

**Fayston Select Board
Via Zoom Teleconference
Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2020**

Select Board (SB) Members: Jared Cadwell (Jared), Chuck Martel (Chuck), and Mike Jordan (Mike)

Select Board Assistant/Minutes Recorder: Lisa Koitzsch (Lisa)

Attendees: Lisa Loomis, The Valley Reporter; Tony Italiano, MRVTV

Jared called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. Chuck made a motion to approve the minutes of June 9, 2020 and Mike seconded. There was no further discussion, all in favor, the motion was approved.

2. Review Budget Decisions
 - On June 18, 2020, the SB met to review the Town budget and discuss the Town Auditor's report that the Fund Balance was greater than anticipated. This was due in part to an increase in fee and grant income in 2019.
 - The Town anticipates some reimbursement for COVID-related expenses this year, although details of such a payment are still unclear.
 - Because of a possible delay in setting the State Education Tax Rate, tax bills will be mailed later than usual. This likely will have an impact on the timing of expected revenue.
 - No changes were made to the budget as the SB will wait to see if the Town does receive a COVID-related reimbursement. The SB will need to determine what part of the Fund Balance would be needed to offset expenses and what part would be held as a reserve fund.
 - Mike reported all State road grants are currently frozen. Fayston has delayed a few road projects in 2020 such as paving N. Fayston Road.

3. Fire Department Update

The Waitsfield/Fayston Fire Department Chief, Tripp Johnson, recently invited the Select Boards of both towns to a meeting at the fire station. Chuck and Jared represented Fayston and reported they were impressed with the presentation and with the leadership shown by Chief Johnson.

 - Chief Johnson gave an overview of the state of the firehouse, maintenance concerns, equipment status and potential capital needs.
 - The current uniform inventory for interior firefighting needs to be replenished as soon as possible. The Department's 29 air packs must be replaced soon (\$4,500/bottle) as they are coming to the end of their 15-year life cycle.
 - The Towns' capital budgets for the Fire Department will need to be increased over the next 5 to 10 years to meet equipment needs. There may also be some grant opportunities for some of these expenses.
 - The SB is concerned about the financial commitment the Town will have to make to the Fire Department but acknowledged the Department is working hard to keep expenses low.
 - Some maintenance of the firehouse building is needed. The SB suggested the Fire Department set up a maintenance fund in anticipation of future expenses.
 - There is an ongoing challenge to get qualified people to volunteer for the Department.
 - The Chief expressed his concern regarding communications in the Valley as so many use different networks and devices.

Action Item: The SBs from both Towns will explore the possibility of having an expert in telecommunications and emergency services assess the current networks and make a recommendation.

4. Boyce Hill Update

Lisa summarized some of the work the Fayston Conservation Commission (FCC) has been doing for the Boyce Hill Town Forest (BHTF).

- She reminded the SB there is an Interim Management Plan already in place for the BHTF and that the FCC is currently working through a long-term management planning process. Phase One is focused on learning about the property, its natural and recreational resources, and its cultural history. Some of the educational events planned for this year were not able to happen because of COVID-19. Phase Two will engage the public through forums and meetings and culminate in the development of the actual long-term management plan for the property.
- The Request for Proposal for the Natural Resources Inventory/Ecological Assessment is almost complete and will be available soon. The FCC received a “Tiny Grant” from the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions for this project.
- The FCC has been working with the Vermont Master Naturalist program to develop a project on the oral and written cultural history of BHTF.
- The Vermont Land Trust will be conducting an Invasive Species Inventory for BHTF.
- The Fayston Road Crew completed work on upgrading Boyce Road and creating a parking area for BHTF.
- There has been an increase in traffic to the property as people discover this beautiful spot. The FCC is monitoring this and will need to discuss trash, possible toilet facilities, etc. at some point in the future if issues start to arise.
- The FCC has been hearing from and responding to people on several issues such as mowing, horses, pond use, and weddings. The Commission is taking the time to consider all these different voices and learn what it can about the issues.
- A notice will be sent out soon to Fayston residents to find people interested in serving on the BHTF Steering Committee. Lisa asked the SB for permission to send the notice out on the Town Listserv and they agreed.

Chuck, the Fayston SB representative to the BHTF Steering Committee, asked Fayston residents to bear with the Town as it moves forward through the long-term management planning process. He noted the Interim Management Plan has restrictions in place that will be reviewed during the long-term process. He also thanked Corrie Miller (Corrie) for her hard work on behalf of the BHTF.

Chuck reported that he, Lisa, and Corrie met with Karen Winhold, owner of the Icelandic Horse Farm, to discuss her concern that horses are not allowed on the property in the Interim Management Plan.

5. Grievance Update

Nine property owners filed a grievance on their property assessment and the Town lists held hearings via conference call on June 17th. Site visits have been conducted on all properties. Deliberations began yesterday, June 23rd and will continue tomorrow, June 24th. Doug Mosle (Doug) and Sarah Stavraký (Sarah), Fayston Town Listers, will give the SB an update after the close of deliberations. Jared complimented Doug and Sarah on their public outreach efforts to property owners.

6. Excess Weight Permits

No excess weight permits needed to be signed.

7. Read Mail and Sign Warrant

Chuck made a motion to approve the warrant of June 23rd, 2020. Mike seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.

8. Other Business:

Lisa reported the Tri-Town Conservation Commission Meeting will be held Wednesday June 24th at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

At 5:35 p.m. Chuck made a motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Town's Bassett Hill property and a possible contractual agreement with an adjacent landowner. Mike seconded. No further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.

At 5:50 p.m. Jared made a motion to come out of Executive Session, Chuck seconded. No further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.

Action Item: The SB will continue the research with landowners adjacent to the Bassett Hill property.

At 5:54 p.m. Chuck made a motion to adjourn the SB meeting. Mike seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.

The next SB meeting is **July 14, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.** It has not yet been determined if the meeting will be held via Zoom teleconference or in person at the Robert Vasseur Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa O. Koitzsch

Approved: Jared Cadwell