

Town of Fletcher – Select Board
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/fletchersbmeeting>
Password: 330460
Monday, November 16, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Virtually Present

Members: Jon Bondy (Chair), Matt Gillilan, and Jesse Wiens.

Guests: Tom Bailey, Eva Gillilan, Sybil Gupwell, Pam Jedlicka, Rachael Scarpa (Secretary), Tara Sweet, Karrie Sweet (Town Clerk), and Aimee Tinker (Assistant Town Clerk).

1) Call to Order

- a. Jon called the meeting to order at 7:06pm

2) Land Access:

- a. On 11/11/2020 Tom Bailey emailed the Select Board regarding accessing land near Metcalf Pond. The land is in a trust and they would like to get a right of way over Reynold's Road to get to the land. Matt said that if there is already an existing right of way that information should be in the deed. Jon suggested that Tom consult with a lawyer to create a document with his request. Then, the Select Board can have the Town's attorney review the document. Tom wanted to know if anyone on the Select Board opposed the idea before moving forward.

3) Public Comment:

- a. The Select Board discussed an email from Eva Gillilan. She was unhappy with the way Jon and Jesse spoke to Matt and Rich in the previous Select Board meeting. Jon said that he accepts the criticism and that he holds a strong belief that everyone should be able to openly express their opinions in Select Board meetings. Jesse appreciates the feedback and doesn't want to make anyone feel like they can't express their opinions. Eva said that her emailed expressed what she wanted to say and didn't have any further comment.

4) Road Report:

- a. The head gasket went out on the loader. Though the repairs were expensive, Matt said that the overall budget should be fine.
- b. Wright Road Bridge: Matt explained that the Town can choose between a full width bridge or a 16' wide bridge at a lower cost (approximately \$75-\$100,000 differential). The bridge span would remain at 25'. Matt wanted to know what the Select Board thought of those specifications. Jon said that as long as the residents who would use the bridge would be happy with it. Matt said that the residents were happy with the last bridge and this would be a small upgrade. Matt said that he doesn't believe the town would need a wider bridge and the engineer agreed. The Town's portion of the differential would be \$12,500 with a 16' wide deck. The Select Board approved the bridge to those specifications.

5) Other Board Business:

- a. Town's line of credit: Jon, Jesse and Matt approved the Town's line of credit.
- b. Orders: Jon Jesse and Matt approve the Accounts Payable and payroll orders.
- c. Town office heat pump: The heat pump is working fine. Jon asked that Karrie and/or Aimee reach out to Travis (who previously worked on the heat pump) to see if he can raise the heat pumps for under \$1000.

6) Broadband:

- a. Aimee, Jon, Jesse, and Tim will meet tomorrow with Northern Regional Planning Commission.
- b. The MOU and lease agreement are not signed yet; everyone is waiting for the finalized wording before they an sign.

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- c. MCF is unable to proceed until the meetings are complete. MCF would like to get started, but there are documents to be signed and agreements to be made.
- d. Jesse updated the FAQ document to reflect the new speeds available and the first \$400 of fiber will be paid for by MCF instead of 300 feet from the pole.

7) Metcalf Pond

- a. Matt spoke with Terry about the history of the Pond beach access. Terry doesn't remember any barriers being removed during the 14 years that he served on the Select Board and remembers people being able to put boats in from the beach. Terry mentioned that he thinks the water level issues are due to the alder roots and other vegetation near the outflow. Terry recommended getting help from the state. Matt agrees that we should engage the state for suggestions. Jon encouraged Matt to engage with the state. Matt said if the water level continues to rise it could cause flooding and impact leach fields.
- b. The Select Board discussed putting up a beaver fence in front of the culvert inflow and a perforated culvert at the ledges to allow beavers to build a dam but still allow for water flow. Jon would like to have a plan and a schedule so that this project can be completed in the Spring before the beavers become active again. Matt said the material cost is small and will talk to the Road Crew about scheduling.
- c. Sybil mentioned her recollection of the history of the beach area. In 1985 there was a telephone pole on short posts going across the beach. She doesn't think it went out when they changed the culvert in 2005. Sybil doesn't remember when people started launching boats there. There aren't many camp owners who use the boat launch but that outside people use it to launch boats.

8) Additional Items:

- a. E911 Service from St. Albans: The price for E911 service will not change if the Town makes a two-year commitment. The Select Board agreed to commit for two years with no price change.
- b. MCF would like to know if they can discard their trash, from the building they lease from the Town, in the dumpster at the Town Garage. The Select Board agreed this is okay.
- c. Select Board Report: The Select Board discussed the Select Board report (included in the Town Report) that discusses the fiscal year that ended in June 2020. Jon would like the Select Board to have a finalized report before January before the Select Board gets busy with budget discussions. Jon drafted a first version and asked the Select Board to review the draft and provide feedback. The Select Board will discuss the report in the next meeting.
- d. Town Meeting: The Select Board discussed the options for Town Meeting. The school gym capacity is currently limited to 75 people due to COVID-19 restrictions. There have been over 100 attendees at past Town Meetings. Tara proposed the idea of having a tent with heaters. Jon had experience heating event tents in warmer weather in August, and the heating was unsuccessful, making it unlikely heat would hold in March. Tara will bring up the Select Board's discussion at the School Board meeting tomorrow night. A decision on how to hold Town Meeting will need to be made in early January, so people can indicate their interest in being on the ballot. Tara will tentatively attend the 12/21/2020 Select Board meeting so a decision can be made by the School Board and Select Board.
- e. Reclassification of School Road: The Select Board discussed this, and Matt said Jim Cota can attend the next Select Board meeting and provide insight on the reclassification process.

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- f. Paving project: The Town should be halfway through paying the loan. The Select Board discussed future options for paving and the paving loan. Matt said the Road Crew assesses the roads annually.
- g. Jon would like the Select Board to think about a plan for the Summer in case Matt is overburdened and needs assistance. Jon wants everyone to think ahead and be proactive.
- h. Jesse posted the cellular map Jon shared on social media.

9) Adjournment:

- a. Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm

Upcoming Meetings:

Select Board Meeting: December 7, 2020 at 7pm

Jon Bondy, Chair

Matthew Swartz

Rich Bidwell

Jesse Wiens

Matt Gillilan