

**Town of Moretown
Select Board Meeting
06/07/2021**

In person at the Town Hall
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6201042716>
Via ZOOM Meeting ID 620 104 2716
Or to call in: 929-205-6099

Members Present: Tom Martin, John Hoogenboom, Rae Washburn, Callie Streeter, Don Wexler

Guests Present: Cory & Chris Stephenson, Chuck Burt, Clark Amadon, Jennifer Hill, Michelle Beard, Denise Gabaree, Hadley Laskowski, ORCA Media, Sasha Elwell-Badore

Meeting Called to order by Tom at 6:00 PM

Public Comment: Hadley was present to introduce the new reporter filling her position, his name is Alex Dickinson.

6:05 Face Covering Mandate: brief discussion was had on the Face Covering Mandate that the SB put in place last year due to the pandemic. With most people having vaccinations and state mandates being lifted the SB decided that it is no longer needed. Tom made the motion to lift the face covering mandate. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

6:10 CV Fiber: Chuck was present to update the SB on CV Fiber, he explained the process of building the network. Pole inventory, network design, make poles ready, construction, drops (individual residence/business wiring). Cost estimates for the entire network is estimated to be \$46 million, Moretown will cost \$2 million of that figure. The goal is to have the un-serviced areas starting up service possibly by the beginning of 2023. While CV Fiber is able to get grants, the individual towns will need to contribute as well. The more the town inputs, the better the subscription price will be to residences and businesses. ARPA money will be going to the town, half in 2021 and the second half in 2022. One of the items the ARPA money is qualified for is broadband. The short-term amount that CV Fiber is asking from the town (Moretown) is \$67,498. Longer-term would be approximately a \$1 million short-fall that would be asked of the SB. Once a decision/approval has been made by the SB, an MOU would be drafted up for signing. They were hoping that Waitsfield Champlain Telecom would be doing the construction but it will be WEC. For more information on CV Fiber visit cvfiber.net.

Tom mentioned a webinar that he attended regarding the ARPA grant and he would like to be more-clear on it before he shares it with the rest of the SB.

6:32 E911 Road Names & DRB Fees: David was present via ZOOM to get the SB approval on three new road names. Rivers Development would like a new road name of **Rivers Retreat Road**. Tom made the motion to accept the road name. Rae seconded. All were in favor. Living Tree would like a new road name of **Roberts Ramble**. Tom made the motion to accept the road name. John seconded. All were in favor. Gallagher Acres needed to re-name a road, so they would like EXT added, making it **Gallagher Acres EXT**. Tom made the motion to accept the road name. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

David distributed a proposal for new fees, he wants to be sure that the fees line up with what is involved for each task. Tom asked that he work with Sasha on this, there may be a reason for the fees to be where they are at. Tom pointed out that the town isn't into making money, he believes that the fees should be reasonable. Tom would like David to attend the next meeting with an update.

6:43 Reports & Communications: Sasha wanted everyone to be aware of the next meeting having a hearing on the next sidewalk project, they will be joining via ZOOM. Ken Robie, MPM with Dubois & King will be attending, as well as, Erik Alling, one of the Design Engineers with Stantec. This is Warned on the Moretown website. Sasha also asked the SB to be sure they approve the letter regarding a VMERS audit that needs to be done, Cherilyn needs authorization for them to get started.

Tom mentioned an email from David about the Taplin school and wants to discuss it further, possibly at the next meeting. Don will dig into it and see what he can find out.

John made the motion to accept the **SB minutes from 05/17/2021**. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

6:47 Old Business: Rae had Cheryl look into the Jeff Ladue topic of bringing material annually to the road that his camp is on. There was no quantity that had been agreed on and the intention was to keep definition to the road so that the town wouldn't need to spend money on a survey. Rae would like to formalize an agreement. Although, in the long run, Tom suggested that it may be cheaper to get the survey done. Or when budget time comes around, be sure to put money in the budget so that a survey can be done and that way the road is identified.

Rae gave an update on the Moulton property pin issue, he has contacted the surveyor and he will be going back to meet with Dean. They had visited the property already, but Dean believes there may be another pin in question.

Rae spoke briefly about the Class IV and Class III roads policy, stating that ATV's have always been allowed on the roads as long as they are legally registered. The rules for that changed last year to reflect it back to the towns and putting it on them to make the decision.

Rae mentioned having a parking lot estimate and Tom would like him to submit it so that it can be sent over to HUUSD.

7:00 Presentation – Town Hall / Library Committee: Don asked for the meeting to be held at the town hall for this presentation. He would like the potential of possibilities looked at since in 2035 (in 14 years) the town hall will be 200 years old. Members of the committee were present to give the presentation, consisting of: Clark Amadon, Michelle Beard, Denise Gabaree, Cory Stephenson, and Jennifer Hill. The town hall has historically been a place to gather and a place for events. In one way or another everyone has been in the town hall, there have been meetings, classes, various groups and many events have taken place there. The library opened back up on June 1 and there were 25 people that came in that day. The committee has found that most people want the town hall to continue on with being used. There are many grants out there to be applied for once the clarification on what the use for the hall will be. Once the space is defined, the grants can be zoomed in on. The committee asked for the SB to give them feedback and define the space and formalize it with the Library Trustees. They advised that they were granted \$3,000 for community engagement, and shared a few ideas they have to obtain that engagement.

Callie liked the mock up idea so that a visual could maybe illustrate it better. She had a difficult time picturing the library in the town hall, but once she has seen it set up she likes it.

Rae liked the presentation and thinks that it should move forward. He brought up the parking issue and asked that it be considered.

Tom asked Denise her outlook on it, she admitted she was hesitant but thinks it should be used. There are still a lot of questions that need to be answered, but feels that a mock up would be helpful to her as well. She hopes for more community involvement. Tom feels that something needs to be done with the basement, it should be utilized as well.

John agrees and he would like to see the mock up too.

Other issues that have been considered are safety, ramps, the elevator, etc.

Tom reminded Don again about warning the meetings, agendas and taking minutes. He also told the committee that if they have any more questions, don't hesitate to reach out to the SB.

7:29 Old Business: back to it, Rae spoke briefly about the 2 spots in the sidewalk that need attention. Dubois would like the 2 spots taken out by the road department and then they can re-pour the sidewalk, Rae thinks that it should be eight inches in those areas. Tom suggested getting with Martin on it and coordinate the timing. Rae advised that he and Martin had met with the attorney on River Road regarding the Cheney lawsuit. He said that mediation is scheduled for June 30.

John mentioned the tree that the town agreed to replace on the Beard's lawn, he plans on contacting Michelle to discuss it.

7:35 New Business: Tom spoke briefly on the lawn mower (JD tractor). Martin let him know that it quit, the transmission has an issue. The repair will cost about \$3,500, Tom gave him the go-ahead to get it repaired but to be sure that the tractor is worth it. He advised that Martin is obtaining trade-in information as well.

Tom let the SB know that the road department has now gone to 4 – 10-hour days and should be going back to 5 – 8-hour days after Labor Day.

Don spoke to a resident at Gallagher Acres and they suggested a sidewalk in that area. He thought that the grant for the village sidewalk could be applied to a sidewalk on that side of town. He also voiced some push-back on the west sidewalk and maybe putting in a bicycle lane instead.

Don let the SB know he had sent out soil samples to UVM for testing, from the sand pit area. He is exploring options of fertilizing the cedar hedge to get them growing more. He plans on getting Martin involved with it and Michael Brown voiced some interest as well. Don is going to work on getting the tree warden and other volunteers involved too.

Don had a suggestion for a fund raiser to perhaps help with Morefest. A few years back Patty Moulton had Moretown Vt hats/caps made up and maybe that would be something to look into.

John spoke briefly about the parking lot drainage project. Both he and Rae met with the immediate neighbors, along with the design people. The question of "standing-water" and increased mosquitos was discussed. The water would only be standing perhaps one day, depending on the amount of rain that falls, and mosquitos take 12-14 days to breed. With the two different designs that have been proposed the gravel options sounds best, the one with stones (bio-retention) needs to be vacuumed out annually, therefore costing more in the long run. Tom encouraged them to get the project moving forward. John will be contacting Pam Deandreas with CVRPC.

Tom read a letter regarding Morefest, he let the SB know that Lindsay Staples and his wife Lee Anne had a meeting to start discussing plans for Morefest. Rae made the motion for the Morefest Committee to form. Callie seconded. All were in favor. September dates were discussed with the goal of having everyone's participation from the SB. Research is being done on the fireworks and the fire department really wants to do a corn roast. Tom appointed Sasha to be the liaison between the Morefest committee and the SB.

Tom thanked everyone for their patience over the past year going through the pandemic. Going forward meetings will be held at the town office, just as before the pandemic. Brief discussion was had on ZOOM and dis-continuing with it. In order to continue on with it, there would be need for a speaker, a microphone and a camera. Don is planning on contacting other towns to see what they are doing.

Warrants signed and approved:

Payroll – 21019 e-checks 3656-3665
21021 e-checks 3667-3676
21023 e-checks 3678-3688

Accounts Payable – 21020 checks 22263-22290
21022 checks 22291-22325
21024 checks 22326-22357

Adjourn: Rae made the motion to adjourn at 8:08 PM. Callie seconded. All were in favor.