

Minutes
West Fairlee Selectboard Meeting
Monday October 21, 2013

Present: Bev Ash, Cory Austin, Fred Cook, Delsie Hoyt

Visitors: Peggy Willey

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

Minutes: Fred Cook moved to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2013 regular meeting as corrected; Cory Austin seconded; approved.

Visitors/ Reports of Town Officers and Committees:

Conservation Commission: Peggy Willey came to follow up on issues raised about the property adjacent to Brushwood Forest that is available for sale. There is a letter from the Trust for Public Lands on the stewardship grant clarifying that the legacy fund may be used for acquisition of adjacent lands to increase the forest should we so desire. This piece is adjacent and is sensitive; it has wet areas and there are wet areas on what would probably be the right of way through our property. The ROW is not certain but probable, and we're not sure whether the wetness would be a deterrent if someone else bought the property. Priced as a building lot, it is valued at \$53,400. Matching funds need to be investigated, as well. Fred Cook moved to make an offer on the property of no more than \$15,000; Cory Austin seconded; approved. If there is a clear consensus from the Conservation Commission to proceed, the Selectboard will contact the Town Attorney.

Logging contracts: County Forester, Dave Paganelli has drafted a contract with Limlaw for logging on the so-called "French Property" of Brushwood Forest ; and a new contract with Slayton for Brushwood North, this contract was deferred last year under Paganelli's recommendation because timber prices were low.

Roads

Wild Hill guardrails have been installed; the paving job is finished. The bills need to be collected to be reimbursed for the Class II Road Grant and the Better Back Roads Grant. Grading is coming up on Blood Brook. The State is going with different contractors for the salt; Jonathan Blake will check with Barrett Trucking but Cargill has usually honored the State price.

Old Business

Update: Community Building Renovations – Renovations are taking much longer than expected but the end is in sight. We have done everything we could to facilitate their work.

Recycling - We do not have estimates yet for resident permits/stickers yet. The recycling area will be locked when not open, but we need to contact the State so that they can put their own lock on. Jonathan has locks for the Town and the recycling officer; they will be linked together so that any one key will open the gate.

Response to James Hughes letter re: property taxes – There was a survey that was recorded in 1993, never incorporated into the Grand List by the listers. Delsie did talk to Property Valuation and Review, and they said that it was incumbent on the taxpayer to know what's in their bill and to grieve it during the appropriate period. Town Attorney Paul Gillies will be consulted before we respond.

New Business

Fred Cook moved to approve the transfer of \$7,085 from the Capital Expense Note to the General Fund to pay Porter's Invoice #8; Bev Ash seconded; approved.

Upper Valley Pediatrics will be moving out by January 1; they have a more central location in East Thetford. We will see about getting a sign up advertising the office space for rent with private entry to start getting the word out.

Next year's budget – It's time to put together next year's budget; the select board plus four others should work well. We can send a request to the listserve.

Animal abuse survey request – Bev Ash will do it.

There is a dog running loose that we need to figure out who it belongs to and send them a letter.

Bev Ash moved to sign the orders; Fred Cook seconded; approved.

Correspondence

Zubkoff letter - The penalty for late filing of the Homestead Declaration is imposed by the State, not by the Town; unless the State waives this penalty, there is little the Town can do

Upcoming Events

Next Meeting November 4– Joint meeting with Fairlee and Thetford (in Thetford).

The budget meeting will be the week of November 11.

The Bean Hall committee will meet the second Thursday of every month.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.