

**MINUTES OF THE FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2015 @ 7:00 P.M.  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

**Members Present:** Peter Magnant, Yvon Dandurand, Brooks Sturtevant, Ed Rainville, Sara Rainville, Asst. Clerk/Treasurer, and Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk/Treasurer.

**Guests:** Peter Benevento, Larry Myott, Jay Shepard, Kathleen Engstrom, Bryant Reynolds, Mike Lawyer.

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m., pledge of allegiance was said.

**Agenda amendments:** Friends of Northern Lake Champlain-cancelled/removed;  
Add to Town Clerk concerns-school consolidation;  
Add to New Business-Watershed board member recommendation;  
All members voted in favor, 4-0 approved.

**Public Comments:** Kathleen Engstrom-library director, wanted to share her concerns with the building maintenance.

- Leak in roof last winter in children's room
- Unreliable lift, patron was stuck in during the summer.
- Young adult/children's room lights
- Yellow jackets nest in the attic space-patron was stung twice. Asst. Town Clerk advised B&G Pest control will be here on 9/17.
- Yearly washing of outside windows
- Air conditioning is not sufficient to cool library
- Heat in adult room not enough and children's room too hot.

Bryant and Kathleen were thanked and exited the meeting.

**Minutes:**

Brooks/Yvon made the motion to approve the September 2, 2015 minutes as written. Vote taken, 4-0, all in favor.

**Highway Department:**

- **Traffic ordinance/Morses Line speed limit:** Discussed the change/update to the ordinance; Morses Line Rd west of Dandurand Rd to East of Morses Line/Gore Rd intersection, 1.5 miles. The board would like to send letters to residents of this area informing of what the board is doing and invite them to the next meeting.
- **Pigeon Hill Project:** The highway department started on the project with Munson early on 9/14, the afternoon of 9/15 the old culvert was out. Ed advised the new culvert is expected to arrive on 9/18; the temp bypass road is working well.

**Lake Carmi Campers Assoc.:** Jay Shepard stated that the new bridge on Dewing Rd is working well, but water is being restricted after it passes through the culvert to Mill Pond by the sediment buildup of the banks; would be best to dig out. The Town Clerk has spoken with Army Corps of Engineering-no permit is needed from them to remove fill, only to put fill in. The removed fill needs to be completely removed from the wetland. Need to contact VT DEC, VT Lake and Ponds, Stream alterations group. Pete advised the board will investigate and get options; Jay recalls that the stream was dug out in 1980's, has gotten very narrow again. Peter Benevento and Larry Myott entered the meeting. Peter B. questioned the height of the water at the dam; people having issues with getting boats off lifts, water is so low. What is the direction for the boards and the procedure? Larry states currently there is only one board in the dam. Who keeps these records?

Pete will do a letter to DEC on the dam rules, procedures, who's in charge, boards in/out, notification process. The lake level is considerably low; Larry states the water level is down 20" from the May 7<sup>th</sup> depth. LCCA would like a copy of the letter sent.

**Weed harvester update:** Peter B inquired about the weed harvester. Yvon has been working on it for the past 6 weeks with phone calls with a local dealer and Subaru. He is removing the spark plugs and carburetor to be looked at; if they are good, a new engine will be here on Tuesday if needed; possible that diesel got into the engine; it currently has a gas engine. He is working on it. Yvon will bring parts to Franklin Rental to be evaluated.

Lisa Larivee entered the meeting.

Peter B voiced concerns with stray dogs on camp road areas. Sara advised the leash law is only for the village and East Franklin Village. Pete M. requested something in writing from LCCA with their concerns; will review the dog ordinance.

Peter B asked about the North Beach. He is looking into grants for benches, landscaping, good that vegetation is growing but would like to spruce up the appearance. Ducks continue to be an issue.

Larry asked about the speed limit along the north end of lake, at 35 mph. Residents/campers of this area would like it lowered from Dewing Rd to Patton Shore Rd. The board will review the last response from the state regarding lowering the speed limit that was denied.

LCCA and Franklin Watershed will hold a meeting on Sept 17<sup>th</sup> regarding water quality act and the fund set up for such issues at the FELCO room. Pete M advised the board has a recommendation for a new FWC board member; will send a letter for the meeting tomorrow.

Peter B asks about the permit that was posted in the Town Clerk's office for Ben & Jerry's to dump waste product into the Benjamin farm digester; concerned with effects on our watershed with out of town waste coming into the area.

Peter B, Larry and Jay were thanked and exited the meeting.

#### **Town Clerk Concerns:**

- **Library pillars/bases/brick work:** Lisa advised the pillars have been sanded and painted. Yvon will speak with Donald Rainville about building new bases. Brick repair work behind the pillars was quoted at \$500 from Jay Lawrence. Ed will speak with Jeremy Barnum about checking the work out and if he can do the brick repair.
- **Town Hall Grant/Bids:** Ed advised the electric work at the town hall has been rescheduled. Town hall fascia work and snow guards; Ed spoke with Luc from Bronson Johnson about the work. The fascia will be repaired and painted as part of the original quote for rain gutters. Luc will get us a quote on the snow guards. Board agreed to have Pete and Yvon review the quote and approve/deny for the snow guards when bid is received.
- **Grant signing:** Lisa advised that the current use, pilot, reappraisal funds used to just be sent to the towns by the state; now they are being done as grants for administrative purposes with the state. She has signed off on the grant agreements as Treasurer for receipt of these payments.
- **Shooting in village:** Lisa got a call last week from a village resident regarding someone shooting in the village and was concerned with safety. Lisa spoke with Sheriff Norris, he or another officer will stop by to speak with the person about shooting in the village. We have no ordinance to prevent shooting. Ed discussed "safety zone" signs could be posted by neighbor.
- **VT Housing/FHI merger:** Lisa has spoken with VT Community Development (VCD) about the merger of the Carriage House with Franklin Homestead Inc (FHI). VCD were the original grant writers for the funds that were received by the town for the Homestead construction project. The town loaned the funds to FHI for this purpose in 2000; as a 30 yr. note/agreement. The agreement of the \$130,000 loan, was a repayment at such time there was a \$50,000 cash reserve with the Homestead. No funds have been repaid to date. VCD advised the return of funds have very strict guidelines for the town; 50% returns to VCD for reloading and the other funds have to be used for low/moderate income loans for housing. Money could be turned to another organization who does this; Champlain Housing Trust. VCD has to approve the plan of merger with Carriage House and FHI as supported by the Selectboard. Lisa has sent information to VCD. Nothing else needs to happen now, until such time that funds are received by the town. Ed/Brooks made a motion to approve Pete signing a letter to Housing VT, general partner, of the boards' support of the merger/purchase regarding Carriage House to FHI. All members in favor, 4-0.
- **School consolidation:** Lisa spoke with Jay Denault regarding Act 46. Jay has spoken with legal counsel regarding the statement in Act 46 per statute 16VSA 3448B which has been repealed, stating that grant funds to build new schools would need to be repaid to the state if the consolidations do not happen before July 2016. He recommends the board do a letter to legislation stating they have no intention of implementing the Act for consolidation based on a defective Act. Jay did letters to the editor to all papers in the state of VT regarding this issue. Jay sorry he couldn't attend this meeting but can attend future meetings to discuss further.

Lisa was thanked and exited the meeting.

**Review and sign bills:** The board reviewed and signed bills for the town and water district. The bill from Bishop's to the water district was reviewed. Water board recommends paying the \$150.83 for stone only; the bill was for \$570.83 submitted to the water district dated 7/5/15. The work done on the water line was 5/13/15. Mike Lawyer discussed the history of breaks at the Bishop house. Direct letter to Vivian Bishop asking for weight slips of stone. Tabled until 10/7 to gather more info and discuss further.

**Old Business:**

- **Park & Ride Closure:** Ed stated the letter to the Secretary of Transportation should be tabled; the secretary has resigned at this time. Ed will update Wayne Davis of the status to date.
- **Town Hall policy:** all members present agreed to table until all members are here.

**New Business:**

- **Rental property trash/ordinance violation:** Sara advised we got a verbal complaint from a Corey Road rental property about mounds of trash. The Selectboard advised they would not get involved. Mike Lawyer also has concerns on Square Rd, his neighbors at Jackie Luce's rental have 3+ years of accumulated trash around; would the board be willing to review the existing ordinance. What triggers an ordinance violation? Mike will research other towns and make suggestions to the board.
- **Watershed board member:** The board discussed potential names for recommendation to the Watershed board. The Selectboard agreed to send a letter recommending Ed Rainville to the FWC board. All agreed and Pete signed the letter.

**Selectboard folder:** none

**Member Concerns:**

- Ed discussed the library pillars
- Pete asked about the status of the new fire truck. Ed advised Marshall stated it has been ordered.
- Sara advised Lisa has spoken with Bill Williams, Heritage Slate, on the slate roof-he will visit this week or next to give a quote for repairs.

Next regular select board meeting will be Tuesday, October 6th at 7:00 pm, not Wednesday, October 7.

Next water commissioner meeting will be October 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Brooks/Ed made a motion to adjourn at 10:20 p.m. All members voted in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sara Rainville, Asst. Town Clerk  
September 18, 2015

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

These minutes were approved at the October 6, 2015 meeting.