

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

Draft – unapproved minutes of the 9/19/16 Selectboard meeting

5:00 pm – site visit at the newly proposed access to Blodgett trail #49, and at the old access which will be discontinued after due process. Both areas were walked. The access change continued with a public hearing at 6 pm.

6:00 pm -

Board members present: Tom Martin, Rae Washburn, Jason Aronowitz, Michelle Beard and John Hoogenboom

Guests included: Calvin & Nancy Blodgett, Guy Martin, Martha & Tom Douglass, Dean Moulton, Steve Cusick, Paul Gillies, Becky Ciampi, Travis Blodgett, Alex Maclay Channel 44, Cheryl Brown as board assistant

Tom called the meeting to order. The public hearing on the Blodgett trail commenced.

- Discussion included questions regarding the use of the trail. Including:
The town will not restrict the use of the trail; use by motor vehicles must follow State law for registration etc.; the town is not liable for repairs to the trail if it's "torn up" or damaged; complaints regarding the use of the trail by unregistered vehicles etc., should be directed to the State Police as has been the practice by the town for other class IV road and trail problems; at this time there are no plans for "mud season" signage. Cusick said the stipulation paperwork being prepared by town counsel Paul Gillies, should reflect that the State recognizes the "legal trail" number as 17. So noted.

Next - Once Paul has the Stipulation document prepared (within 60 days), the board will review it and adoption will proceed for the conveyance of the new access and the discontinuance of the old access.

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Public Comment Period –

Becky Ciampi – asked about the progress in fixing the drainage at the town hall. Heavy rains cause water to seep into the building.

Rae will work up a scope of work for getting bids. The scope will most likely include some type of water proofing measures to keep the water out of the building.

Becky resigned as of 1/1/17 as custodian of the town hall. She will look for a replacement to train.

There was a brief discussion that the town hall is not meant to be a “money maker” for the town, the rental fees are more or less to help cover the cost for electricity etc., they want the building to be used and would be willing to work with townspeople that want to use the hall for family functions etc.

Reports & Communication, Announcements –

Recreation Committee news – Michelle reported the committee will be meeting this week, then come back to the board with an update.

Plantings – John reported that the planting at the Schultz was done. Martin will assist digging the holes for the sand pile screening. John will stake out the property where the trees are to go. John will meet with the Harris’s before any plantings are done on their property. John will also talk with Ed Reed about the quality of some of the trees. The pricing is ok.

Garden Group re: town office planting – Rae reported meeting with the ladies regarding the landscaping. Because of drainage changes, the planting area shrunk, and now they need additional compost for planting the plants from the old town office.

The board approved as long as the cost does not exceed \$500. The planting is scheduled for Wednesday. Rae said that all of plantings comply with the town permit.

Employee matter – Cheryl asked for an executive session to discuss privately a sensitive employee matter with the board.

Tom moved; John seconded to enter into executive session at 6:30. Cheryl was invited to stay. Out of executive session at 6:40. No action.

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Employment application law - the employee application will be amended to “ban the box” relating to applicants having a criminal record.

OLD BUSINESS:

Building Maintenance items – All town buildings have been pressured washed except the fire station. No water was made available to the contractor at the time to do that building.

Extension to the CDBG 12/31/16 deadline – The request for an extension to June 30, 2017 has been submitted. No word yet on its approval.

October 11th vote – will be announced again on Moretown Front Porch Forum closer to the vote date. 10/3/16 at 7 pm will be the informational meeting.

Tax penalty and refund – Discussion that it is important that all members be present for the upcoming abatement hearings, so Cherilyn will be asked to poll the members for the best time to meet before a hearing date is set.

Employee application interviews and pay negotiations – The board agreed it was necessary to hold the interviews and pay negotiations in executive session.

Michelle moved to enter into executive session at 6:45 pm to talk about pay negotiations whereby premature public knowledge would clearly place the town or person involved at a disadvantage. John seconded. All were in favor.

Tom moved; John seconded to move out of executive session 7:00 pm. All were in favor.

7:20 – Interview of Shawn Graves – Tom moved; Michelle seconded to enter into executive session for labor relation negotiations where premature public knowledge would clearly place the town or person involved at a disadvantage. All were in favor. Martin and Cheryl were invited to stay for the discussion. Out of executive session at 7:35. A brief discussion followed about the possibility of hiring an applicant on the condition they get their Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) within 60 days of hire, and the rate of pay.

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7:40 – Interview of Stefan Pratt – Tom moved; John seconded to enter into executive session for labor relation negotiations where premature public knowledge would clearly place the town or person involved at a disadvantage. All were in favor. Martin and Cheryl were invited to stay for the discussion.

Interview of Dustin Mable was a no show – no discussion.

8:00 - Thomas Maynard furnished an application but was unable to meet with the board until the weekend if they choose to do so.

Tom moved out of executive session at 8:15 pm; John seconded. All were in favor.

Action taken as the result of the executive session – Tom moved for permission to call and make an offer of employment to our first applicant; Michelle seconded. All were in favor. Tom will contact Shawn tonight.

Approval of 9/6/16 Minutes: Jason moved; Michelle seconded to approve the minutes of 9/9/16 as written. All were in favor.

New Business: None tonight.

Documents for approval:

- Loan document from the Merchants Bank for \$85,000 to purchase the used firetruck from Speculator NY fire department.
- Errors & Omissions presented by the listers, resulting in a net increase to the Grand List of \$285K.

Warrants for approval:

Warrant #16050 – ck # 18103 – eck# 2271
#16051 – ck# 18104-18143

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.