

## Moretown VT Select Board Meeting

August 4, 2025

### Minutes

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

**Staff Present:** Carol Chamberlin, Zoning Administrator; Cory Stephenson, Library Director

**Guests Present:** Kevin Beard, Ray Daigle (HUUSD), Lisa Estler (HUUSD)

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Callie at 6:03 pm. The meeting was held in person in the John Hogenboom Meeting Room and online via Zoom.

**Public Comment:**

No comments were offered.

**FEMA Update:**

Rae Washburn was unable to attend the meeting, and so this item will be rescheduled.

**Town Hall Rental Rates and Policy:**

Cory Stephenson explained that the current rate schedule had been in effect for many years, and that the fees charged do not fully cover the costs associated with a rental. She outlined proposed rates for use of the building, noting that she had eliminated the week/weekend differential, that cleaning is to be included in the rates rather than added as a separate charge, and that she had removed the 2-day rental rate, as most rentals are for a four-hour period, with just a few for a whole day. The rates proposed were agreed to by Board members.

Cory then asked for Board input on several aspects of the policy, and it was agreed that:

- A 'one-day' rental should be for a maximum of 10 hours
- Ongoing, regular rentals that don't require much staff time can continue to be charged at a lower rate of \$50 per rental, if an agreement to rent regularly for a period of one year is signed.
- Groups such as Scouts may continue to use the building during Library hours free of charge
- There will be no charge for civic groups using the building for meetings, hearings, etc.

Cory indicated that she will work to refine the use policy and agreement and present it to the Board for approval.

Cory then reported that the Library had wrapped up summer programming with a well-attended, successful art party, and that programming will take a break for the month of August before resuming.

**MES/Town Property:**

Ray Daigle and Lisa Estler were in attendance to speak about the stormwater ponding on the properties adjacent to the Elementary School during heavy rains; Ray noted that a portion of the runoff comes from Town property behind the school, and that much of the area to be addressed is also on Town property, and so the School District is asking the Town to contribute to the cost of addressing the issue. Ray explained that this is not a new situation, but that it has been exacerbated due to changing conditions and silt accumulation from heavy rains, which have been occurring more frequently. He confirmed that the Fox Farm Road stormwater runoff has been addressed, and should not be causing further impact to the area along the school playground which is proposed to be remediated.

Kevin Beard provided an overview of the history of runoff in this area, indicating that the silt which has built up at the site of a culvert running along the edge of the property has created a ponding issue, and that there is no longer a defined swale running from Fox Farm Road to this playground culvert. Ray outlined the solution proposed by Watershed Consulting, which includes adjusting another drainage ditch that runs below the culvert, on which work was done during the recent stormwater project and which currently runs uphill, as well as installing some catch basins to direct the water into the stormwater infrastructure. The plans proposed by Watershed Consulting are estimated to cost \$27K. Ray noted that he has met with Kingsbury Construction regarding completing the work outlined, and will be meeting with them again, at which point he can discuss adding the redefining of the swale above the culvert to the project.

Mowing of the culvert area was discussed, with Kevin pointing out that it is quite overgrown and that it was previously maintained by the Town. Tom indicated that he will speak with Martin Cameron regarding the Road Crew's mowing that area. Board members also indicated their willingness to participate in this project, and asked Ray to continue to work with Kingsbury and to keep the Board informed regarding progress.

#### **Administrative Matters:**

Warrants: The following warrants were approved and signed: AP Warrant #25041 in the amount of \$443,734.81; Payroll Warrant #25040 in the amount of \$13,626.11

Minutes: The minutes of July 21, 2025 were approved.

Errors and Omissions Report: A report had been provided by the Town's Assessor; Board members had questions regarding the changes, and so did not approve this at the meeting.

Fireworks contract for Morefest: This contract was approved and signed.

Financial Report: The Treasurer had provided an updated Financial Report, a copy was given to each Board member.

Salvage Yard Certificate of Approval for Location: The approval for the GHR Salvage Yard on Route 2 was up for renewal; Board members expressed their preference for speaking with the owners regarding the appearance of the fencing and the site in general before approving this Certificate.

#### **Old Business:**

Carol provided some information regarding completion of a Phase 1 Environmental Assessment of the property at 31 Majestic Drive, which is one of the properties going through the buyout evaluation process, and has been an auto repair shop. It was agreed that a decision regarding proceeding with the suggested assessment will take place once the current owners decide whether or not to follow through with participating in the FEMA buyout.

#### **New Business:**

Correspondence had been received from the Recreation Committee, suggesting that, for various reasons, a policy regarding the use of Town property be developed. The letter also noted the potential for a policy regarding camping on Town property. Board members suggested that the Recreation

Committee provide more information, and potentially a draft policy regarding use of Town property, and that the PC be asked to draft a policy regarding the prohibition of public camping on Town land.

Robin noted that the Vermont Schoolhouse Project is listing an historic school building on Jones Brook Road, and that he will pass this information along to Mari Murphy.

Callie indicated that the area adjacent to the box culvert installed on Herring Brook Road has been hydroseeded, but not adequately. She will reach out to Rae Washburn regarding this.

Tom noted that a request has been put into FEMA for the 2023 event expenses, and that reimbursement should happen quickly. He indicated that it should be determined what other FEMA-backed work should be completed by the end of the year.

Don noted that a meeting with residents/consultants to talk about the Fletcher Bridge should take place, pointing out that the recommendation is for a new bridge of the same size, with a temporary pedestrian bridge put in place during the construction.

Don asked about signage for the gravel pit; it was noted that Sasha was researching this, and that Mike Brown had some ideas for these.

Don reported that he had learned that the radar signs at each end of the Village need new batteries, for a cost of \$630. It was agreed that this expense could be covered by funds from the Sheriff's Dept account.

Don spoke of Montpelier's FPF community involvement posts, suggesting that Moretown consider making similar announcements.

Don noted that the MOU with MRVAS needs to be reviewed and signed.

Tom provided an update on the Piazza property legal matter.

Tom will follow up with Martin on a Brownsville Road matter.

**Executive Session:**

**MOTION:** *A motion to find that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or person involved at a substantial disadvantage per 1 VSA §313(a)(1) passed unanimously.*

**MOTION:** *A motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a potential contract per 1 VSA §313(a)(1)(A) passed unanimously.*

The meeting entered Executive Session at 7:28 pm and returned to open session at 7:33 pm. No further action was taken.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

