

Approved – Minutes of October 9, 2012

Present: Bill Callnan, Matt Dwire, Cindy Carlson, Mary Alexander, Mary Just Skinner, Peter Hood, Paul Cerminara, Steve Martin, Mike Pelchar, Julie Merrill, Robert and Scottie Brower, Dick Alderman, Dave Shepard, Bill Rossmassler

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm.

Steve Martin, Road Commissioner

Paul Cerminara, Road Foreman

Paul reports that it would be in the best interest of the Town to purchase a used excavator. An excavator could be used for the “spring thaw” areas, and would assist with culverts, ditching and multiple other applications. The Town would still need a backhoe, but with the use of an excavator it would save on the wear and tear of the backhoe. The Town would hire a local contractor to move it so a trailer would not need to be purchased. The Town has spent +/- \$73,700 over the past 6 years to rent an excavator and operator. The Town would operate the excavator without any additional manpower. The Board authorizes Paul to locate a used excavator.

Motion: Bill moves to approve the driveway permits for Brian Cotterill – 508 Shady Rill Road and Dennis Nolan - 560 Center Road, as recommended by Paul Cerminara, Road Foreman. Matt seconds, motion carries.

Correspondence

Request from Blake Lamothe, Palmer Redevelopment Authority and the Central Corridor Rail Coalition, to adopt a resolution to reinstate passenger service from St. Albans through Brattleboro to Palmer, MA.

Solicitation from VT Land Trust for donations to protect the Little Wood Farm in Plainfield.

Other Business

A copy of the draft 2013 Town Plan was presented to the Board.

Motion: Bill moves to approve the minutes of 8/28/12, Matt seconds, motion carries.

Motion: Bill moves to approve the minutes of 9/11/12. Mary Alexander seconds, motion carries.

Motion: Mary Just Skinner moves to approve the minutes of 9/25/12. Matt seconds, motion carries.

The Board is advised that Central VT Solid Waste Management has clean up funds available to give to towns to use toward cleaning up dumping sites. The Board is interested in applying for these funds to clean up the “Morse property.” Towns can receive awards up to \$3,000.

The Board discusses the zoning permit status for the State facility. The Board will write a letter to Mr. Flood, Commissioner of Mental Health, requesting a time line for the building.

McCullough Hill Road

Bill reports that he drove through other class 4 roads in town. Bill states that McCullough Hill Road is in much better condition than other roads.

The minutes of the 9/11/12 meeting were given to members of the public in attendance. The Board feels at the public hearing there were mixed feelings about upgrading the class 4 section of McCullough Hill Road. There was discussion at the public hearing of not making major changes to the road, put up signage for winter travel and go ahead and upgrade the road. The Board discusses the liability hazard of letting the road be open during the winter months. The Board is aware that all class 3 roads in Town that are not up to class 3 standards. The Board states if this section of road remains class 4 than the Town trucks cannot travel the road during the winter months.

Scottie Brower states that a class 3 road has not been well defined in this process. If it was safer to be traveled on she would not be opposed to changing to a class 3 road.

She was advised that the road is class 3, the Town receives state aide and it is FEMA approved for reimbursement for flood damage. If the Town maintains this section at a class 4 road, then the Town would be obligated to maintain other class 4 roads. The Town should have consistent maintenance of all of their roads.

Robert Brower reads his letter submitted for the Public Hearing, dated 9/4/12.

Julie Merrill states that the class 4 section of the road is really a one lane. She feels that the road signs should remain in place. She would like the road to be sanded and plowed.

If the road is a class 3 road, there is the possibility that a school bus can travel on the road. The residents on that road can make a request to the School Board.

Various people proposed ideas for winter signs such as "Not recommended for Winter Travel".

The Board discusses blocking the road for the winter month. It can be done but the Board is not in favor of this solution.

If the Board decides to leave the classification as it is, the Board will discuss maintenance of the road as part of another discussion.

Motion: Bill moves that the class 4 section of McCullough Hill Road be upgraded to Class 3, with a minimum of improvements made, and with the understanding with residents it will be a low priority to do other improvements to the road. The Town will take steps to discourage winter travel and large trucks. Peter seconds. No further discussion. Two Yes Votes – Three Vote No.

The Board discusses how to maintain the class 4 section. The Town will not plow or sand it. The Town's trucks cannot drive through this section of road. There will be winter road signs installed. The road will not be graded on a regular basis.

Motion: Mary Alexander moves to allow the Town trucks to continue to plow and sand an average of 1/3 of the winter. Mary Just Skinner seconds. Motion fails.

Matt reports that he was in the Town Pit on Notch Road to screen gravel. There is not much gravel or stone product left in the pit.

Town Forest Committee – Dave Shepard, Dick Alderman

The Committee has been approached by Phelps Holt who owns 43 acres of property and would like to donate the parcel. Phelps' first preference would be to donate the property to the Town, but he would donate it to the State if the Town is not interested. The property abuts State not the Town Forest. The Board feels they need more information concerning restrictions, potential future sale, etc., before making a decision.

The Board was given an overview of the site walk on the Villeneuve property off of Notch Road. The purpose of the site walk was to explore creating an agreement whereby each party gives the other party permission to access their property. The Town will access the Veillaneuve property for the purpose timber harvesting, basic property management and maintenance, public safety, and hiking of the Town Forest. The Board is in favor of moving forward with the agreement. The Draft Agreement language was reviewed and discussed. The Board will have an attorney review the language.

The Board discusses acquiring the remaining land from Cynthia Steed. It is not a good time for conservation grants. The Town does not have funds to purchase this land, and would like further information before making a decision.

Meeting adjourns at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Carlson
Select Board Assistant