
Town of Moretown Select Board Meeting
April 18, 2022 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, Callie Streeter, Don Wexler, via ZOOM John Hoogenboom & Rae Washburn

Guests Present: MRVTV, Travis Blodgett, Stefan Pratt, Chris & Cory Stephenson, Bonnie Waninger, Denise McCarty, Clark Amadon, Karen Horn, Susan Werntgen, Darlene McCormick with Mad River Web, Paul Hansen with Ecopixel, Sasha Elwell-Badore

Meeting called to order by Tom at 6:00 PM

Public Comment: Travis inquired about law enforcement, wondering if a contract has been signed yet. Tom let him know that there has not been anything signed yet, VSP did not receive the staff they had expected and they are not able to commit at this time. The Washington County Sheriff's office has been reached out to as well, and there has not been any response as of yet.

Chris and Susan from the Recreation Committee were present to give an update on the pollinator gardens. There are flags out between the town office and the pavilion marking out an area that will be utilized for a good-sized section. Chris and Susan met with Greg Wagner at the MES, Greg pointed out a few areas to be aware of. The Schultz inquired about the flags and they seem to be excited about the gardens. There is some interest in the students getting involved with the planting as well.

The recreation survey has had 71 responses so far, and they are expecting more participation after more FPF posts.

There was communication between John and Chris this past week regarding the power lines and GMP, which stemmed from a letter GMP sent out. John advised that he will follow up with them, since the letter came from the SB last fall. SB sent a letter asking them not to spray under the power lines in the town forest. There was discussion about actual trimming and not spraying.

Denise was present to read a letter she composed to the SB. She has been walking almost a mile home at night from where she is able to park her car, due to the road condition on the LT/Class 4 road portion of Cobb Hill that she lives on. She has not been able to get propane deliveries or drive to herself home since mid-March. There is a new neighbor building at 1760 Cobb Hill Road and Denise is at 2003. The new land owners have obtained a building permit and they have had a lot of traffic and heavy equipment going there. Therefore, contributing to additional damage to the road, rather than just mud season conditions. She was present to ask the SB to create an ordinance that would prevent this from happening and put the responsibility on the land owner (doing the construction) to maintain and fix any damages to the road. Rae

spoke with Denise last week and he advised her that there should be a road maintenance permit in place for this situation. Which there was one last year, but it expired in March of 2022. The new land owner spoke with Martin as well and Stefan brought in a new road maintenance permit from him. Denise said that the neighbor did have some gravel delivered Thursday and on Friday it was attempted to be smoothed out. Rae doesn't think that Denise should be using her own tractor to smooth the gravel. Rae will follow up on this situation.

Cory was present to thank the SB for letting the library borrow the OWL and projector screen. She now understands the frustrations that come with conducting a ZOOM meeting. Tom advised that as long as the SB is not using it, they are welcome to use it any time.

6:25 **CVRPC Bonnie Waninger** was present to discuss and advise on the ARPA Funds, Do's & Don'ts. She advised that a town of this size should take the standard allowance – "revenue replacement" under the provision of government services. Doing it this way, it opens up the options for more uses. You can use these funds for transportation now, where in the beginning you couldn't. So, you could use it for sidewalk projects, not existing loans for previous ones, but going forward with new projects. She let the SB know that their decision is due by April 30th and if this is the way they are choosing, please check the box – standard allowance. ARPA Funds cannot go into savings reserve, thus creating a surplus. Going forward with these funds, there may be a need to update some policies and VLCT does have someone that can help with that. Bonnie let the SB know you want to be mindful of the spending, preventing a single audit. That means that if a town were to spend \$750,000 or more in a years-time of federal funds, you would be going through an audit. The spending should be spread out over time. Other No's are pensions, and not paying down debt that is existing. But you can use funds for wastewater, transportation, and broadband. These funds can be used to match other federal funds as well, giving more leverage in some areas. The deadline for this money is December 2024, it either needs to be spent by then or under contract to finish no later than December 2026. Bonnie advised that if broadband is one of the things the town is contemplating funding, give the company a deadline. The money needs to be spent by this date and have an agreement in place, such as a promissory note. Funds could be spent on equipment, as long as it is a provision of government. Example: fire department could purchase a new tanker.

Bonnie asked that before there is any commitment, there is research done first. Be sure that there is not another source that the money could come from, there could be other grants available. She also advised that if there was an area of town that historically has not been involved with public meetings, be sure that all of the town has a voice in this. If there are some that have had issues with child care and not being able to join a meeting, (as an example) just be flexible so that everyone is heard.

6:40 **ARPA Advisory Committee:** Karen asked the SB as the chair person, to take the standard allowance on the full amount. Quick discussion was had on whether or not to formulate the ARPA committee with the tool kit. There are draw backs to establishing it, it would have to follow the same open meeting rules as other committees. Tom thinks that the SB should have the final say in how the funds are spent, but hear what the PC & FRC have to recommend. Bonnie said to let her (CVRPC) know if the town needs any help. Tom made the motion to take the standard allowance on the full amount of the ARPA Funds. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

The next ARPA Advisory Committee's meeting is Tuesday, April 26 at 6:30 PM.

6:57 Legal Trails – criteria and particulars

Tom mentioned that \$5,000 was put into the budget for surveying town LT/Class 4 roads. Rae would like to try meeting with as many surrounding land owners as possible to see if there is any census of where it is. The SB all agreed that all landowners need to be involved and notified, per Title 19, will be followed. Rae knows that there are issues with what he believes is LT 8. Tom mentioned the one at the end of Freeman Hill Road, LT 8, Travis voiced that LT 1/TH 49/TH 6 (Cobb Hill) should be a priority. Tom asked that Sasha reach out to Vt Survey Company regarding LT 8 and to be sure each SB member has Title 19.

7:06 Website – Darlene McCormick from Mad River Web and Paul Hansen from Ecopixel were present to briefly tell the SB about each of their companies. Darlene has been doing the Fayston website for a while and her company has been in business for 20 years. Darlene thinks that what is existing is a good base and that it can be worked with. There are some updates to Wordpress that could make it easier and are user friendly. Paul Hansen specializes in municipal websites and has worked with many towns, including Waterbury and Essex Junction. Ecopixel has 30 years-experience and the company has been in business for 20-years. They would rebuild the platform and make it somewhat different. They are able to make the website ADA compliant and accessible for all of the community. The object would be to reorganize it and spiff it up a bit. Both companies want a long-term relationship.

Tom would like the website to be simple, easier, have it maintained internally with the level of expertise that is existing and make the website more mobile friendly.

Tom suggested setting up meetings with each company and have a few towns people ask questions and go over what they could do for the town to improve the website. As well as reaching out to the committees to gather up thoughts on the website and get Chuck Burt's input as well.

Reports & Communications

Tom made the motion to reappoint Joyce Manchester & Dara Torre to their positions through CVRPC, per their request to continue. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Sasha let the SB know that GHR (junkyard) had called the office to let them know he is working on getting the fence mended.

Rae brought up speaking with Denise McCarty last Friday regarding the road condition. He plans on getting with Martin and looking at the issue closer on Cobb Hill Road. The road maintenance permit was not being signed, but tabled for a bit.

Rae believes that the upgrading of camps to residents needs to be monitored closer, it seems to be happening often. Tom suggested speaking with the PC and talk about follow up processes. Tom advised that the PC is speaking with two different candidates for the ZA position.

John advised that he had spoken with Michael Brown and he is planning on giving the town a discount on land management. Where he would normally charge \$2,500, he is going to only charge the town \$1,800. He should be ready to start in the next month.

7:35 **Village Wastewater** – Clark was present to speak with the SB about the RFQ's for the feasibility study of Village Wastewater. The firm that is going to be utilized needs to be in place before applying for any State Revolving loans. The need of finding someone that can interview them is first up on the list of things to do. Clark will set up the interviews but needs to find someone qualified to ask the right questions. Rae said that he could be involved and help, but there should be an engineer asking the right questions. Rae has some thoughts and will get a phone number for someone in town for Tom to call. Clark will be reaching out to the firms that submitted RFQ's and thank them, and to let them know the town would like to interview them. He also plans on getting with Cheryl on financials.

John **made the motion to approve the SB minutes of 4/04/2022**. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Old Business quick discussion was had on the FD tanker. Stefan will work on getting some ballpark prices and build an RFP.

Don spoke about the exit signs at the town hall, Mehuron Electric can replace one for \$205 or all four for \$750, all of them. Also, two of the doors need dire attention. It was agreed that those things need to be addressed, Don will move forward with getting those done.

Gravel pit: Michael Brown suggested to John and Don that the cedars are in need of being fertilized and wood chips used around them.

Tom spoke briefly about the tractor bids, there was one received from Champlain Valley Equipment. They actually worked a better deal taking the JD in trade and with all of the add ons the town is able to get the best deal with \$30,000 for a Kubota. Tom made the motion to go with the CVE deal on the Kubota tractor. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

New Business: there was none

Warrants there was none

Adjourn: Tom made the motion to adjourn at 8:14 PM. Callie seconded. All were in favor.