

## Moretown VT Select Board Meeting

May 19, 2025

### Minutes

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**Members Present:** Mike Brown, Robin Campbell, Tom Martin (Chair), Callie Streeter (Vice-Chair)

**Guests Present:** Natessa Cournoyer, Carol Chamberlin, Martha Douglass, Tom Douglass, Amy Shaefer, Steve Shaefer

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Tom at 6:00 pm. The meeting was held in person in the John Hogenboom Meeting Room and online via Zoom.

**Public Comment:**

No comments were offered.

**Resolution Request:**

A request had been sent to all Vermont municipalities regarding adopting a resolution related to committing to the US Constitution; it was agreed to table a discussion of this matter until the full Board was present.

**EWP Grant and Property Buyout Update:**

Amy and Steve Shaefer presented some questions regarding the EWP grant which has been awarded for stream work behind their and Steve Longchamp's house, particularly how the grant award requirements and payment will be able to coordinate with additional work that is being undertaken by themselves and nearby property owners which will address runoff and erosion from the area behind their houses. Carol had learned from grant program staff persons that no additional engineering work is being required for the EWP work; the engineering plans which have been completed by the residents' work on other aspects of the project will suffice, so long as the EWP portion can be separated. Additionally, it had been confirmed that having the same contractor who is doing the non-EWP portion of the work may complete the construction phase of the EWP project, if a separate invoice is able to be created for that portion of the construction work. The Shaefer's requested that Carol look into whether the match required for construction might be reduced by the EWP program, as the engineering expense typically covered by the EWP has been fully paid by the residents.

Regarding the buyout process underway for the Shaefer's and other homes in their neighborhood, Carol indicated that the grant award had been provided to Vermont Emergency Management, and that the grant award paperwork outlined estimates of the value of each of the properties requesting a buyout. She emphasized that these are estimates only, and that various pieces of information are needed before an offer is made for each of the properties. There was some discussion of the overall impact of removal of the houses, and the Shaefer's noted that creation of a green space at some of the parcels might provide protection to other houses that could possibly remain in place. It was confirmed by the Shaefer's and Tom and Martha Douglass that no contact had been made with them by the appraisers; Carol noted that she would attempt to get further information regarding the timeline of the appraisal process.

Carol briefly explained to the Board the logistics of completing an environmental assessment on the Majestic Auto and adjacent sites which are part of the buyouts being pursued, indicating that the Board will likely want to consider having a Phase One evaluation of the properties completed, and based on those results, determining whether or not to enroll in the BRELLA program, which would provide some liability protection for any impacts of contamination if any were found on the site(s).

**Reports and Communications:**

Tom noted that Mari Murphy had reported that the Methodist Church had experienced water in the basement, and she wondered if it was related to the parking lot work recently completed. Tom indicated that Rae Washburn had investigated the perimeter of the building, and it appeared to be draining away from the building. Rae will check the situation again when it is raining.

A request had been received from Wood for Good regarding the possibility of locating a place in Town for storage of firewood, which the organization supplies for those in need. It was agreed that a location could likely be determined.

Tom explained that there are two mitigation projects related to the 2023 flooding that have had funds obligated by FEMA but that have yet to be completed; Patrick Ross has been contacted by Rae Washburn and is able to help with the planning and permitting process for this work. Patrick had provided a proposal for this work: \$14750 for Culvert #17.21 on Ward Brook Road and \$9500 for Culvert #20.11 on Jones Brook Road. Callie indicated that the permits for this work may already have been obtained.

**MOTION:** *Tom moved to approve contracting with Patrick Ross for the amounts proposed for this work, after confirmation that the planning and permitting is still needed for these two culvert projects. The motion was seconded by Mike, and passed unanimously.*

**Morefest**

It was discussed that Lindsey Staples and Stephan Pratt are both willing to help with this year's Morefest, but that somebody is needed to spearhead the effort. Tom had discussed with Chris Stephenson the potential for the Recreation Committee to organize the event, and Chris agreed to raise the topic at the upcoming Committee meeting. Natessa Cournoyer arrived later in the meeting, and indicated that Louisa Wilson or another PTO member would also likely be interested in being involved in the planning. It was noted that contracting for fireworks should be addressed as soon as possible.

**Administrative Matters:**

**Warrants:** The following warrants were approved and signed: AP \$156,130.60 checks #26264-26289; AP \$27,651.05 checks #26290-26297; Payroll \$1192.39 e-checks #4837-4838; Payroll \$14,280.41 e-checks #4839-4848.

**Minutes:** The minutes of May 5, 2025 were approved.

Work in the Town ROW permits were signed.

Tom noted that Martin Cameron had asked if the Town would approve the Road Crew's spreading of material obtained and delivered by a resident on the Class 4 portion of McGibbons Road; Martin noted that he had no concerns regarding operating Town equipment on that Road, and it was agreed that this work could be completed.

Acknowledgement of a \$7984 award through CVRPC from Better Back Roads for completion of an updated Road Erosion Inventory was signed.

An updated form for submission of the 2025 LEMP was signed.

**Old Business:**

Emerald Ash Borer – Mike indicated that he will be reaching out to CVRPC regarding potential funding for inventorying the Town's ash trees.

Heater at Historical Society building – It was agreed to obtain an estimate for a heating unit from Gillespie's, and to gain a better understanding of the MOU between the Library Trustees, who own the building, and the Historical Society before determining how the expense should be covered.

**New Business:**

Tom reported that Martin Cameron has requested the purchase of a hydro seeder, as this makes adhering to FEMA requirements related to road repair more feasible. It was agreed that Martin should obtain quotes for this equipment, and the Board will determine if/where funds are available for this purchase.

Carol requested that the Board approve a Zoning Fee waiver for John and Vee Lynch, as they were not able to supply engineering documents at the time of a pond application they submitted in the fall of 2024, and will need to submit a new application.

**MOTION:** *Tom moved to approve the waiver of DRB fees for the Lynch's pond application. The motion was seconded by Callie, and passed unanimously.*

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Chamberlin