

**Town of Moretown  
Office of the SELECT BOARD**

**Draft – Notice of unapproved minutes of the 6/3/13 selectboard meeting**

Members present were: Tom Martin, Rae Washburn, Michelle Beard, Reed Korrow, John Hoogenboom

Guests included: Scott Baughman, Max & Sandra Fortune, Tom & Martha Douglass, Dean Moulton, Raymond Munn, Carl Wimble, Liz Harris, Colleen Todd, Dara Torre, Angela Ogle, Lisa Ransom, Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board

Tom called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and gave a brief overview of tonight's agenda.

**Public Comment:**

**Martha Douglass** – asked if a letter in response to the cameras had been sent to MLI? It had not. Tom read the letter aloud.

Tom moved; Michelle seconded to approve the letter as written and forward it to Mike DiMaggio. All were in favor

**Raymond Munn** –

**Fire call** – Ray asked if firemen were covered by the town's insurance when they respond to a fire call in their personal vehicle. Cheryl will ask the town's insurance.

**Duxbury fire contract** – Ray asked about the \$3,000 the town receives from the Town of Duxbury for the fire contract, and why it isn't given to the fire department.

The revenue shows as fire department revenue in the town report but not all of the revenue goes to the fire department because the town now pays for the fire departments insurance. The fire department used to supply their own insurance but found the coverage and cost was better to add it to the town's policy.

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**Carl Wimble –**

**Road sand and gravel** – Carl said he read the minutes about Martin getting bids to haul road sand and about the Mountain Road project . He said he has gravel on his land that was piled there last year and wonders if the town will be using it on the Mountain Road. Carl doesn't think the knotweed growing in it is that bad and it could be eradicated. Reed will talk with Martin about it tomorrow.

Carl added that he has a big sand bank he would be willing to sell sand from it to the town if the town is interested. Carl thinks there could be two or three years' worth of sand there. Martin and Norm will get together with Carl.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**5/20/13** – John moved; Michelle seconded to approve the minutes of 5/20/13 as written. All were in favor.

**Reports & Communication:**

**Library Trustee resignation** – Tom Allen resigned as library trustee.

John moved; Rae seconded to accept the resignation of Tom Allen as library trustee. All were in favor.

**Library Trustee appointment request** – An email from Sarah Nussbaum was received, recommending that Jennifer Tripp Mead be appointed to fill the vacancy in library trustee as a result of Tom Allen's resignation.

Rae would like to meet Jennifer prior the appointment. She will be invited in.

**Clayton Wetzel re: signage removed from his property** – Herring Brook Road resident Clayton Wetzel copied the selectboard on an email that he sent to 1<sup>st</sup> Constable David Van Deusen, about some of his land posting signs on his property being torn down.

**Rental of a ramp for the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration** – An invoice from Amramp in the amount of \$1,160 was approved for payment by the board.

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**Listing of unregistered/un-inoculated dogs** – The list will be forwarded to Shane Grace, Moretown’s Animal Control Officer.

**250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** – The board thanked the Historical Society, Rae for representing the selectboard, and all of the volunteers for working so hard to make the celebration a success.

There was discussion about putting up banners in the village this summer, to carry-over the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Michelle will check into the costs.

**Mad River Garden Group** – Ruth VanHeuven mentioned to Tom that she was pleased that the highway crew helped clean up around the town hall before the celebration.

**Howes Road ditch** – John reported contact from Henry Lewis of Howes Road, about the need for ditch work near his yard. Reed will talk with Martin about that.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Town Office project** – There will be a public hearing at the Moretown School on June 5<sup>th</sup>, to update people on the status of the project, conceptual plans and associated costs for a new building, and for public input. The hearing will begin at 7:00 p.m.

**Open Meeting Law complaints** – The Town’s attorney responded to the Attorney General’s office regarding the two complaints the AG received regarding a violation of the Open Meeting Law. There has been no response to date.

**Appointments needed** - The town still needs one auditor and one lister to fill vacancies in office.

**Summer hours for the road crew** – Reed said Norm is on board with the road crew working 4/10 hour days during the summer months, and he recommended that the board approve it also.

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Reed moved; Tom seconded to approve that the road crew work four ten hour days per week effective 6/10/13 thru Labor Day.

Discussion: The hours approved tonight will be up for discussion every year; there is a benefit of working 10 hour days when working on road projects, but Martin should plan ahead and rearrange the hours if a storm is predicted in order to keep overtime at a minimum. Vote: All were in favor.

**Blodgett appeal of Selectboard decision on trail location** – Expert witnesses will give depositions on 7/8/13 and mediation is scheduled for 8/6/13.

**Hauling road sand bids** – Low bid for hauling the road sand was Louis Hallstrom. Martin and Norm suggest hiring Louis to haul the road sand contingent upon a contract that he finish hauling the sand by 10/1/13, or the town is free to hire other contractors to finish the work.

Rae wants to be sure before Moretown pays Hallstrom that we are sure all costs for fuel, labor etc. associated to the hauling contract have been paid by Hallstrom so no one comes back on the town for money.

Before a motion is made to hire a trucker, Reed will talk to Martin about Carl's sand.

**Moretown Mountain Road grant/resurfacing project** – Reed will check with Martin to see what option in Tom Anderson's email from last week, he and Norm chose to do.

**Moretown Landfill business** – Nothing new.

**Repairs to the Village hill** – Nothing new.

**Bridge #41 project** – Tom reported that the cement is being poured tomorrow. Cheryl reported that FEMA will allow no further progress payments for the rest of the expenses relating to the project, until the close out so there will be a balance on the line of credit carried until the town receives final payment. It is expected that will happen by this fall. The project is scheduled to be complete by Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup>.

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**Hurdle Road Stop sign visibility** – Tom reported that he has left messages with Tom Anderson about inspecting the trimming on the hedges near the stop sign to be sure the trimming was sufficient, but he hasn't heard back from him so he assumes everything is fine.

\*more old business later

**Zoning Administrator position applications –**

Six applications were received for the zoning administrator vacancy, and were reviewed by the Planning Commission. Jonathan and Rube were here tonight to recommend applicants for the job.

John moved; Michelle seconded to enter into executive session at 6:45 p.m. to consider applications for employment, where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the town or persons involved at a substantial disadvantage; and to ask the Planning Commissioners, Deborah Feldman, and the board assistant to stay for the discussion. All were in favor.

Tom moved; Reed seconded to come out of executive session at 7:05 p.m.

Tom explained that no decisions were made during executive session. The board will hold a special meeting on Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup> to meet directly with two of the applicants.

**Liz Harris & Colleen Todd re: use of the old town office building** – Liz requested time on tonight's agenda to talk with the board about proposing a use of the old town office building for a Community Market of Moretown. They have just begun advertising for a weekly Farmer's Market at the Moretown Elementary School, in partnership with the community to strengthen the relationship between the children and the community. The project would focus on providing space for local vendors while offering education to children about where their food comes from. Future plans would be to prepare sandwich, muffins, Wi-Fi and possibly pizza, and community events.

There was discussion about the buy-out grant, and the grant restrictions on the use of the building; about water/septic challenges that might occur; and what zoning changing the use of the building might involve.

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The board suggested that Liz and Colleen talk with Clark Amadon, chair of the town office committee about their ideas.

**Dara Torre re: sidewalk grant** – Dara said 55 people responded to the survey she placed on Front Porch Forum about what portion of the sidewalk people would like to be fixed first. The connector between the village and the lower village was the most popular. Discussion included:

- Review of the 2010 Sidewalk Feasibility Study estimates for different phases (area) of sidewalk.
- This grant would be a 10% match. Donated material could be used toward the match. It would be a 4-year grant which would include costs for engineering and the project management.
- The cost of the phase most popular (between the village and the town garage area) would be \$355,000 if concrete sidewalks and \$315,000 for staymat sidewalks, so the town share would be about \$35,000.
- How many kids use that area of the sidewalk?
- This plan calls for a retaining wall near the Thamm property. What would it look like?
- What is the cost for easements?
- Could the Village hill/100B intersection work be in conjunction with the sidewalks and be included in the grant?
- To rip out and rebuild the sidewalk from Hurdle Road to the General Store would cost about \$300,000.

Dara will plan to meet with Martin Cameron, Tom Anderson from District 6 and Michelle about the intersection.

### **Host Town Agreement renewal –**

The board has a copy of the suggestions for amending the Host Town Agreement (HTA) submitted by Martha Douglass.

Tom M. said in the sense of time, he thinks forming a committee to work on gathering information and ideas to form into a draft would be the best.

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Tom M. thought the committee should include two members from the selectboard, one planning commissioner, and two citizens.

Rae didn't know if a committee was warranted since the tipping fees and operation compliance are the two main topics.

Martha said any committee should have the guidance from someone familiar with the operations of a landfill, and once you have all of the components, have an environmental attorney word the document.

Tom M. agreed; get the ideas together as to what you want in the agreement and have the lawyer put together the language.

Tom D. thinks MLI should pay for an expert who can oversee the landfill operation – an employee of the town.

Carl agreed the town should have someone to oversee the intake of trash, verify the tipping fees etc.

The board will reach out via the Front Porch Forum for citizens interested in helping with the HTA revision.

The current HTA expires on August 11, 2013.

\*more old business

**Class IV Road and Trail Policy – Angela Ogle** a resident of Lynch Hill Road would like a background of why and what the policy is. Dave Van Deusen her husband, previously asked the town to do maintenance work on Lynch Hill and was told the new road policy adopted did not allow for the road maintenance.

Michelle explained that the goal was to have a policy that would treat the maintenance of all class IV road consistently. The roads were grouped as a class A, which receives maintenance once per year; and class B, which receives no maintenance because it isn't safe for the town's equipment to grade. Michelle said typically, most towns do no maintenance on class IV roads. Lynch Hill is classified as a class B road. Michelle noted there were several public meetings before the policy was adopted.

Angela said they are running low on propane and Gillespie Fuels can't deliver with the current road conditions. She said they aren't the only one who use the road; 4-wheel drive trucks, loggers, maple syrup producers, all wonderful uses but damage is done to the road. She said Lynch Hill is the road that Irene created. Angela said they didn't know about the road maintenance policy.

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John noted that in the past the town has hired a contractor with a bulldozer to work the roads that could not be graded. He added that VTrans pays the town so much money for class II and class III roads, and we can't use that money for class IV road work.

Angela said tax revenue can also be used for road maintenance.

Michelle said there is a provision in the policy to re-look at the policy each year. The classification grouping could be looked at.

Martin, Reed and Norm will review the policy.

Rae said he supports the policy, but it wasn't clear to everyone that the maintenance to class IV roads was changed.

Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

#### **New Business:**

**MLI tipping fee revenue to date** – About \$48,000 in tipping fees has been received to date. 52% of that amount goes into the general fund to be used to lower the 2013 tax rate.

The board approved that Tom can talk to Mike DiMaggio about getting part of the \$350,000 minimum do the town, to help make up the shortfall in tipping fees received to date.

#### **Review invoices and approve warrants.**

Catering / liquor licenses were approved.

Invoices were reviewed and warrants were approved.

Rae moved; Reed seconded to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. All were in favor.