
Moretown Select Board Meeting
May 6, 2024 at 6:00 PM
79 School Street
In the John Hoogenboom Meeting Room
Via ZOOM Meeting ID 620 104 2716 or call in: 929-205-6099

Members Present: Tom Martin, John Hoogenboom via ZOOM, Callie Streeter, Robin Campbell, not present Don Wexler

Guests: ORCA, Deb & Robert Sargent, Emily Hackett, Clark Amadon, Jay Pilliod, Clayton & Sandra Wetzel, Emily Lewis, Chris Hunt, Louisa Wilson, Mike Brignano, Misha Golfman, Steve Magill, Kait Campbell, Sasha Elwell

Meeting was called to order by Tom at 6:00 pm

Public Comment: Clark and Jay were present to update the SB on the wastewater committee. The SB received the letter regarding rescission of the ARPA funds. The committee will have a response letter ready for the SB to approve by next week. The SB can ask for enough funds for the land purchase, but there are still three spots that test pits are going to be done in yet. So, the committee isn't close enough to even knowing that amount of money. The deadline for the letter to be sent back is May 28, 2024. The deadline for purchasing the land under the ARPA funds is July 2024, Clark thinks that this is still feasible. Emily said that these types of projects take ten to fifteen years, there is not enough time for Moretown to be complete for the 2026 deadline. Tom thanked the committee for all of their work on this project thus far. He understands that the delays have not been any fault of theirs.

Sargents were present to check in and be sure that the SB had received their letters. They sent letters opposing ATV's to the Select Board. Tom confirmed that everyone had received them. Clayton asked that it be noted that the sign stating no motor vehicles on Herring Brook Road is not working.

6:29 North Moretown Sidewalk Project: Emily, Chris and Kait were present to go over the scoping study and costs for the project, it has been finalized. The majority of the feedback received was for a curbside sidewalk to go between Gallagher Acres and Route 100 to connect to the existing sidewalk towards Waterbury. This complete project will cost upwards of \$1million, with an approximate grant match from the town for \$200,000. Further discussion on the sidewalk maintenance, such as plowing will need to be addressed, thoughts of contracting with Waterbury for the clearing of snow was quickly discussed.

6:45 Mad River Path – Misha was present to thank the SB for being a contributor towards the scoping study of the Mad River Path. This will be a part of the Cross Vermont Trail. They now have \$84K for the scoping study. Misha wanted to ask the SB for a volunteer member to join the project. Don Wexler was nominated for this open spot, he had also volunteered since he is an avid cyclist.

6:58 **Town Forest Title Search** – Tom read the conclusion from Tarrant Gillies & Shems Law Firm. *"...based on available records, it appears the entire area of the land that is subject to the Conservation Easement was conveyed to the Town and The Moretown School District by Warranty Deed of Richard and Mildred Benedict, dated March 3, 1958 and recorded in Book 28, Page 92 of the Moretown Land Records (the 1958 Benedict Deed). Because the School District quitclaimed its interest in these lands to the Town in 2014, the land covered by the Conservation Easement is owned solely by the Town. The lands conveyed by Herbert G. Ward conveyed to the Town of Moretown on December 22, 1926 (Book 22, page 379) are probably not in the Conservation Easement area. The lands conveyed by the Wards to the Town of Moretown and Town of Moretown as a Town School District dated May 31, 1996, Book 55, Page 659 are not in the Conservation Easement area."*

In short, the Town owns everything to the school drip-line.

7:00 **Reports & Communications:** an email was received from both David Stapleton and Joyce Manchester that they would both like to continue being a part of the TAC (Transportation Advisement Committee). Tom **so moved**. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Brad Reagan asked Sasha about the repair of the damage done to the fence between his mother's property and the Town Garage. The damage was done quite some time ago and still has not been fixed. Sasha will call White's Fence to get them to take a look at it and give us a quote on the repair of it.

Just for clarification, Sasha wanted to confirm the go ahead for the blinds, they have gone up \$300 since the quote was done last fall, but they are still cheaper than their competitors. Tom advised that that was fine, they are needed in the meeting room.

Where to take the funds for paying the forester invoice on the Town Forest Management will be discussed at the next SB meeting.

The NorthStar Contract for Morefest was brought up so that it could be signed off on.

A memo for the ARPA funds was given to Tom from Cherilyn with figures on it, needing approval for moving them.

Approval for the town continuing with the employee benefit of pet insurance (self-paid) was needed, and approved.

Quotes from two out of three companies were obtained for the purchase of a mylar scanner/copier for the Town Office, which was put into the 2024 budget. The SB approved that purchase of the Canon, through the company that Butternut Systems recommended.

Quotes for financing the new dump truck were obtained and Community Bank was the best deal for the Town. Both amounts for purchasing with and without the trade-in were received. John wanted to have a FRC meeting before the decision was made.

The 250th Anniversary Resolution wording was approved for submitting to the SOV, for the Historical Society to be the local committee to represent Moretown. The final approval for it will come from Denise Gabaree and Robin will let the SB know when that is done.

Callie said that the Class IV Road Committee is going okay, she feels they are stuck on the classification of group A & B. But feels they are making progress.

Callie said that Shawn was going to go check on Lynch Hill for Martin to see what the loggers left for a mess over the winter, there was a complaint that came in regarding how they left the road.

Tom said that Mike Brignano from Cobb Hill contacted him wanting to extend his Permit for Right-of-way/road maintenance work. The SB agreed to allow him another year. If he wants to do more, he will need to resubmit the Permit after December 2024.

7:15 **Old Business** – there was none

7:16 **New Business** – there was none

7:16 Tom **made the motion** to go into Executive Session to discuss the Employee Evaluations that were done in March 2024, per 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (3). John seconded. All were in favor.

Tom **made the motion** to exit Executive Session at 8:08 PM. John seconded. All were in favor. No action was taken.

Warrants signed and approved: Payroll 24020 e – checks 4530 – 4539 and check 24761;
Accounts Payable 24021 checks 24763 – 24800; Payroll 24022 e – checks 4540 – 4549;
Accounts Payable 24023 check 24762

Approval on 17 liquor licenses were signed off on for Farmhouse Flowers.

Adjourn: Tom **made the motion** to adjourn at 8:10 PM. John seconded. All were in favor.