

Minutes of West Fairlee Selectboard Regular Meeting

August 2, 2010

Present from the Selectboard: Bonnie Cray, Jim Brigham, David Butch Moore, Nate Pero, Sharon Petersen.

Visitors: Andy Petersen, John Benjamin, Jen Shatney, Mark Harper, Ann Stephens, Frank Stephens, Jim McDade, Peter Moore, Delsie Hoyt Eaton, Peter Stever, Doug Sonsalla, John Blake, Beth Anne Searles, Mike Searles, Corey Paye, Julie Paye.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm at the community building multi-Purpose room.

Visitors: Peter Moore discussed the need for ditches and culvert replacement on Marsh Hill Road. Moore stated that the Fire Department had gone there and flushed out the culvert that was clogged. Cray stated that funding was at a low point right now and we need to replace the most serious culvert needs first. Blake stated that two of the culverts should be replaced as soon as possible for safety reasons. Pero suggested a line item on next years budget specifically for class four roads.

Mike Searles from More Waste Solutions would like to assist the town by providing trash services. He would not charge for the truck or driver on pickup days and would only charge \$4.00 per bag of trash. Beth Anne Searles stated that she would be willing to observe the present operation and do an approximate bag count to see the feasibility of taking over the service.

Minutes: Motion by Brigham to approve the minutes of 19 July. Moore seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Brushwood Forrest: Corey Paye stated that he would like a letter of interest from the Selectboard to TPL for the possible purchase of Bradford Municipal Forest. Pero stated that we need to know who is in charge of the sale from Bradford and Cray indicated that there were also additional questions that needed to be answered before the sale could take place. Cray extended an invitation to TPL and Dave Pagnelli for a special informational meeting tentatively set for 17 August at the Community Building. Anne Stephens presented the Selectboard with a petition and signatures for support of the purchase from interested town residents. Cray thanked Stephens for the tour of Bradford Forest conducted on 1 August.

Brigham moved to send a letter of interest to TPL regarding the boards support of the potential acquisition of the Bradford Forest for eventual inclusion of the property in the Brushwood forest. The motion was seconded and the vote passed unanimously. The Conservation Commission recommend that the board set up a three member committee (one board member, one conservation commission member, and one planning commission member) to aid in communication between the Town, TPL, and Bradford regarding the potential acquisition.

Permanent Location of Town Offices: Doug Sonsalla stated that there was a substantial town turnout for the informational meeting to discuss the four possible options for the permanent location of Town Offices on July 13. Surveys were collected after the meeting and the results were tabulated by CDC members at the next meeting on July 20. He presented the surveys and the results which indicated that the clear choice was to locate the Town Offices in the Community Building. Frank Stevens stated that there must be a partition to separate the Town Clerk's office from a meeting space for the various town committees to meet without sacrificing the security of the Town Office. Sonsalla also stated that Bean Hall was a close second with an almost 50-50 vote to either locate Town Offices there or raze it. He suggested that perhaps a letter to the Historical Society to see if they would like to take over the building, and if they would, task the CDC with seeking possible sources of outside money for future funding for repairs/alterations of Bean Hall for other uses. Delsie Hoyt Eaton stated that if the CDC has further work to do on the Bean Hall issue the Selectboard needs to task them. Cray advised that a letter would be written to the Historical Society and the establishment of a Building Committee would be added to the agenda for the next Selectboard meeting.

Roads: Mark Harper stated that a culvert was installed incorrectly several years ago and possibly without a permit. Harper stated that he is willing to work with the town for a satisfactory resolution. Cray suggested that a special Selectboard hearing should be held at the site to discuss the problem and find a solution.

Cray stated that the policy of culverts at the end of driveways also needs to be addressed. Blake indicated that he needed to check a culvert at the end of a driveway of Geraldine Hodge.

Road Closings: Pero stated that he was working on it to find the process and legalities.

Town Cash Flow: Cray stated that although funds are low, cash is starting to come in from people paying their property taxes early. Harper asked why taxes couldn't be broken up into two payments, six months apart. Andy Petersen stated that to establish that, people would only have to pay half their taxes on Oct 15 causing the town to be short when many obligations are due, which would create another whole set of problems. Pero asked if the education tax and the town taxes could have separate due dates. Anne Stephens indicated that Bradford does theirs in two separate payments.

250th Anniversary Celebration: Pero stated that there will be a meeting Wednesday 4 August at the Fairlee Town Hall in the Green Room at 6:30 pm. February 8 was the founding day for Fairlee and the 250th theme will probably be used in the annual July 4th parade.

Ordinances: Motion by Pero to publish ordinances. Motion was seconded by Moore and the vote passed unanimously.

New Business: There will be a Neighborhood Watch Program meeting at 6:30 on August 11 at the West Fairlee Church concerning the recent rash of burglaries and crime in West Fairlee. Pero indicated that there is a form from the Orange County Sherriff on which you can report a crime, reporting participants and the facts and turn it in. The Sherriffs Department will make an arrest

based on that report and you will be asked to appear in court to testify as to what you witnessed. Cray stated that the Selectboard should send letters to the State Attorney General and

local Judges stating the recent rise crime and very limited prosecution existing and that we need some help from the authorities.

Butch Moore stated that he had acquired a gate for the town shed.

Sign Orders: Moore made a motion to sign orders. Motion seconded by Brigham. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Review Correspondence: Correspondence was reviewed by the Board. Motion by Moore to sign the contract with Cargill for purchase of salt. Motion was seconded by Brigham. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Review Town Financial Statement: Reviewed.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting: Road closings, Policy for culverts at ends of driveways, Letter of interest to TPL for possible purchase of Bradford Municipal Forest, Letter to the State Attorney General regarding crime in West Fairlee, Letter to post and warn 30 days special hearing on Beebe Road to Peter Stever and Mark Harper. Letter to the Historical Society concerning their interest in taking over Bean Hall.

Motion by Moore at 9:00 pm to adjourn the meeting. Brigham seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Brigham