selectboard. There was some brief discussion on signage on Pony Farm. There are some kids interested in making some signs, to go along with the campaign of "drive as if your kids live here...". Tom feels that the VSP should be called any time there is an issue. If they know there is a problem, it would mean more patrolling. Callie spoke up and said that speeding is an issue on all of the back roads, without there being construction.

John reached out to Catrina Brackett with concerns. She in turn advised that the former MECA group will be doing most of their activities in various locations in Waitsfield this summer. It is still a bit confusing as to what happened and why it was changed over to non-profit. Duane Pierson set up the MECA program and from what was understood, it was making money. Kristen and Lisa are going to be reached out to, to see what happened with that program and if the schoolboard had anything to do with it.

It was brought up and discussed that Brigid Nease's contract is up for renewal. The vote is on June 10, whether or not to extend the contract. It was unanimous that she needs to move on. Tom made the motion to send a letter in support of not renewing her contract. John seconded. Everyone agreed that it would be a good first step. All were in favor. Sasha will prepare a letter for approval to send to the schoolboard members.

Tom received a letter from Ellie Ferris about the placing of a snowplow, he spoke with Martin on this and it was not intentionally done. They will be moving it on Tuesday and tidying up that area as well. There has been quite a bit of traffic in and out of the sand pit and signage may be needed there. Don would like to find a volunteer in town to see how that area could be redesigned so that river access can be safer.

Tom announced that the board needed to go into Executive Session, for confidential attorney-client communications. There will be no motion made, so conducting it at the very end of the meeting would be the plan.

Sasha brought up an email that was received from Calvin & Nancy Blodgett regarding waiving the zoning fees to rebuild their garage that burnt down. They had paid the \$168.00 and were just asking for it to be waived. The board felt that was the least that could be done when tragedy happens. Tom made the motion to waive the zoning fees for the Blodgett's. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Rae made the motion to approve the minutes of 05/18/2020 SB meeting. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Tom feels that it needs to be re-assessed in the next week or two for in person meetings. It will depend on where we are at as a state, we need to be sure that all are safe.

**Adjourn:** John made the motion at 6:52 pm to go into Executive Session for 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. Tom seconded. All were in favor.

Tom made the motion to go out of Executive Session at 6:59 pm. Callie seconded. All were in favor.