

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

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The meeting was called to order by Marikate Kelley at 7:00 p.m.

Members in attendance: Stephen Pilcher (chair), Joe Szarejko, Walter Crandall, Marikate Kelley, John McNerney, Joe Szarejko

Members absent: none

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Stan Wilbur (town administrator), Jaime Schulte, Shane Lawrence, Lisa Burns, Michael Hurlburt, Bob Heiser, Debra Sprague, Nate Palmer, Jane Palmer, Kevin Lambert, Mark Guillemette, Jim Jewel, Susan Davis, Mary Ann Savage, Louise Watson

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

S. Pilcher noted that on August 27, 2024, Vermont Gas Systems sent a letter of official notice regarding an amendment process for a certificate of public good.

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

APPROVE MINUTES

**J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes of August 27, 2024 as written.**

**J. Szarejko seconded. All voted in favor.**

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

**J. McNerney moved to approve AP 40830 in the amount of \$9,138.64. J.**

**Szarejko seconded. All voted in favor.**

**J. McNerney moved to approve PR 40909 in the amount of \$11,424.93. J.**

**Szarejko seconded. All voted in favor.**

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC

The following overweight permit was reviewed and approved:

R. J. Lang Construction

FACILITY USE REQUEST

The community room has been requested for a birthday party, reported W. Crandall.

PUBLIC COMMENT

N. Palmer asked about the Vermont Gas communication. He expressed distrust with Vermont Gas Systems' methods.

M. Guillemette expressed concerns about how to pay for and receive a proper survey. asked about the size of Monkton. He asked about a proper survey. M. Kelley noted it seemed to be a surveyor question and asked if the issue was in litigation. M. Guillemette responded that it was. There was discussion about how the deed could be different from the survey.

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K. Lambert noted that permission for the hardcourt to go in Morse Park was denied by the State Historic Preservation Office. He asked about fill on the athletic fields. S. Pilcher suggested he could speak with Paul Low for more information. M. Kelley asked about next steps. K. Lambert said he was going to try to determine how deep the fill is at Morse Park. He noted that a hardcourt was not advisable at the Rec Field due to ledge.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE

S. Lawrence said ditching was done on Mountain Road, a big job. Gravel to build up the road is coming next. He is working on completing grants so the town can get reimbursed. Pond Road will be ditched next and gravel added. J. Szarejko said he would try to notify residents about delays. S. Lawrence was told FEMA would be here by the end of the month. Boro Hill, Mountain Road, Tyler Bridge Road, and Piney Woods Road were all damaged by the heavy rain and may be covered by FEMA. There was discussion about the process with FEMA. There was discussion about the safety of the culvert on Tyler Bridge Road. J. Szarejko asked about Jockey Lane. S. Lawrence noted that he hoped a grant would cover the work; there was ledge and they haven't had time to get to it with all of the major storm damage. S. Pilcher asked if having a contractor do the work would be a solution. J. Szarejko said he would get back to the folks on Jockey Lane. M. Hurlburt noted that Tom Kenyon couldn't be at the meeting and wanted it said that Piney Woods Road was a scenic road and it shouldn't be widened or substantially changed. M. Hurlburt said Piney Woods Road should have a 25 mph speed limit. J. McNerney noted that in order to be enforceable, a speed limit needs a traffic study.

Susan Davis said the roads that serve people should have priority over the scenic roads or convenient roads.

#### JULY 9/10 STORM DAMAGE

see above

#### RIGHT OF WAY APPLICATION - DUCHARME

W. Crandall noted that the property owner was on a class 4 road and wanted to run power to a sugarhouse. GMP had approved the work. **J. McNerney moved to approve the right of way application for Ducharme with the addition of notification to the Selectboard and Road Foreman prior to work commencing and at completion. S. Pilcher seconded. All voted in favor.**

#### ENERGY COMMITTEE - SHRINK FROM 7 MEMBERS TO 5

**J. McNerney moved to shrink the Energy Committee from seven members to five. S. Pilcher seconded. All voted in favor.**

#### CREATE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

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S. Pilcher noted that there is about \$84,000 left in the ARPA fund. Some of it has been earmarked. The money must be obligated by the end of the year. M. Kelley asked how to create the fund and does it require parameters? S. Pilcher replied that he needed to follow up the Vermont League of Towns and Cities(VLTC). He compared the new fund proposal to the creation of the Agricultural and Natural Area Committee fund. M. Kelley asked S. Wilbur to reach out to VLTC to learn more. J. Szarejko noted that the Recreation Committee could use some funds.

### TOWN FOREST COMMITTEE STATUS AND TIMELINE

J. Schulte noted that the closing was approximately twelve weeks away in early December. He noted that the Old Airport Road survey is completed, and on its way to becoming a class 4 road. He noted community engagement was about to ramp up to create a management plan for the land. The kick off is September 19 at 7 p.m. The kick off meeting will be followed up by other meetings to explore some of the topics in more detail. He noted that the Vermont Land Trust(VLT) funded a beaver deceiver at the kaolin dam.

### REVIEW DRAFT DEED TO MONKTON

J. Schulte noted that the warranty deed drafted by A. Johnson has just been received. It has not yet been reviewed by the town lawyer. S. Davis expressed interest in seeing documents concerning the town forest as soon as possible.

### REVIEW TOWN FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENT

no action taken

### DISCUSS EXERCISING OPTION TO PURCHASE

B. Heiser noted that the option was with VLT, so the order of action is for the town to exercise the option to purchase in October. There was discussion about timing.

### REVIEW NOTICE OF CONVEYANCE (1061) REGARDING CONSERVATION EASEMENT

There was discussion about the conveyance. It needs to be posted thirty days before the closing. **J. McNerney moved to post the 1061 notice of conveyance of interest in municipal real estate on the conservation easement on the town forest. S. Pilcher seconded. All voted in favor.**

### REVIEW TOWN FOREST INTERIM MANAGEMENT PLAN

J. Schulte explained the Interim Management Plan(IMP) was a temporary plan for managing the land during the gap from the purchase of the land and the completion of a final management plan. J. McNerney explained that the approach for this temporary plan was to follow the conservation easement where it has restrictions, then follow existing town regulations (for example the dog ordinance) for hunting to follow state law. S. Davis asked about motorized vehicles. What is the difference between ATVS and snowmobiles? B. Heiser replied that wheeled

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vehicles can leave many ruts with just a few uses. Snowmobiles do not have the same impact on frozen ground. There was discussion about permitted and not permitted uses during the IMP period. J Schulte clarified that where the town had discretion and some activities required further discussion/planning to manage impacts or potential conflicts, they were restricted during the interim plan until long term plan was developed. **S. Pilcher moved to approve the IMP. J. McNerney seconded.** S. Davis asked about the Selectboard promise to the residents of Old Airport Road, to make the road a class 4 road. J. McNerney explained the difference between the IMP and the class 4 road process and noted that the Select board has already approved the Class 4 change, subject to closing on the Town Forest property. S. Davis asked about the modification of their deeds regarding the class 4 road process, assignments of rights or a document of dedication. S. Pilcher noted that this was a separate issue from approval of the IMP. **The motion passed 3-0-2. J. Szarejko and W. Crandall abstained.**

UPDATED FACILITIES USE FORM

no action taken

**OLD BUSINESS**

**J. McNerney moved to accept the change order for a contract with Addison County Regional Planning Commission for the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. S. Pilcher seconded and authorized M. Kelley to sign. All voted in favor.** It was noted that this is just a change to the due date.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

none

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

none

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 7 p.m.

**J. McNerney moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m. All voted in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Demeritt