

MINUTES FOR SELECT BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, August 24, 2021

Attendees

Select Board: Chuck Martel (Chuck), Michael Jordan (Mike),

Select Board Assistant: Patti Lewis

Minutes Taker: Betsy Carter

Guests: Bryce Douglas (MRVTV), Lisa Loomis, Richard Davis, Dorothy Langevin, Rob Tierney, Diane Ford, Freddie Graves, Gregory Viens

1. **Meeting called to order at 5:01**
2. **Approve Select Board Minutes of August 10, 2021**
 - a. *Motion to approve meeting minutes from August 10, 2021 by Mike, seconded by Chuck, all in favor, none opposed. Minutes are approved.*
3. **Road Foreman Update**
 - a. Culvert replacement complete.
 - b. Paving still tracking to mid/late September completion.
4. **5:15: Richard Davis re: North Fayston Road Traffic**
 - a. Dorothy Langevin lives at the intersection of North & Center Fayston roads. Everyone seems to be in a hurry to get to their destinations and drivers are not slowing down for the horses being ridden on either side of the road.
 - i. Motorcycle incident in the spring: A motorcycle accelerated past a group of Icelandic horse riders and a horse spooked and the rider fell. Words were exchanged between the riders and motorcyclist. The rider had to go to the emergency room.
 - ii. A group of horses was coming down Sharpshooters Road and a truck going uphill threw some rocks and caused a horse to spook and gallop downhill with a young rider onboard.
 - b. Chuck: has there been a difference since the signs have been posted? I walk that area often and it does feel smaller. Are you getting the same sense?
 - i. Dorothy: I think people are starting to get the sense that the road is being used by more than just auto traffic.
 - ii. Freddie: I notice a little bit of a difference on Big Basin. I've been working with the Vermont Horse Council as this is a statewide problem. 20mph is the recommended speed past walkers, bikers, and horse riders. I ask that the paper (Valley Reporter) run an educational series on these driving safety issues.
 - iii. Diane: I'm on the bottom of North Fayston Road and it's just not safe; there is an undesignated parking area that is unsafe. I'm unsure if we need police presence for a while.
 - c. Chuck: Is the Vermont Horse Council in a position to make recommendations?
 - i. Freddie: They are in favor of the signs we've been doing here.
 - ii. Richard: They have a safety video on their website (<https://www.vthorsecouncil.org/>) for education.
 - d. Richard: On Sunday it appears someone deliberately ran down the signs on North Fayston Road (both sides). People don't understand horses but also the incivility being experienced and branching out into this. There was an incident of road rage toward a group of girls riding out of the Icelandic Horse Farm. Given the recent incidents we do need law enforcement presence.
 - e. Chuck: The situation of people running down the signs is a destruction of private property and should be reported.
 - i. Richard: But they wouldn't even come out for a hit and run.
 - ii. Freddie: Perhaps game cameras?
 - iii. Richard: Currently there are no consequences for people behaving badly.
 - iv. Mike: We need a way of identifying these people like Freddie recommended with the game cameras that provides the police with the evidence needed.
 - f. Chuck: From a valley perspective we can't even jointly afford a police force. The state police are short staffed. I'm not sure how we can go forward.
 - i. Richard: Unfortunately, we're starting to deal with more suburban issues in our rural area.
 - ii. Chuck: I'm still at a loss as what the Town can do to help this problem.

- iii. Dorothy: I think the Valley Reporter should run a piece as well as Seven Days.
 - iv. Freddie: I think we also need to work with the other towns of the Valley to understand what they are doing.
 - v. Richard: I also think the Town should incorporate into the budget for a sign like what Tunbridge has for town messaging. (Ver-mac 888-488-7446, Richard Padco) There are no prices listed on its website. They are mobile and solar powered. I've heard they cost about \$3000.
 - g. Chuck: I will contact Joshua Schwarz with the Mad River Planning District to coordinate with what the other towns are doing.
 - h. Freddie: I've also noticed the width of the road with the stop signs at that intersection continues to grow. As we provide wider roads, the faster people will go.
 - i. Greg Viens: I had an incident about 34 years ago of a suspected drunk driver hitting my horse in the middle of the night. I had to foot the bill for the damage to my horse, but my mother's homeowner's insurance covered the damage to the person's car.
 - i. Chuck: It's not surprising with the increasing number of bottles and cans we pick up every year during Green Up Day.
 - j. Chuck: Anything budgetary from a Town perspective can't be done until fiscal year 2022.
 - i. Richard: Is there some mechanism like a special election to allow for passage of unbudgeted items? Freddie: Special elections are expensive. Chuck: And they take a lot of coordination.
 - ii. Freddie: If people were monitoring via game cameras privately, what could be done? I think what we're looking for is for the Town to say "Time out on this behavior."
 - iii. Mike: It must be a crime or violate our Town regulations for it to be actionable.
 - k. Chuck: What are the next steps here?
 - i. Richard: I've already volunteered to be interviewed for the Valley Reporter.
 - ii. Gregory: Does anyone have any pictures of the aftermath of car/horse collisions? Freddie: I can reach out to the Vermont Horse Council for recommendations or pictures.
 - iii. Chuck: I'll work with the Mad River Planning District to see what Valley-wide we can do.
5. **SB site visit to Boyce Hill Town Forest**
- a. Minutes from select board walkthrough posted on town website. Walkthrough lasted a few hours and observations will be provided to the Boyce Hill Town Forest Steering Committee.
 - b. *Motion to approve SB Walkthrough of Boyce Hill Town Forest minutes by Mike, seconded by Chuck; all in favor, minutes are approved.*
6. **Read Mail and Sign Warrant**
- a. Resignation letter from Zelda LaVanway (cemetery commissioner). Recommended Candice Porter for replacement.
 - i. *Motion to nominate Candice Porter to serve the remainder of Zelda LaVanway's term as cemetery commissioner by Chuck, Mike seconded. Motion passes.*
 - ii. And huge appreciation to Zelda for her years of service. Selectboard will ratify this motion at the next meeting as this was not properly warned and at that time sign a letter of appreciate to Zelda as well.
7. **Other Business:**
- a. Hanna Neill to begin work as Town Zoning Administrator on Monday, August 30.
 - b. First check for town ARPA (American Rescue Plan) funds received. Still more details needed on how and for what the funding can be used.
 - c. Contractor secured to install the acoustic ceiling tiles for town meeting room.
8. ***Motion to adjourn by Chuck, seconded by Mike. Meeting adjourned at 6:23pm.***

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Carter

Approved: Jared Cadwell