

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

Draft – Notice of unapproved minutes of the 9/15/14 selectboard meeting

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

Guest included: Raymond Munn, Elizabeth King – Special Educator HUHS, Michael Woods – Director of Student Services HUHS, Laura Gans, David Bosworth – Merchants Bank Trust Investment Officer, Don LaRocca, Cheryl Brown as board assistant

Tom called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment Period:

Ray Munn –

Jones Brook area activity – Ray said he had the opportunity to talk with kids from the Jones Brook area, and was advised by them that the party's and road activity happening in the area is not Moretown kids, its kids from other towns. Ray was also advised not to approach the kids alone. Since Fountains Forestry manages most of the forest land in Jones Brook where the parties are reportedly happening, Ray would be glad to have Jeff Langmaid (forester) accompany him during a visit.

Cheryl will call Jeff Langmaid at Fountains Forestry.

MECA program – Ray said he attended the schoolboard meeting for the MECA presentation and feels what was said there was a complete reversal of what was said at the selectboard meeting that Kate O'Neill attended. He learned that benefits are being paid to MECA workers, such as retirement; maternity leave; and that MECA is a school program.

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Michelle said the benefits are being paid from the tuition received by the MECA program, not by the taxpayers.

Tom feels MECA is doing a good job in getting into the black, and that it is a good program.

Discussion followed:

- Children from other towns attend MECA. More kids...more tuition.
- A MECA website would be helpful for advertisement; information about the program; salaries; and for transparency.
- Zoning may need to be involved if MECA is no longer a school program but operating out of the school.

Approval of Minutes:

9/2/14 minutes – John moved to approve the minutes of 9/2/14 as amended to include:

- Page 3 (B) – should read - *One should be returned or used for a similar project.*
- Page 4 - Duxbury mutual aid – should read – *The decision was that Reed will talk more about this with Martin before a decision is made.*

Michelle seconded John's motion. All were in favor.

9/8/14 minutes – Rae moved to approve the minutes of 9/8/14 as printed. John seconded. Tom, Rae and John were in favor. Michelle and Reed abstained.

Reports & Communication, Announcements –

Bridge Road TH #24 class IV portion – Tom reported hiking with friends on the class IV portion of Bridge Road (adjacent to Sainsbury's property), when about ½ mile up the trail they were approached by a young man (he believes to be Avery) who said he oversees the Sainsbury property.

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Avery asked Tom's group where they were going and told them the owner doesn't like people on his property. Tom advised Avery that they were hiking to the old foundations on the town trail and continued on their way.

Upon their return to the bridge, Avery asked Tom's group to leave and not come back. Tom said he advised Avery that the road was a town trail, to which Avery said no the trail ends at the bridge per the owner, and the owner would be happy to tell you so himself. Tom advised Avery to please have Scott call him.

Scott advised Tom that he was right, and Avery was wrong.

Discussion continued:

- Old files indicate that when Sainsbury built his barn, there was supposed to be a land swap and Sainsbury would provide a survey of the new road but he found that costly and the town later settled that the barn is not in the town right of way.
- The road is actually a class IV road, just shy of one mile long, and ends on Sainsbury's land.
- The road is a public access, but its location is not visible and the town needs to change that. The town will put up a sign indicating where the road is as the town sees it. The Sainsbury's will be notified when the signage is about to go up.

Evelyn Goss resigns from the Library Board – Copy of an email from Reta Goss to Meg Allison, were Evelyn Goss resigns as Library Trustee.

Tom moved; Reed seconded to accept the resignation of Evelyn Goss. All were in favor.

Cheryl's request to revise work schedule – Cheryl requested permission to revise her work week to Monday – Thursday while maintaining a 40 hr. / work week by working longer days. She gets email and phone messages on her cell phone, so any business that needs replies or attention will continue to be addressed on Friday's and weekends.

The board approved the request and will review again in 6 months to see if there have been any problems with Cheryl's new schedule.

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Laura Gans – Moretown Rep on the CVRPC Transportation Committee – Laura provided information about four Waterbury / area projects: the roundabout; I-89 bridges; Main Street; and Vt. Route 100. More information can be found on the vtransprojects.vermont.gov website.

Laura also let the board know about an informational & input meeting that will be held on Wednesday, September 24, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Moretown Elementary School Cafeteria. The subject will be in regards to the installation of Centerline Rumble Stripes planned for Waitsfield and Duxbury.

The board thanked Laura for attending the meetings and for the information she brought forward tonight. Information that is helpful as Moretown needs to have input when traffic is being detoured through Moretown.

Laura provided information about a “Strong Communities” grant. This is a VTrans and Agency of Commerce and Community Development grant, to address the relationship between transportation and land use available to towns outside Chittenden County.

There have also been concerns raised about the 35 mph speed limit at Gallagher Acres. Some feel it should be lowered.

The board asked Cheryl to look into lowering the speed limit to 25 mph.

Elizabeth King and Michael Woods – are looking for a space for a few Harwood students to use during the school day (11-3), to work on their individual academics, and to use a kitchen for life skills. The Life Skills Program would be for seven 18-22 year old adult students, who are focused on furthering their education and developing living skills for independence.

Elizabeth and Michael have spoken with the town hall coordinator Becky Ciampi, about what space might be available for cleaning supplies and tools necessary for the program. They would also need internet access, which the program would pay for. They would also be willing to contribute to the heating costs. If there was a rental conflict, they would reschedule their program.

The board agreed to let the Life Skills Program use the town hall. Michelle Baker will be contacting the town to do a rental contract (the fee will be exempt) and to make insurance arrangements.

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OLD BUSINESS:

Mad River Valley Planning District (MRVPD)– Discussion continued from last week, that MRVPD and the Mad River Trails Collaborative have partnered to develop a transportation plan to basically connect the recreation trails and town centers. MRVPD is asking Waitsfield, Warren, Fayston and Moretown to commit to a \$1,000 financial match toward the project development.

John moved to pledge \$1,000 toward the MRVPD Active-Transportation Plan; seconded by Michelle. All were in favor.

Town Office project update – The State has approved the environmental study that Clark has been working on during the past year. The next step will be to prepare final designs and put the build portion of the project out to bid.

The consensus of the board was to bid the project this fall, and break ground in the spring of 2015.

Sidewalk project update – Pat Travers is developing a scope of work for the engineering design. Once approved, bids will go out.

Blodgett litigation – There has been no news since the last meeting.

David Bosworth – Merchants Bank re: Investments

David will be the Merchants Bank contact should the town decide to do investment business with them.

Don LaRocca gave an overview of the studies for investments over the last couple of years, ending by saying that it is time to decide if we want someone to manage the investments, rather than try to manage them ourselves.

David offered the following points of interest:

- Cost to manage Moretown’s money: \$500,000 = .8%
\$500,001- \$1M = .6%
\$1,000,001 = .4%
- No closure fees; no other fees except as above.

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- Reports available: Daily internet access; Monthly statement; Quarterly statement. Whatever the client wants.
- Town resources would be invested short-term (bonds mostly); mid-term (goal is to earn 4% interest return); and long-term (stocks mostly).
- Merchants investment committee (of which David is part of) works with an outside firm Litman Gregory.
- David advises having a distribution policy for dividends.

After deliberation, the board asked Don LaRocca to go forward with Merchants Bank to see if investing in accordance with our Investment Policy will work out. Don will bring his findings back to the selectboard as the town’s investment advisor.

John H. left the meeting

New Business:

Moretown Mountain Road project – Tom will sign the contract with GW Tatro to do the renovation work.

The town should receive a road closure plan shortly and the plan is to begin work in a couple weeks. The Mountain Road in the construction area (village hill) will be closed for the duration of the project. People living on the portion of road to be worked on will be able to get to/from their homes otherwise traffic will be detoured to the Moretown Common Road.

Notice of the road closure will be posted right away.

Asbestos removal bids – During an assessment, asbestos was found in the old town office. Before anything can be done with the building, the asbestos must come out. Bids to do the extraction were as follows:

Catamount Environmental, Inc.	\$1,892
Environmental Hazards Management, Inc.	\$2,954

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The bids were reviewed and found to be acceptable.

Tom moved based on the bids received tonight, to hire Catamount Environmental, Inc to extract the asbestos from the old town office; Rae seconded. All were in favor.

Town gathering – Having a town gathering was mentioned at the last meeting. After talking with members of the community, Rae found that the fire department already has an event planned. The town will support the fire departments event rather than have a second.

Executive Session - Tom moved; seconded by Rae to enter into executive session to discuss an employee related matter, where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the town and person involved at a substantial disadvantage. All were in favor.

Tom moved; seconded by Rae to come out of executive session at 8:20. All were in favor.

No action was taken as a result of the session.

Warrant # 49 for accounts payable was approved as submitted for check # 16364-16389. It was verified that the last check # on warrant #48 was #16363.

Reed moved to adjourn at 8:40 pm; Michelle seconded. All were in favor.