

## Town of Moretown Selectboard Minutes

11/19/2018

**Board Members present:** Rae Washburn, Tom Martin, John Hoogenboom and Callie Streeter

**Board Members not present:** Jason Aronowitz

**Guest Present:** Catrina Brackett, Cheryl Brown, Katie Martin, Stefan Pratt, Mark Podgwaite and James Herinanowski.

**Tom called the meeting to order at 6:00pm**

**General Public Comment:** None at this time.

### **Reports and Communications:**

#### **TA Report 11/17/18**

1. Ward land for sale \$7,500. This land borders the river between White/Cain/Bergey property, and borders the town land on the east. 1.77 ac. The Board will make a decision on at the 12/3/18 meeting.
2. I have reviewed WASI financial report and their per capita breakdown report. Moretown receives 8.43% in services according to our population. WASI requested \$5,415. 8.43% of the 2018-2019 budget = \$4,322.
3. Cheney accident – the town's insurance personnel and Martin visited the accident site today. As of now, no lawsuit has been filed. If one goes forward the lawyer will meet with the Board.

**Catrina:** Met with Don Wexler and Clark Amadon concerning the location of the Mad River Byway informational signs. One will be placed in front of the Town Office and the other in front of the Town Hall. The Board gives Don and Clark permission to speak with Martin directly in the spring concerning installation.


**John:** John will be attending the Mad River Town Leadership meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup>. There is also an Emerald Ash Borer training that day he will also try to attend. Cheryl noted she did look into the Land Management plan and there are less than 6% Ash trees on Town land. John also attended a meeting with the Moretown Forest Land Group. They discussed options for creating a land trust concerning the Timbervest land of 776 ac. Currently for sale.

**Tom:** Received a voice message from Kari Dolan concerning her interest in attending Selectboard meetings regularly. She also wanted the Boards opinion about someone being on the Selectboard as well as being a State Representative. Everyone felt it was a great idea. Tom will reach out to her.

-An email was received from Karen Horn stating Deborah Carroll had attended the last Planning Commission meeting and expressed interest in serving. The PC strongly recommends her. **MOTION:** Tom made a motion to appoint Deborah Carroll to the Planning Commission. Seconded by John. All Agreed.

-An email was also received concerning a dangerous job site on Lovers Lane. Employees from Stowe Builders have been parking on the traveled portion of the road. It was thought that this issue had been resolved between the parties last week but Johnathan Lewis a resident of Lovers Lane noted the parking problem is occurring again. Travis Cutler the VP of Stowe Builders will be available to meet with Martin on Tuesday morning to discuss the problem.

-An update was received from Staff Sterling Management concerning the Village sidewalk project.

To: Moretown Selectboard  
From: Pat Travers   
Subject: Village Sidewalk and Drainage Project Update

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It appears as though we are finally hitting the final stretch for the Moretown Village Sidewalk Project and the Drainage System Improvements Project.

Regarding the Sidewalk Project; we now have signed easements agreements in place with all of the abutting property owners from whom easements will be needed. All of the easement agreements have been formally approved by VTrans. The next step in the process is to have the Town Attorney assemble all of the related Property Tax Transfers for the easements. Once the Property Tax Transfers have been completed, the signed easements agreements and Property Tax Transfers will be forwarded to VTrans for final approval.

Regarding the drainage project; we are in a similar position. Only one property owner will be affected with an easements agreement. This will be for running the drainage outfall culvert across her property. John Hoogenboom and I met with this property owner to explain some details regarding the required easements on November 7, 2018, and during this meeting, she indicated that she would sign the drainage easements agreement. I am not sure whether she has signed this agreement, or if she has delivered it to the Town Office yet. Similarly to the Sidewalk Project, the Town Attorney will need to assemble the required Property Tax Transfer for these easements. Once that Property Tax Transfer is executed, then this easements agreement and Property Tax Transfer will be forwarded to VTrans for final review.

-An email was received from Martin concerning vacation time stating: I am sending this E-mail to ask the board if they will consider banking some time for the road crew. We all have significant time left to use this year. We all had planned on using much of this time this month as things historically slow down for us. Obviously, things have been anything but slow for us. In fact, we are working nights, weekends, holidays due to the early snowfall. We all are aware of the policy regarding the use of vacation/sick time, however we had planned on using it up at a time that would be most beneficial to the town (October/November) when we have fewer pressing projects happening. In fact, we had all planned on taking this entire week off. Please consider allowing us to bank some vacation/sick time instead of losing this time only because of our dedication to our jobs.

**MOTION:** Rae made a motion to allow the Road Crew to carry over no more than 2 weeks (80 hours) each into 2019. Seconded by John. **DISCUSSION:** Callie stated this should be the case for all employees not just the road crew. Tom spoke of this being a one-time instance and any employee is welcome to make the same request. All agreed.

**Fire Department Budget:** Fire Chief and Warden Stefan Pratt was present to discuss the budget. He spoke about a grant he applied for and that the department was gifted used SCBA gear from the Springfield Fire Department. He also is requesting the \$250 pay for the Warden position be increased to \$500 to help cover the expenses he is incurring. Stefan also noted his capital budget needs in the next few years would include a tanker/pumper truck. Tom requested Catrina to make a permit book to help Stefan keep track of the burn permit requests. No decisions were made on the budget at this time.

**WASI:** Mark Podgwaite and James Herinanowski were present to revisit their request for financial support from the Town. They brought new information concerning financials and their budget. The Board would like to see them obtain signatures from registered Moretown voters, for an article at Town Meeting. Later in the meeting after Mark and James left the Board discussed their request again. Rae was concerned it would be seen as a service only benefiting a small portion of the Town and residents would not feel obligated to pay for the service. Tom noted it is a vital service for the Town and perhaps they should add it into the budget for 2019. WASI had requested an amount \$5415 based on per capita rate of \$18.78. Cheryl did the math based on the % of WASIs budget that goes towards serving Moretown as follows.

8.43% (285 people) of the 6746 that WASI serves are Moretown residents. Based on paying 8.43% of the total 2018/2019 budget of \$364,375.87 the Selectboard will add a line item to the 2019 budget for \$4,322.37. Therefore, no petition will be required from WASI for funding.

**Blodgett Trail #17 hearing for laying out a new access and discontinuing the old access- amend decision and approve new survey Plat #86.**

**Guest in Attendance:** Michael Tarrant (for Paul Gillis), Scott Moran for Montgomery Timber, Robert Martin, Nancy Blodgett, Calvin Blodgett, Travis Blodgett, Brook Dingledine (esq. for Travis Blodgett) David Gage and Kathleen Skomitz.

Brook made several requests to have more specific labels placed on survey Platt 86 so she could better understand it.

On the advice of Mike Tarrant, the Towns attorney the recording of the decision including these minutes and plat 86 will be referenced when recorded into the land records.

The part of Trail #17 bisecting Calvin and Nancy Blodgett's garage and septic, across to the stone abutment until it reaches 4<sup>o</sup> corner is being discontinued as is reflected in Plat #86. The distance of the discontinued portion is approximately 800 feet.

**MOTION:** Tom made a motion to identify the revised survey recorded on 8/24/18 as Plat 86, as the trail to be laid out and showing the location of the former Town Rd ROW/Trail #17. Seconded by John. All agreed.

**Review of Subdivision Regulation Draft:** JB was not present. No objections from the Board. A hearing will be held on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

**Old Business:** Since Jason was not in attendance no personnel issues will be discussed. Tom does want the Board to be able to give Martin a decision concerning Stefan at the next meeting.

**New Business:** None

**Next Meeting:** December 3, 2018 at the Town Office

**Minutes: MOTION:** John made a motion to accept the minutes from 11/5/18. Seconded my Callie. All agreed.

**Warrants:** PR 18056 e2904-e2915 & 20041-20046; AP 18057 20047-20066; AP 18058 20067-20092

**Documents Approved:** None at this time

**Motion to Adjourn:** Tom made a motion to adjourn at 8:30pm. Rae seconded, all agreed.