

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

**Draft – Notice of unapproved minutes of the 7/20/15 Selectboard meeting**

Board present: Jason Aronowitz, John Hoogenboom, Rae Washburn

Guests included: Tom & Martha Douglass, Travis Blodgett, Carla & Henry Lewis, Lisa Ransom & Scott Baughman, Rachel Goff, Patti Haynes, John & Ellie Hilferty, Frank Piazza, Pat Travers, Ron Shems, Dick Valentinetti, Martin Cameron, and Cheryl Brown as board assistant

John called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**Public Comment –**

**Martha Douglass** – suggested updating the information on the website. Cheryl will meet with JB Weir about the updates.

**Travis Blodgett** – said Trail #18 still has no access as he mentioned on 6/15. Rae thought Martin was going to take a look at the trail, but the board hasn't heard anything yet.

**Tom Douglass** – mentioned someone who was on the delinquent tax list that had passed away a while ago.

It was explained to Tom that there is a process that needs to happen before delinquent taxes can be taken care of. The family should contact the Town Clerk.

**Henry Lewis** – spoke about a continuing water problem on his property as a result of a road drainage issue. He would like something done by the town to address the water. There was culvert work done last year but there is still a water problem.

Rae, Martin and Tom Martin will look at it when Tom gets back. There may be a need for an engineering study if there is an underdrain issue that pertains to the town road.

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### **Reports & Communication, Announcements –**

**Treavor Clark** – Email from Treavor Clark asking that the town put up a road sign on his subdivision road along Route 100B. The road was approved by the Town and State over a year ago and named TAC Heights, but a road sign was never installed.

The board approved that Martin put up a road sign for TAC Heights.

**Jenny Stacey** – sent an email saying that her truck was struck by a rock during the mowing of roadsides. She would like the truck repaired promptly.

Rae will contact Ms. Stacey tomorrow. Cheryl will provide our insurance with the claim specifics. Martin & Thomas were unaware of any incident happening during Thomas's' mowing until the email.

**Paul and Susan Nadeau** – The Nadeau's emailed a final warning that the town correct the tax maps for their property. They say they abut the Grow Compost property, and Grow Compost was allowed to apply for and receive a permit to operate a compost business without them being aware of it until a sign in front of their business appeared, because they were not notified of the application. They were not notified of the recent revocation either.

The Town has contracted with CAI Technologies to update the tax maps, but the project is a two year process and won't be done anytime soon.

Lisa Ransom doesn't think Nadeau's land abuts their property

### **Road Maintenance Permit for Brian Ward – Bat Hennessey trail -**

Brian Ward let the board know that Irene Sherman was contacted and is fine with cutting the trees on her property to allow access for log trucks, as long as she gets the wood. Rae approved the Road Maintenance Permit.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

**6/29/15** – Rae moved to approve the minutes of 6/29/15. Jason seconded. All were in favor.

**7/6/15** – Rae moved to approve the minutes of 7/6/15. John seconded. All were in favor.

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**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Moretown Mountain Road update** – Still no engineering plan to repair the drainage problem. Complaints about detour signage continue. Cheryl will ask GW Tatro to remove or cover the detour signage, since it is their responsibility.

**Sidewalk project update** – **Pat Travers** is here to update the town. Points of interest include:

- Tonight’s plans (7/15/15) are different from the last in that they include dips versus ramp ups in private driveways to control runoff.
- Planting trees on people’s property was suggested at the last meeting. That would be a cost outside of the project.
- Construction July/August of 2016.

Outstanding issues Pat will address -

- Whether or not to plant the trees.
- A second driveway for Schultz as they requested.
- Easements, both permanent and temporary need to be gotten.
- Town approval of conceptual drawings by 8/3/15
- VTrans review of drawing complete by 8/7/15
- Research traffic calming devises.
- DRB approval is needed for development in a flood plain
- Categorical Exclusion criteria needs to be addressed. Some of the reports from the town office studies may hopefully be used.
- Bridge cost substantial cost of the project. Pre-fab or wood?
- State is mandating that the bridge be “removal” so as not to hinder future work on the cement bridge in the village, and for flooding issues. Is this creating additional unknown cost for the town?
- New estimated project cost \$329,992.
- Grant is for \$375,000. Town share is \$37,500.
- Catch basin needed near Hurdle Road?
- Increase flagging hours from 200 to 400.

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**New Business:**

**7/7/15 Notice of request from Grow Compost for revocation of their solid waste management certificate** – On July 7<sup>th</sup>, the Town received notice from the Department of Environmental Conservation Solid Waste Division that on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the State received a letter from Grow Compost of Vermont LLC, stating that Grow had ceased directly composting solid waste, and instead switched their process to feed all food scraps to laying chickens. On June 12, 2015 Solid Waste Management revoked Grow's certification.

This was the first the Selectboard had heard about Grows request for the revocation, or of a May 26, 2015 letter from the Law Office of James Dumont (Grows counsel) to the District 5 Commission regarding Grows change in activity. In short, the Selectboard was not notified by Dumont, Act 250, or by Solid Waste of the request for the revocation. Moretown had 30 days from the date of action to revoke the certification, to appeal the States determination that Grow Compost no longer conducts activities subject to Solid Waste Management regulations.

According to records forwarded to the town by the state there have been complaints from some of the neighbors regarding odors from the compost facility.

Ron Shems reported that on July 13<sup>th</sup>, Moretown filed a Notice of Appeal to protect the town's rights. Tonight Ron is asking permission from the Selectboard to file a response to ANR and Dumont; and to file a memo with Act 250. Ron said with the time the appeal should give, perhaps we can avoid litigation and have the neighbors and Grow Compost working together on communicating when there is a problem. Ron added that Mr. Dumont had told him that Lisa and Scott were not aware of any odor complaints.

Comments were offered by Lisa about how the new recycling laws changed the solid waste business; and that anything that comes to their property is fed to their animals. She also mentioned a grey area in the law.

Any litigation would be the Town versus the State of Vermont. The board reached out to Lisa and Scott by indicating that in no way by the board taking the action as suggested by our attorney tonight, does the board reflect non-support of the Grow Compost business itself, decided to let Ron file the documents as he explained tonight.

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John moved to ratify the urgent action taken by Tom Martin on July 13<sup>th</sup> to allow Ron to file the appeal, due to time limitations for taking the action. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

John moved to allow Diamond & Robinson, P.C. file a memo to Act 250 as Ron explained tonight. Jason seconded. All were in favor.

Next step: Will be to have a public meeting with Grow Compost and the neighbors if Mr. Dumont approves.

**Martin Cameron** came in to talk with the board about:

**Village hill reconstruction update** – He waiting for the design from Engineering Ventures to repair the water problem so he can fill out the State permit.

**Old town office demolition** – Martin is working with Ruth van Heuven on getting a water source for the flowers at the old town office that will eventually be moved to the new town office location. He has ordered containers from Casella. The demolition will occur within the next month, before school starts.

**Sidewalks** – Martin talked about possibly contracting out the removal of the old sidewalk, or renting a machine for a day. He wanted to know what we are accomplishing by their removal, which may create more issues for winter maintenance. Martin will meet with Tom to talk more about this.

**Pony Farm Road work** – A culvert needs to be replaced which will require the road to be closed for a day.

**Debit Hill** – As of today, we still don't know if we got the grant.

**Henry Lewis water issue** – The board filled Martin in on the discussion earlier with Henry and Carla about the water problem they have on their property.

Martin isn't sure the problem is road related. Martin, Tom and Rae will look at his property and possibly get the advice from a consultant.

**Jenny Stacey damaged truck** – (see R & C above) Thomas was unaware of any problem. Martin would like the board to handle any claim.

Rae will contact Jenny tomorrow. Cheryl will file a claim if needed.

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**Martin asked for** time with the board in **executive session** to talk about an employee related matter. The board decided personnel related discussion did warrant executive session.

John moved to enter into executive session at 7:47 pm to discuss employee related matters whereby premature public knowledge would place the town and employee at a disadvantage. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

Rae moved out of executive session at 8:09 pm. Jason seconded. All were in favor. No action was taken as a result.

**Review invoices and approve warrants and other documents presented for approval.**

P/R warrant # 15034 was approved

Ck# 17026

E-Ck# 1951-1961

A/P warrant # 15035 was approved

Ck# 17027-17040

A/P warrant # 15036 was approved

Ck # 17041-17049

Warrant and check number of the last meeting were verified as being consecutive.

Other documents:

Road Maintenance Permit – approved for Green Mountain Power  
State of Vermont Health Officer for Moretown – Dick Valentinetti

Rae moved to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Jason seconded. All were in favor.