
**Town of Moretown Select Board Meeting
November 15, 2021 at 6:00 PM
79 School Street
In the John Hoogenboom Meeting Room
Via ZOOM Meeting ID 620 104 2716 or call in: 929-205-6099**

Members Present: Tom Martin, John Hoogenboom, Don Wexler, Rae Washburn via ZOOM, not present Callie Streeter

Guests Present: ORCA Media, Valley Reporter, Travis Blodgett, Jamie Wimble, Cory Stephenson, Craig Oshkello, Maura Lane, Denise Gabaree, Carla Lewis, Clark Amadon, Christine Harris, Charlie Bisbee, Cherilyn Brown, Sasha Elwell-Badore

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM by Tom

Public Comment: Travis was present to inquire about the status of LT 17. Tom advised that he is planning to get it resolved in the next couple of weeks, by the end of the year. Travis also wanted the SB to know about some concerns on Cobb Hill, near LT 1. There's been a few permits approved for road maintenance in the recent past, voicing concern about there being a lot of development in that area.

6:05 **Web Designer** – Charlie Bisbee was present to discuss a service he could provide to the town regarding the website. He has the ability to make the website more mobile-friendly. He also mentioned ways of making the website more user-friendly and less "scattered" with links. Tom asked that he work on a proposal for a full redesign and one for a few changes, requesting it be in the next 3 – 4 weeks due to it being budget time.

6:15 **Green Mountain Nutcracker** – Christine Harris was present to speak to the SB and library about using the town hall for a performance open to the community. They normally perform at the Barre Opera House, which seats about 600 people. Since using the town hall would be on a smaller scale, they are requesting availability to have more shows. They normally perform the third weekend in December and sell out with the tickets. Christine would like to do a Friday night; Saturday matinee; Saturday night; and a Sunday matinee. They are very willing to work with the library schedule, and perhaps have a few of the dancers in costume participate in a story hour. They would like to use the basement as a make-shift back stage and utilize the stage for their theater. Christine and Cory will be in contact with one another to collaborate.

6:35 **2022 Budget** – Cherilyn was present to discuss what different departments have submitted for 2022 thus far. A few highlights were: being a General Election year certain items will be increased to accommodate more workers; money for LT surveys was added; Front Porch Forum was added to donate \$500 to – being a great resource for the town; \$5,000 was agreed upon for Morefest, being that it was such a great success in 2021. Discussion was had on VSP services and how much should be thought about, perhaps \$25,000-\$30,000 would give the town a decent amount of coverage. Brief discussion was had on adding MRVAS to the town memberships, being sure that they receive the other half of the original amount they asked for.

7:05 **Town Hall / Library Committee** – slide show was presented (will be posted on the website) examples of what ideas have been thought about and ways to make the town hall ADA compliant. The idea is to make it more functional and because more of a community center, to house the library, along with much more. Scoping out the work, (in detail) needs to be worked on and compiled so that a specific RFP can go out. Clark plans on exploring grant opportunities for help with this project. Thoughts on water and sewer were tossed out, to be sure that those items are not missed. Thoughts on doing upgrades in phases were discussed: bringing the building up to code; the library portion; and then develop a list of other items. Brief discussion on the library being part of the town was had. Having a MOU was brought up, Tom advised that there is no need for it being that the library is a town library. The only reason there is an MOU with the MES is due to it being part of the district, and not the town. This subject will need to be voted on by the town's people before anything permanent is put in place. The SB is working with town hall / library committee, and there is no rush on implementing changes quickly – things get missed when you rush. The committee has time to put together a presentation for town meeting.

7:50 **Reports & Communications:** Sasha advised that Martin just wanted to remind the SB about the Connex box; the town garage condensation issue; and adding another computer for the RMS – when discussing the budget. The grader oil sample came back bad, Martin is waiting for Nortrax to get back to him on the diagnosis. He also advised that the quote came back on the re-paving of River Road, it was lower than repairing it, approximately \$140,000.

Sasha resolved the cherry tree issue at the corner of Route 100B and School Street. After speaking with three tree companies, one suggested calling GMP to see if they would consider taking it down. There is luck there, a contractor for GMP looked at it and they will do it, saving the town some money. But they are back logged and it could be months before it is able to be done.

Sasha let the SB know that Pam Dow inquired about the LT at the end of Freeman Hill Road. Tom said that he would get with Cheryl on it.

Tom asked Rae about the repairs to the sidewalk that was discussed in the spring, if it had been done. Rae advised that getting it arranged with the road department just didn't work out, it should be done in the spring.

Don let the SB know that there should be a proposal from Stone Environmental on an idea of cost with the water mitigation at the town hall, after Thanksgiving.

Tom inquired about the Taplin School, Don has not heard anything more on it.

Tom wanted to **publicly thank Jonathon Siegal for his 13-years on the Planning Commission**. It was missed when Clark was appointed to the PC a few months ago. He mentioned that Karen Horn had written a letter to the editor at the Valley Reporter about it.

Tom spoke with David Stapleton regarding an excavator being parked on Cobb Hill Road. Tom left a message for the owner, received a return call, but it was not pleasant. Tom called VSP.

John made the **motion to approve the 11/01/2021 SB minutes**. Don seconded. All were in favor.

8:00 **Old Business** – Tom spoke about the ARPA funds and wanting to get the PC & FRC involved to get their thoughts on it. He would like to have the chair-persons of those committees come into a January meeting, along with Grace Vinson from CVRPC.

Tom and Rae discussed scheduling a meeting with the road department in the next few weeks. Rae told Tom to tell him what works for him and he will be there.

Don brought up the subject of communication to the other boards/committees. Tom thought that just having Sasha send emails out would work fine, just set up a distribution list.

8:10 **New Business** - Throughout the meeting the wireless connection kept being interrupted. The plan was to contact Mike at Butternut Systems the next day, to check out the issue. It would happen every few minutes (or so it seemed). Tom was a trooper and handled the interruptions with much patience. He apologized for the inconvenience, even though it was beyond his control.

Warrants signed and approved

Payroll 21047 – e-checks 3813 – 3820 and check 21750

Accounts Payable 21048 – checks 22685 - 22744

Adjourn: Tom made the **motion to adjourn** at 8:15 PM. Don seconded. All were in favor.