

MINUTES FOR SELECT BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 6pm
Robert Vasseur Town Hall

Attendees: Jared Cadwell (Jared), Chuck Martel (Chuck), Michael Jordan (Mike)

Town Clerk/SB Assistant: Patti Lewis

Guests: Tony Italiano (MRVTV), Laura Arnesen, John Stokes,

1. Meeting called to order at 6:03pm.
2. *Motion to approve minutes of October 26, 2021 by Chuck, seconded by Mike. No further edits or discussion. All in favor, none oppose. Motion passes.*
3. 6:00 p.m. Laura Arnesen: MRV Recreation District Annual Check-in
 - a. Overview of recent activities:
 - i. In 2021, \$46,000 in requests were distributed to 12 organizations.
 - ii. Part of Steward MRV to aid in cleaning up trails and swimming holes.
 - iii. Starting to assume leadership of the Trails Collaborative
 - iv. \$5.1 million in funds allocated by governor for grants; MRVRD was one of the groups selected to continue with the process; grant could connect several trails with downtown. RD will hear in January 2022 if grant is awarded.
 - v. 133 helmets provided to Valley Residents through UVM program.
 - b. Questions/Discussion
 - i. Jared: What is the approximate annual budget of the MRV Park management?
Laura: Approximately \$6,000 annually. We are considering plowing half the parking lot to enable winter activities (snowshoeing, XC skiing).
 - ii. Chuck: Is any work being considered by Steward MRV with the Boyce Hill Town Forest? Laura: We were considering areas that are getting the most usage. Boyce Hill wasn't on the list last summer; was there trash, parking, or other issues that would require assistance? Chuck: The Boyce Hill Town Forest steering committee is creating the long term management plan and working on how to manage trash and long-term use implications. Laura: We can work with the committee on that. I'll mention it to Eric at the chamber. Who should we talk to about that? Chuck: The steering committee is a subgroup of the Conservation Commission, so Lisa Koitzch or Cori Miller.
 - iii. Jared: On that list, when you reach out to Lisa Koitzch or Cori Miller, you might inquire to them about the Chase Brook Trailhead that is part of the MRV trail network and sees some use. It would be good to check in with them on that one too; it is a town owned parcel.
 - iv. Jared: The annual budget request is significantly higher than last year. It's good you got it in early as we are beginning to build the budget for town meeting day. I believe the increase is enough that we'd need to separate it out in an article at the town meeting.
 - v. Chuck: Do you have the history of what the town has been paying over the years?
Laura: The past 2 years it's been \$30,000. The reason we're asking for more is that we feel we've done a good job leveraging the funds the towns have provided. Towns our size have budgets of over \$300,000 with lots of programs. We feel that we've done a good job with our PT staff, but we feel like we can't support the

programs that community wants. With the grants (WARAC?) we have to provide some funding ourselves.

- vi. Mike: I feel like you're going down the right road, but we have to look at all the increases coming through on town meeting day.
 - vii. Laura: Next Monday, November 15, the Chamber has a meeting to discuss the WARAC grant and seek public input.
 - viii. Jared: That's a great project at the junction of route 17 and 100. I hope there's some consideration for the traffic in the area. Laura: Yes we're working with the state as to what can be done with safe crossings and speed limits.
 - ix. John: We are operating much lower than other towns from a monetary standpoint. Laura: A lot of places are realizing what an economic driver recreation is. The pandemic drove some different behaviors from residents.
4. 6:15 p.m. Fayston Cemetery Commission Annual Check-in
 - a. Postponing presentation to December.
 5. Town Roads Update
 - a. End of season grading of gravel roads completed. If weather permits, more grading may occur.
 - b. New truck on order (tandem dump truck) is in process of assembly.
 - c. Culvert and ditches being cleaned out for winter. Leaf blower in use to clean roads and ditches.
 - d. Installation of new signs to replace aged signs has begun; this includes North Fayston Road.
 - e. Winter truck prep has begun with tires and plows.
 6. Brook Field Service Contract
 - a. Service contract decision needed; agreement to stick with the annual contract.
 - b. *Motion to maintain annual service with Brook Field Service and put on next warning by Jared, seconded by Chuck. All in favor, none opposed.*
 7. Efficiency Vermont/Municipal Building Improvements
 - a. Agreement executed with Efficiency Vermont for boiler upgrade and LED light upgrade.
 - b. Recommendation to upgrade parking lot lights to LED as well. Quote forthcoming.
 - c. Kerry Hale will be putting in light at sidewalk exit.
 - d. Rebate for ~\$4,000 for upgrades, so changes will cost little to the town.
 8. Re-Appportionment Update
 - a. Reapportionment is a 10 year process triggered by the Census. Fayston is a 2 member district.
 - b. The reapportionment board (appointed by the legislature) has recommended a few options.
 - i. Towns reply to the reapportionment board before the legislative session with recommendation.
 - ii. Recommendation from the current town civil authority is to maintain the current structure: 5 towns, 2 members.
 - iii. Fallback option: Fayston remain a single town and not be divided.
 - iv. The Board of Civil Authority is building a recommendation for maintaining the current structure and will submit by November 15.
 - c. Town members may submit comments to the board of civil authority or directly via the Vermont Legislation Apportionment Board at the Secretary of State's office.

9. Read Mail and Sign Warrant
 - a. Few pieces of mail
 - b. Warrant for period October 27-November 9 has been signed.
10. Other Business
 - a. Recommendation to submit a “category D” grant for the beaver culvert work.
 - b. The backlog with the DRB is working to be reduced. The last pending permit application will be acted upon in December.
 - c. Due to the flourishing real estate market in the Valley, the common level of appraisal is dropping steadily with each sale. Sale prices are coming in above asking price. This results in an increased grand list, but the impact on education tax rate could be significant. Reappraisal may happen in 2022 or 2023.
11. *Motion to adjourn meeting by Mike, seconded by Chuck. Meeting adjourned at 6:46pm.*

Dates of Interest:

November 11, 2021 Veterans Day
November 15, 2021 Budget Session 6 p.m.
November 17 – 19, 2021 NEACTC Conference
November 22, 2021 Budget Session 6 p.m.
November 23, 2021 Next Selectboard Meeting 6 p.m.
November 25 – 26 Thanksgiving Holiday

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Carter

Approved: Jared Cadwell