

**Town of Moretown  
Select Board Meeting  
06/21/2021 6:00 PM  
79 School Street  
In the John Hoogenboom Meeting Room**

**Members Present:** Tom Martin, John Hoogenboom, Rae Washburn (arrived at 6:30), Callie Streeter, Don Wexler

**Guests Present:** Susan with ORCA Media, Cherilyn Brown, Ken Robie – DuBois & King, Gary Butler, Erik Alling – Stantec, John Summers, Kaila Summers, Charles & Jan Briggs, Sasha Elwell-Badore

**Meeting Called to order** by Tom at 6:00 PM

**Public Comment:** there was none

**6:02:** Tom presented John Hoogenboom with a plaque to mount on the meeting room wall, making the dedication official: **John Hoogenboom Meeting Room**  
John has served Moretown on the Selectboard for more than thirty years.

**6:03: Road Closures** (seasonal) – Callie spoke about the research that Rae and herself have done on the seasonal road closures. There is great concern regarding the trespassing that takes place near some of the town trails and class IV roads in town. There has been much disrespect shown by individuals four wheeling and even trailering in bigger 4x4's. In the past, anything that has been put up to keep people out during the winter season has been either vandalized or stolen. Callie believes that anything done, would be a waste of time and money. Perhaps having the area patrolled more often and tickets given out to violators, may be a good start to calming the issue. Another problem has been with ATV's not being legally registered. Tom suggested maybe having VSP come to a SB meeting and get their thoughts on the matter. More discussion will be had on restrictions for an ATV Ordinance at a future SB meeting. Callie and Rae will continue working on the logistics, and restrictions that would best fit. Once the SB agrees on an ordinance, it would need to be warned and hold an official meeting, just as any other. Callie is planning on reaching out to other towns as well, to see how it is handled in other areas.

**6:15: West Side Sidewalk Project: Moretown STP BP19(3)** Tom gave an overview of the study that was done in 2009 for Safe Routes to School. Dubois & King was the firm that conducted the study. The conclusion was to implement sidewalks throughout the village to calm the traffic. Bringing in the edges of the road (Route 100B) would be a fix, without going through more studies to bring down the speed limit. It has been proven that curbs make the road feel smaller so as to slow drivers

down. The plan was to be done in five phases, doing sections of sidewalk at different times over a span of years. Due to the sidewalks being in the state right-of-way, the dimensions need to follow state regulation. A grant was obtained by Cherilyn Brown, the grant manager in 2019 for the west side project. The Town of Moretown was awarded a half million dollars for this project, with the town's portion being about \$80,000. This money has to be used for this particular project, it can not just be moved to another area, the studies were done for Route 100B.

**6:20: Ken Robie with Dubois & King** introduced himself, he is the Municipal Project Manager (MPM). He works closely with property owners affected by the project. **Erik Alling with Stantec**, the Design Engineer, presented a power point with the plan of the West Side Sidewalk. This phase will be from the Library to the Town Hall, excluding the Doctor's Brook Bridge (to be replaced at a future date). The project is entirely in the state right-of-way, there are a few mailboxes and some landscaping that will need to be addressed. According to the VTrans standards, curb to curb will be a 30-foot span, containing a 4-foot shoulder and 11-foot lane. This will encourage slower speeds, along with the crosswalks, crosswalks are not installed unless there is a sidewalk on both sides of the road.

After the presentation, there were residents with many questions. Ken and Erik addressed all of them with great explanations. They shared their emails so as to encourage their inquiries as they think of them. Both Ken and Erik are very willing to work with residents affected by this project.

**7:10:** Tom asked for a moment of silence for **Erick Titrud**, he unexpectedly passed away last week. Erick served on the DRB for many years and has done a lot for the town. The SB will be sending a donation in his name.

**Reports & Communications:** Sasha pointed out that Cherilyn had left each SB member a current budget status report, keeping them up-to-date.

Sasha let the SB know that two DRB member's terms have expired, they both asked to be re-appointed. Tom made the motion to re-appoint David Russo and Greg Nagurney to the DRB. John seconded. All were in favor.

Sasha inquired about the site visit to Freeman Hill Road, and when should it be scheduled? Tom would like it to be a group meeting and he will need to get back in touch after checking his calendar. Due to the next SB meeting being right after a holiday. It needs to be the first meeting in July or go into August, the Dow's are not going to be in town for the second July meeting.

Brief discussion was had on the Personnel Policy, there are more numbers John would like changed in the insurance section. Tom brought up the new Federal Holiday of Juneteenth, June 19. All agreed that it should be added to the list of holidays for

employees. Sasha will make the adjustments to the insurance and bring it back to the SB.

A short MOU between the town and Jeff Ladue was agreed on. The SB will be signing it and Rae will get it to Jeff for his signature and back to the office for recording.

John mentioned that it was brought to his attention that there is no sign on the fire station. Callie will get with Stefan and see what is going on with that.

**Old Business:** more discussion was had on the speed of traffic going through the village. Tom suggested asking Lieutenant White with VSP to come to a SB meeting to explore more law enforcement. Also, to contact Joyce Manchester regarding a flashing sign on a trailer, (the kind that flashes when you are speeding). John suggested also speaking with our legislatures about pushing to better maintain Route 100B. Don has noticed a few spots at the edge of the pavement that was just re-done last summer, that need attention before they are a problem. Tom has noticed a few bumps in the guardrails as well, from snow plows. Rae will reach out and contact someone on those issues so as they get addressed sooner, rather than later. Don suggested perhaps reaching out to area businesses, for them to educate employees on following speed limits (just as a reminder).

Tom let the SB know that Jennifer Hill with the library trustees got in touch with him after they did their presentation at the previous meeting. He questioned Don as to the reasoning of why they are talking about an MOU with the town again. They are part of the town and there is no need for an MOU to be in place. The SB supports the library and are very willing to work with them. Their stay at the town hall has been extended twice now. Don advised that he didn't know the reasoning and suggested that maybe they don't want to feel as if they are "tenants" at the town hall. He mentioned that the next town hall / library meeting would be Wednesday at 5:30 PM at the town hall.

Quick discussion was had on the shrubs in front of the gravel pit and trying to get them to grow quicker. The road crew will be involved with getting the fertilizing of them done, Don has been communicating with Martin on it.

Robert Turner was mentioned and there had not been anything discussed recently. Rae is planning on getting with Martin on it again. Sasha thought that perhaps it was some miscommunication as far as Robert thinking that Martin was getting back to him and vice versa.

**Moulton Property Pin:** Rae let the SB know that the surveyor found that the easterly pin was missing and when they met with Dean he said it was the westerly pin. Martin and Dean were not quite in agreement. Dean is actually having his own survey done now. Rae mentioned that he has not received an invoice from the surveyor and hopes that it may be cheaper than previously thought it would be.

**New Business:** brief discussion was had on the Taplin School property, Don contacted Ryan again and said that GMP seems agreeable. There needs to be septic and a well done on the property for it to be inhabitable. The possibility of turning it into affordable housing was one of the thoughts, with the Recovery Act. More discussion needs to be had. Tom asked that Don let Ryan know that there is interest in the property and to get more details on it.

Tom spoke a little bit about the funds coming from the Recovery Act. As of now it is \$174,305.11 coming to the town, with 50% this year and then next year the other 50%. The deadline to ask for it had approached, so Cherilyn sent in the request prior to that date, (otherwise we risked losing out) and it will be put into a separate fund. Tom let all know that there are a lot of strings that go along with that money. Also, that the amount could be more, since Vermont doesn't have "County Government", what was designated to that area could possibly trickle down to towns.

Don had reached out to Waitsfield to see what virtual tools they are using and they purchased a Meeting Owl (something that moves around) to continue with hybrid meetings. Thoughts were tossed around for someone to join in one of their meetings as a guest to see how it works and get a consumer's view of it. Rae would really rather have meetings in person, giving more of a sense of community. Tom pointed out that it would still allow people to attend the meetings without actually coming out to town. Tom asked Susan with ORCA Media what she is experiencing. Her response was that a lot of towns are doing hybrid, both in person and virtual. Her thought was that the virtual meetings abruptly ended quick. Tom pointed out that it is the law now, once the state of emergency had expired in person meetings are required.

Don had the walk through with Efficiency Vermont at the town hall, and mentioned emailing the report of what they suggested (no one had remembered seeing it). He said he would resend it out to everyone. He plans a walk through with them at the town garage on Thursday and he will be making arrangements with Stefan for the fire station as well.

Don brought up reaching out to the community to get more interest in people to run for office in town. John pointed out that there are no open slots on the Selectboard, but there are openings for other positions, such as Auditors and Listers, as he recalled on the ballot from town meeting was pretty empty. Brief discussion was had on recruiting individuals, EMERGE was suggested and Callie is going to get more information on the organization. Tom pointed out that the SB position does not pay very much and you need to have a genuine interest in serving your town to participate on this board. There are other places that pay \$5,000-10,000 to be on the SB/Council. For the SB to be successful you need to have the desire to serve your community without an agenda of your own. As the Chair, it takes time away from your job, Tom is lucky enough to be

able to full fill the need. He makes phone calls out on the road while he is travelling for work and checks in with the town office, often.

John brought up the Fletcher Road bridge (Grama's bridge) and tossed out the idea of it possibly going back to a covered bridge. He would like to explore those options.

**8:20** John made the motion to **accept the SB minutes of 06/07/2021**. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

**Warrants approved & signed:**

Curb cut for Carl Wimble was approved.

The MOU between the town and Jeff Ladue was approved & signed.

HUUSD MOU was signed and ready to be sent to the schoolboard.

**Warrants:** Payroll 21025 e-checks 3690-3702 and check # 21288  
Accounts Payable 21026 check # 22358-22387

**Adjourn:** Tom made the motion to adjourn at 8:34 PM. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Please note that the town share of the sidewalk is actually \$103,000 not \$80,000, the wrong number was given to Tom. That portion will be addressed at the next SB meeting.