

**Town of Moretown
Select Board Meeting
07/06/2021 5:00 PM
On-site Visit at the end of Freeman Hill Road**

Members Present: Tom Martin, John Hoogenboom, Rae Washburn, Don Wexler, not present Callie Streeter

Guests Present: Marilyn Cameron, Hugh & Pam Dow, Ryan White, Robert Dillon, Travis Blodgett, Edward Blake and Mary Murphy-Blake

Tom called the meeting to **order** at 5:13 PM, followed by a walk through the woods where Legal Trail 18 is believed to be.

Adjourned on-site visit at 5:40 PM – Reconvening at 79 School Street at 6:00 PM

**Town of Moretown Select Board Meeting continued at 6:00 PM
79 School Street
In the John Hoogenboom Meeting Room**

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

Guests Present: ORCA Media, Marilyn Cameron, Hugh & Pam Dow, Travis Blodgett, Stefan Pratt, Sasha Elwell-Badore

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

Public Comment: Travis was present to let the SB know about a few ATV issues he has had on the Moretown Mountain Road. There has been damage done to his vehicle and he did call VSP. He wanted to voice some concerns he has about the ATV discussions that have been taking place, in hopes that the public will be heard before there are any decisions made. Tom let him know that Callie and Rae are working on it and exploring different options. Perhaps the second meeting in July it will be discussed more. Tom is in hopes that something can be put together before Town Meeting and it can be voted on at that point.

Tom asked Stefan to come to the SB meeting for public comment. Tom received another call regarding the Farnham dogs over the weekend. Stefan told the SB that he has handled 13 calls on the Farnham dogs since he took on the ACO position. Tom let the SB know that Central Vermont Humane Society cancelled their contract with the Town. They dealt with verbal abuse and threats from Mike Farnham, they then asked that Stefan pick up the dogs. Tom didn't feel that the Town should be ferrying them

back and forth, that is not what the ACO does. So, there is now nowhere the dogs can go, except back to the dog owners. Stefan would like to proceed with contacting the town attorney, set up a meeting with Mike Farnham and the Select Board and then go on from there. Currently Mike owes \$820 in fines to the Town. Stefan said that they are great dogs but people don't know that when they are out and about running around. The Town Constable has even spoken with Mike Farnham, trying to get him to fix his fencing so the dogs are kept safe. Previously, when Tom Martin tried to speak with Mike, he threw rocks at him. Stefan has had to contact VSP regarding some of the threats that he has received. There is a training through VLCT that Stefan is going to take on July 22.

6:10 Discussion on Legal Trail 18 on-site visit at the end of Freeman Hill

Road: Pam gave documentation to Tom that was dug up from 2010. Tom would like to have Cheryl Brown come and work on this and see what she can find on this Legal Trail and see where things are, eventually get an attorney involved. John advised that the Town at one point had discussed getting a survey or two done every year until they are all located. SB agrees that needs to happen, maybe \$5,000 a year could cover that cost so that the LT's can be located. Marilyn said that she will dig up her original deed to see if there is something in it, since the Legal Trail 18 is believed to dead end on her property.

6:20 Zoning Fees – David gave the SB a spreadsheet with proposed fee changes. After going over the changes, there was brief discussion and the SB decided that they needed more input from David as to where the figures came from. Consulting with John Riley would likely be the next step for some input. Rae didn't think that the residential DRB fees should go up. Thinking that it should be affordable for a landowner to make improvements to their property. No motion was made to accept.

Reports & Communications: Callie had contacted the State of Vermont regarding the subject of ATV's and has not heard anything back from them. She checked in with Berlin to see what they have done and this is not something that they have in place or addressed. She did find out that the town of Barton has registration in place for ATV's. Rae & Callie are hoping to have their information all put together so that this can be discussed at the first August SB meeting. Travis let the SB know that this topic is being discussed in Marshfield as well.

Don advised that he participated, along with Stefan, in the walk through at the fire station and town garage. There wasn't much at the fire station, so focus right now will be on the town garage. There were some issues that they found there and certainly need to be addressed sooner rather than later. There are some lighting issues and there is assistance through Efficiency Vermont with that. Then there is a moisture problem inside the building (in the corner of the right-hand bay) and it is going right down the wall. A list of contractors has been obtained, Don and Rae will work on that.

Don will be contacting Paul Grenier that did the walk through to see what costs could be assisted with.

The walk through at the town hall suggested that the refrigerator be unplugged in the kitchen, being empty it uses a lot of energy. Don made sure that that has been addressed and done.

Don mentioned seeing Mike Woods and he reminded Don that as of August 1st he is no longer a lister. Tom asked that a post be put out on FPF again to see if there is any interest.

Don let the SB know he put out another call to Ryan with GMP about the Taplin School and is waiting to hear back from him.

Rae advised that he put out an email to the state regarding the spots Don let everyone know about along Route 100B that need attention from the construction last summer.

Tom brought up an email that was sent to the SB about the gate being locked at the recreation fields behind the town office. There was brief discussion on why this continues to be locked, reminding everyone of the vandalizing that took place on the fields a while back. Everyone agreed that it should be locked.

Tom received a call from Loretta Keene about the gate on their property, it was damaged some time over the winter. He took a look at it, as well as Martin and it is possible that the plow truck may have done it. Tom advised that it is still usable, but needs some repair.

Tom has been notified by Karen Horn advocating for the PC to continue with their virtual meetings. Tom asked that Don look more deeply into the product that is being used in other towns to continue the virtual option.

Old Business: Rae had a meeting in the village with Ken and Erik (Dubois & King and Stantec) after the last SB meeting. He feels confident that they are handling this sidewalk project very well. They are willing to really work with the residents that the sidewalk is affecting. He mentioned that Frank Piazza's porch was built right in the state right-of-way. Going forward Ken is going to start meeting with each landowner. Tom mentioned that so far, the town has spent roughly \$60,000 on this project and if we (the town) were to back out, the town would owe that money back to the state. There should be another meeting scheduled after Ken has had the time to meet with the residents.

Rae advised that he did speak with Martin regarding the Robert Turner RMS that has been in the works for the last couple of years. It is still very much on Martin's radar, and there had been some miscommunication as far as who was getting back to who next. Stefan let the SB know that the road crew is calling Harvest Equipment once a week to get some kind of an ETA on the mower. The part that is needed is still on back order. Tom mentioned that Eric Howes is assisting in getting the mowing done until the

mower has been repaired. Martin and Shawn have both used their own personal mowers and Tom suggested submitting for reimbursement of \$50 for each time.

Tom updated the SB on the 2021 Morefest plans, being as his wife is on the committee. The date is set for September 25, 2021. The only SB member not able to make it will be Callie. Notes were handed over to Sasha for filing, North Star Fireworks contract for \$4,000, along with minutes from their meeting. Lee Anne Martin and Lindsay Staples asked that the SB allow the committee to hire a band "Ragged Company", (Steve Sharp is a member) to play 2 – 1 hour sets for \$500. The fire department is planning on doing a corn roast as a fund raiser and they have asked that the Neal Farm donate the corn, as they have in the past. Tom is working on having a Moretown business donate money (\$500) for a pig roast on behalf of the SB. He feels confident that there will be no problem. The SB would ask for donations and give the money raised to one of the Moretown committees. Don is waiting on a quote for the purchase of ball-caps that say Moretown on them, to sell as a fundraiser as well. The MES / PTA is having Lawson's donate the beer for the beer tent. Quick discussion was had on needing a sheriff for that reason and Tom suggested asking our first constable, Tom Chenette. The 2021 Morefest Committee consists of Lee Anne Martin, Lindsay Staples, Michelle Beard, Duane Pierson and Meg Schultz. The suggestion of possibly having a touch-the-truck at Morefest and asking for input was made. Possibly having the new town truck and the fire department participate as well. Tom asked for a motion. Rae made the motion to approve what the Morefest Committee has planned so far. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

John brought up the Personnel Policy insurance numbers and made the suggestion to eliminate the actual numbers and just word it so that it covers as a "blanket" and does not have to be corrected every year accordingly. He will work on that wording with Sasha.

SB Minutes: Tom wanted the minutes amended to reflect that the wrong amount was said at the last meeting, regarding the town share of the sidewalk. Instead of \$80,000 it will be \$103,000. Don would like the minutes to reflect that there was push back from village residents regarding the next sidewalk project, he felt that it was not reflected and would like it to be. Rae **made the motion to accept the SB minutes of 6/21/2021 as amended**. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

New Business: Sasha asked the SB for permission for the NOW (Neck of the Woods) formerly known as MECA program to park their van in the community parking overnight for the next six weeks. They are transporting the kids from MES to their location. The SB had no objection, just that a contact phone number for someone would be convenient, as a just-in-case scenario. Sasha will contact Moie and let her know.

Sasha let the SB know Richard Valentinetti's Health Officer term is up at the end of July. Richard would like to be re-appointed to the position. Tom made the motion to re-appoint Richard Valentinetti to Health Officer. John seconded. All were in favor.

Tom would like to hopefully discuss the tax rate at the next SB meeting and be able to set that rate so that the town has some money coming in.

7:19 John made the motion to go into Executive Session finding that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the Select Board at a substantial disadvantage, due to attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the Select Boards as per Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(F). Rae seconded. All were in favor.

7:32 John made the motion to leave Executive Session. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Warrants approved & signed:

21028 Payroll - e-checks 3704-3715 and check # 22404
21027 Accounts Payable – checks 22388-22402

Vermont Department of Health Town Health Officer Recommendation Form was signed.

Adjourn: Don made the motion to adjourn at 7:40 PM. Callie seconded. All were in favor.