

Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

September 12, 2022

Fairfield Selectboard Members in Attendance: Tom Howrigan, Gavin Ryan, David Persons, Ronald Bocash and Brian Dubie

Road Foreman: Maurice Jettie

Town Clerk: Linda Hodet

Town Administrator: Cathy Ainsworth

Secretary: Melissa

Fairfield Visitors: NWATV, Julie Wolcott, Molly Huff

Sheldon Selectboard Members in Attendance: Stephen Dodd, David Peloubet, Joe Dunlavey, Nick Norris, Seth Hungerford

Sheldon Visitors: Judy Ryea, Arnold Royea, Sarah Flack, Zach Brandace, Julie Wolcott, Boone Burlison, Amy Burlison, Randy Reed

Gavin opened the meeting with a joint discussion with the Sheldon Selectboard about the Riley Rd/Duffy Hill trail. Some residents of the Town of Sheldon appeared to voice issues with 4-wheel drive and ATV traffic: Speed is an issue; Lack of respect for properties/property owners by ATV riders; Issue with trash and broken bottles in people's yards; Issue with GPS taking people down the Riley Road and getting stuck; Fences on abutting properties used for animals are being taken down by people on the trail; Damages to sugaring equipment. Various solutions proposed. Discussion with both Selectboards about lacking municipal resources/options for enforcement. Discussion re "throwing up the road" and making it a private road- Sheldon residents already do the maintenance, and no locked gates would be allowed unless the trail is thrown up. Majority of the residents in attendance would like to see the road thrown up. Game Wardens have allocated money to help with ATV enforcement.

Selectboards discussed the merits of municipalities keeping vs. throwing up class 4 roads, agreed to research options and procedures for addressing the issue, and plan to meet again in the future continue the discussion with more information. Sheldon SB moves to complete this section of the meeting. Sheldon SB and residents leave.

1. The agenda was amended to move the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Grant old business discussion to the beginning of the meeting, to include Julie Wolcott in the conversation.. Cathy reviewed the upcoming LVRT Grant, which could be used for scoping studies/feasibility or project design/construction. 20% match required. This municipal grant encourages engagement with the community.–Julie offered some suggestions of what may be of benefit for East Fairfield near the LVRT, including parking/traffic flow improvements, gardens, community art or recreation improvements. Gavin cautioned that building anything new could require increased need for the municipality to pay for maintenance, which he doesn't want to see happen. He wondered if the Soule property may be able to be used for parking near the LVRT as an access point. Town Clerk reports that the Tax sale on the building on the property is incomplete because Soule won't accept or respond to the certified letter. Discussion about the property - state owned land; building owned by Soule requiring a tax sale; legal questions about how to move forward; what role does the railroad play in the property. Cathy says this may be good use of grant funding and will meet with VTrans and NRPC to discuss

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whether a scoping study grant could be used to pay for property research, legal fees, teardown and construction planning. The space may be able to hold 10-15 cars and is in the Route 36 right-of-way. Julie gave an update on the pavilion project and some of the capital projects funded by ARPA.

2. Linda Hodet reviewed mowing quote for Bradley Cemetery and resident requests for better upkeep. Before the municipality can do anything, a discussion must take place with current caretakers re: the cemetery's financials. Welcome to Fairfield sign on the school property needs to be painted.- Discussion about sign: municipality did not provide the sign, so Maple Run is responsible. Linda signed up for a training that requires a laptop. There is no laptop in the office. Cathy reports no money in this year's budget for the purchase but a new "technology upgrades" account line in the ARPA fund was created and ARPA funds have not been fully expended. Selectboard request to get a quote from Matt. Delinquent taxes down to \$13,753. Taken in \$305K for this year already.
3. Molly Huff came to discuss using the Chet Arthur room for yoga. Cathy reviewed the room rental policy and suggested some changes. MM to facilitate her access this session.
4. Moe talked about finishing the North Road culvert and the paving to come. Reviewed the grant budget to date for this project. Within the budget so far. Also will need to replace guardrails.

Tom made a motion to accept the bid from Hungerford for \$13K to do the paving at the North Rd. culvert project site. Gavin seconded. All in favor.

5. Black truck is back. Cleaned it up and put it back together. Works fine now. Don't recommend replacing. New truck, ordered this year, has the hitch on, dump is supposed to go on this week, then paint next week. Expect it will be delivered to Fairfield by the end of the month so check for purchase will be in the next AP. Some work was done on Rugg and Gillin Roads.
6. Sidewalk plow \$8288 to replace the part. They say they had to disassemble the entire thing to replace the part. Apparently still not fully fixed. Should be done this week.
7. AOT grant program for Municipal highway and stormwater mitigation projects due October 7. Cathy requests an eligible project. Mo suggests Brusco Rd. Blacktopping to prevent runoff. Chester Arthur bridge update from Cathy: Bridge nominated by the NRPC Transportation Advisory Committee for priority replacement. Fairfield will find out if selected by the state after the next NRPC meeting with VTrans
8. Juaire Road update provided by Cathy. October 21 projected completion.
9. Parking lot striping estimate for town office, park & ride, beach and library. Could be done this fall, based on one estimate coming from one business out of five contacted.
10. Two requests for power access. One on Ryan Rd and one on Pumpkin Village. Vermont Electric Coop handling both requests. Signed.

David made a motion to approve the minutes of 8/11. Ron seconded. All in favor.

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David made a motion to approve the warrants. Ron seconded. All in favor.

11. A follow-up bill received for 2/2021-2/2022 workers comp insurance, based on audit results. All together with property, etc. insurance the budget line will be \$6K over. Time to look at all of the insurances and get quotes. Cathy to start looking
12. Someone is interested in the grant writing position but the hourly rate is too low. Cathy reviewed his CV. Invite him to come talk to SB.
13. Town Green in EF ok to use for scarecrows and celebration by the Community Center in October.
14. First SB meeting in October would fall on a holiday when staff have holiday leave, for Columbus/ Indigenous Peoples Day. Schedule meeting for Tuesday that week- 10/11.
15. Cathy recapped a discussion about a library special meeting regarding capital planning for building improvements and the role of MOUs in municipalities. Suggests it is time for SB and Library meet to find agreements on these issues. Invite Trustees to next SB meeting.
16. Starwind Farm update – Menard Rd. Picture of project and notice that application for a certificate of public good will be submitted in November. Cathy will confirm that it's in accordance with NRPC standards. SB requests a visual representation from Fairfield Pond. Cathy will contact VT Public Utility Commission regarding this.
17. Trash issue on Egypt Rd. MM to investigate.
18. Friends of Northern Lake Champlain update from Brian.

Brian made a motion to adjourn. David seconded. All in favor.