

**MINUTES OF THE FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD
WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2014 @ 7:00 P.M.
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

Members Present: Peter Magnant, Yvon Dandurand, Brooks Sturtevant, Andrew Godin, Ed Rainville, and Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk

Guests: Howard Vansette, Highgate Selectboard members; Diana O'Hara, Andy King, Chris Yates, Luc Choiniere; Richard Noel, Dan & Pauline Favreau, Heidi Britch-Valenta, David Trombley, Marshall Ploof, Andy & Linda Gagne, Matt Laroche, Marie Laroche, Richard & Mary Boudreau, Kim Gates Maynard, Corinna Stanley & Scott Korhonen, Claire Choiniere, Larry Myott, Peter Benevento, Ernie Englehardt, George Robson.

Peter Magnant called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said.

Agenda amendment: Yvon Dandurand/Ed Rainville made a motion to amend the agenda to add approval of July 2 minutes and under Old Business – Messier dog complaint. All members voted in favor, motion passed.

Public Comments: No public comments

Dewing Road corner: Corinna Stanley and Scott Korhonen were welcomed to the meeting to share their concerns regarding the safety of the corner on Dewing Rd coming from State Park Rd at intersection with Towle Neighborhood Rd. Peter and Yvon visited the site to view the danger issues. Scott is concerned with the corner and the accidents & property damage that continue to happen; as well as the safety of vehicle passengers and fixing of the fences. They observe drivers on the other side of the road over the center line all the time. The issue is more prevalent now that it is paved, speed is an issue and not being marked well. Corinna would like to consider a redesign of the corner; Pete states he would like to get input from Jim with VTrans. Can make some short term fixes with signs, speed reduction and maybe guardrails. Howard, Road Foreman will install some corner signs. The Town Clerk will contact the Franklin County Sheriff for patrol of commuter traffic. Corinna is concerned with the liability to the town with accidents. Scott presented the board with an estimate to replace/repair the fence that has been destroyed; he feels the town is liable for the cost. The board thanked Ms. Stanley and Mr. Korhonen and advised they will discuss further and decide on future changes; exited the meeting at 7:15.

Discussed what should be done regarding danger of the corner. Peter will call Jim Cota at VTrans to discuss options; suggest a stop sign coming from State Park Rd toward Berkshire town line; would also need to cut the corner back to a smaller radius. Discussed the bill to the town for repair of the fence at a cost of \$240.96; town not liable for costs done by general public to personal property.

Highgate Selectboard: The board was welcomed and introduced themselves. Mr. King advised they wanted to meet with the Franklin board regarding a resident's request for Bouchard Rd (TH 19) to be returned to the land owner and discontinued from Cassidy Rd to Dandurand Rd. Matt Laroche uses Bouchard Rd to get to his ag land. Bouchard Rd is a class 4 for a portion and to a legal trail in Highgate; in Franklin it is a legal trail for .90 miles running along the town boundary line. This would affect the vast trail usage; the state has to be involved to return the land to the owner. This would not impact Franklin greatly, however Yvon states it would not be in the best interest to the town to give up a ROW/road. Highgate Selectboard wants to be neighborly. Mr. Trombley has concerns with 4-wheelers, tractors, trucks and being destructive of road that he takes care of. Vast runs on the Franklin legal trail; not on the Trombley land.

Browns Corner Rd speed limit – Peter advised the Franklin end is 45 mph and Highgate is 40 mph. Franklin Board asks if Highgate is willing to increase their speed limit to 45 mph for the whole road. Much of the traffic is Franklin commuters. Richard Noel advised when the road was built it was designed to be a 40 mph road due to the curves and dips; would have to check with the state due to their funding the project to see if it can be changed.

Highgate Selectboard thanked for coming and exited.

Highway Dept.: Rte. 120/235 & Middle Rd - bushes at the end of Middle Rd need to be cut back due to safety concerns at this intersection. Andy and Howard will visit the property owner regarding cutting within the town ROW. Reviewed new intersection design from VTrans; Kim Gates Maynard has concerns that there is not signage for the traffic coming from Main St going west onto Morses Line Rd to caution of crossing oncoming traffic coming from Lake Rd. Peter will speak with Mario at VTrans regarding a sign "left turn yield" from

Main St across Rte. 120 going to Morses Line Rd. Peter would still like to see a more permanent fix in the future but this would be a temporary fix for safety concerns until that time. Ed Rainville/Yvon Dandurand made a motion to accept the traffic change as drawn in light of the fact that if we don't do something now nothing will get done. All members voted in favor, motion passed. The Town Clerk will get a detail drawing to Howard .

The highway crew is drawing sand.

Peter advised there is still some brush along Stanley Rd from the ice storm that has not been picked up.

Andy advised there is a tree on Messier Rd he has gotten a complaint about that needs to be cut. Ed will go around town with Howard about trees to be cut.

Kim Gates Maynard was present to encourage the board to create a master plan of the highway department lot as previously requested to prevent encroachment into the meadow. Kim had also stated she heard we had not given the paving job to the lowest bidder, why? Peter advised we went with Pike as they have treated us fairly in the past and held off on payment in light of a tight budget until tax money started to be collected; there was a very small price difference.

LCCA: Larry Myott & Peter Benevento (LCCA), Ernie Englehardt and George Robson were welcomed to the meeting. Peter B inquired about the weed harvester schedule. Brooks advised he has been trained and done some time on the lake this week. They plan to move the equipment to the Dewing shore area next week; there are two operators sharing time. Brooks requested a map of the added Sandy Bay area from Peter B.

Herbicide application was discussed again. LCCA would like to hold another public meeting to present and invite residents, other lake members, Fish and Wildlife biologists and DEC in August. Yvon states he has a list of names/lake members that are against the application. Town meeting minutes show voters are not in support of this method. Want to do the best for the lake and milfoil control.

Peter advised they have drafted a letter to VTrans regarding a speed limit reduction on Lake Rd from Riley Rd to Dewing Shore Rd to 40 mph excluding the already reduced camping area of 35 mph.

Mill Pond Dam – Ernie Englehardt thanked the board for allowing him to speak. He has looked at the plans for the new bridge, was present when the borings were done on June 20th, the soils are conducive to support the structure. With the request to remove the boards from the dam to lower the lake level there is concern from camp owners of removing boats from lifts and dangers in the low waters. Peter advised that the Army Corps and DEC has not approved removal of boards and is not likely to; there would need to be public hearings and many reviews and time will not allow at this point in the project. Munson had requested the lowering. The board will keep the LCCA informed of start dates and changes to lake levels if plans change.

LCCA was thanked and exited the meeting.

Town Clerk Concerns: none

Reviewed and signed bills: The bills were reviewed and signed by the board. Ed advised the Mike's Boring bill of \$1824 is in line with what the quoted price was. The legal fees are very high as there is attorney work associated with the bridge in this line; town clerk will move the expense to reflect under the cost of bridge project.

Minutes: Minutes of June 11 regular, June 18 public meeting, July 2 emergency meeting. Yvon Dandurand/Brooks Sturtevant made the motion to approve the minutes as written. All members voted in favor, motion passed. The joint minutes with the school from June 25 were not available tonight. Peter advised they had discussed the legislation of school consolidation; Franklin needs to get involved objecting to this action; our school could close in 5 years if approved. Discussed with the School board the lawn mowing vs. hiring it out.

Old Business:

- **Franklin Fire District #1:** reviewed the warning for the August 26 vote and plan of merger final draft from the attorney. Yvon Dandurand/Ed Rainville made a motion to accept the plan of merger as written. All members voted in favor. Yvon Dandurand/Brooks Sturtevant made a motion to accept the warning as written for vote on August 26th from 10 am – 7 pm for the merger of FFD#1 and NWSWD membership. All members voted in favor. Discussed hiring of operators; will be done after the vote/merger is approved.
- **Mill Pond Dam:** Peter states it does not look like we will be able to lower the water level of the lake for the Dewing bridge project. The State of VT will not grant permission to do so.
- **Grading info:** VTrans and representatives from VT Local Roads were here recently to review the road surfaces. The quality of gravel that is applied is good and recommended to keep using. Suggest discontinuing using the blue rock as it breaks

down and does not last well. The grading of roads was looked at and VT Local Roads advised our roads would be in the top 3 of the state roads; in good condition. The grader is a bit light but doing a good job for what we have for equipment. Some areas need a bit more crown; Howard was given a slope indicator tool to attach to the grader. The paved roads were suggested to keep the good roads up and resurface the bad ones as we can afford.

- **Paving:** Yvon has spoken with Jack Milne at Pike regarding what part of Morses Line Rd the town would benefit most from doing. Jack advised where culvert work needs to be done, do one year before paving to allow to settle. Need 24" of product over the culvert then the pavement. When doing spot jobs it is costly to move equipment; \$500 to load and move, \$500 per hour to walk the equipment. DHS may pay to do some of the Morses Line border area. Jack is willing to come to meet with the Road Commissioner and Highway Foreman. Suggest to do from Highgate town line to the border crossing then toward town as budget allows.
- **Weed harvester:** updates discussed with LCCA earlier.
- **Dog complaint:** The town has received complaints regarding the Messier dogs on Webster Rd. A letter was sent on June 19th about registering the dogs and controlling the barking. Neighbor states this week nothing has happened yet. Peter and Yvon went to visit the Messier dogs before the meeting. They are tied up, and no excessive barking was noticed. They appear to be friendly to them. Mr. Welker was not home to speak with. Dogs have been registered and shots are up to date.

New Business:

- **Open Meeting law:** The Town Clerk reviewed the new open meeting law that all town boards must adhere to; agendas and minutes must be posted on the website; agendas within 48 hours of meeting, unless emergency than 24 hrs., must also be posted in 2 additional places in town as designated by the selectboard. Minutes must be posted to the website within 5 days. Yvon Dandurand/Brooks Sturtevant made a motion to designate the postings at the clerk's office, post office, Franklin General store and the website. All members voted in favor.
- **Shoreland Protection Act/municipal delegation:** Town Clerk stated that the board needs to decide if the town will regulate and enforce the Shoreland protection act or delegate it to the State of VT. Tabled at this time until speaking with the Zoning Administrator.
- **Resignation of Planning Commission member:** John Ho has submitted his letter of resignation from the PC board on June 12 due to other commitments. Yvon Dandurand/Andy Godin made a motion to accept the resignation. The Town Clerk will post the vacant position.
- **Speed limit on Rte. 120:** LCCA has requested a speed limit reduction around the north end of the lake. The board has written a letter to VTrans to request a change to 40 mph from Riley Rd to Dewing Shore Rd, except in the currently reduced camping area posted at 35 mph. Yvon Dandurand/Ed Rainville made a motion to accept the letter and Peter signed.

Selectboard Folder:

- * Ruggiano results of the boring tests done at the Dewing bridge site.
- * Mikes Boring and Coring terms and agreement
- * NRPC meeting notice
- * FFD#1 balance sheet

Member Concerns: Yvon asked if there has been follow-up with Heath Wright about the final grading of the highway department lot. Andy has not been able to get a hold of Heath yet. Yvon advised the School consolidation was discussed at the NRPC meeting last month. Suggested doing the consolidation change by counties who wish to participate; Franklin County does not want to see this consolidation.

Brooks Sturtevant/Andy Godin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. All members voted in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:53 p.m.

Next meeting on August 13, 2014

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk
July 11, 2014

These minutes are not official until approved at the Select board's next regular meeting.

These minutes were approved at the August 13, 2014 meeting.