

Town of Fletcher Select Board Meeting
Fletcher Town Offices
Select Board Meeting Minutes
11/07/2022

Select Board: Jon Bondy (remote), Rich Bidwell, Matt Gillilan, and Bruce Douglas (minutes)

Attendees: Joe Yandow, Spencer Noble, Tom Ross, Andrew Davis, Amy Garrity-Parent, Stearns Allen (remote as noted), Sybil Jewell (remote – as noted), Karrie Sweet (Town Clerk – as noted),

1. Call to Order: 7:02 pm

2. Beaver Dam and Metcalf Pond Water Levels

- a. Rich described how he and his wife visited The Ledges beaver dam and all of the dams downstream of The Ledges on Saturday. They pulled out all of the dams below The Ledges. The main issue at The Ledges appears to be that the three pipes at the Ledges were sitting on top of the dam rather than buried under it, making them useless for drainage. We need to bury and then weigh or stake down those three pipes where they go under the dam. Tom Ross pointed out that the water should be just trickling into the Pond exit culvert and it is the dam above the ledges that causes the water level problem.
- b. Stearns Allen and Sybil Jewell joined meeting remotely
- c. Andrew Davis sees the beaver dam issue as a work in progress and appreciates the Town participating in this issue and offered to help the Town. Matt pointed out that the challenge is getting materials to the site. There was discussion of access to the pond site. And Jon said that we need to understand what went wrong. Rich offered to go to the ledges if the road crew is available on Thursday and dig out the beaver dam and lower the pipes.
- d. Joe Yandow pointed out that there is 40 – 50 years of experience on the pond here tonight. He said that algae blooms have been more severe in the last few years. Kids are getting sick drinking lake water with algae – essentially there are three issues: algae, milfoil and clams. He stated that he thinks that we are heading in the right direction. He also pointed out that the first dam above the ledges, the water is about 10 feet deep with swamp on both sides of it.
- e. Tom Ross said that there once was an association and there were years when folks went down to the dams every week.
- f. Spencer Noble thanked the Selectboard for work on the beaver dams and the pond water level.

3. Truck Purchase

- a. Karrie Sweet reported that she has been working with Chip at New England Municipal Resource Center (NEMRC) regarding truck purchase so it will show up in the budget as being funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and not by tax revenue.
- b. Matt made the following motion: "The Town shall use ARPA funding to purchase a used 2020 International dump truck for \$125,022 from Allegiance Trucks in Jericho to replace the 2003 International truck". Rich seconded the motion was passed by an unanimous vote.
- c. Matt signed the authorization to purchase the truck will talk to Norman about paying for and picking up the truck.

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Select Board Meeting Minutes
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4. Green Mountain Power Easement Along Ustinoff Road –
 - a. Matt explained the location of the easement near the Town Garage.
 - b. Installation of power will be to serve Darren Sizen's land, and pipe will be installed six feet deep.
5. Fire Wood Donations –
 - a. Cambridge Cares has donations of firewood and they asked for a location to store the wood before it is distributed to persons in need.
 - b. The outcome was to instruct Karrie to gather more information regarding wood donation quantity and to gather information on who in town may need wood for heating.
6. Flatbed Purchase for 2007 International was recently completed and was described by Matt.
7. Cambridge Rescue Service - Bruce reported that he met with Martha Manning and Brenden Blair to discuss the draft document that the Selectboard wrote for inclusion in the Town Report, and is seeking review by the Cambridge Rescue Squad (CRS). CRS is preparing their requested edits and will meet with their board in mid-November. After that meeting the CRS will provide their edits to the draft document.
8. Town Budget – Jon pointed out that we have only a few meetings before we start the Town report budget effort. It was agreed that we should start the budget process at the beginning of December.
9. Executive Session
 - a. The selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues at 9:03 pm
 - b. The executive session ended at 9:22 pm with no decisions made or actions taken.
10. Minutes
 - a. Bruce brought up the fact that the Selectboard lacked a secretary to record the minutes. He agreed to repost the opening for this position on Fletcher Folks Facebook page.
 - b. Matt & Rich agreed to take a turn at taking the minutes
11. Adjournment Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

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12. Emergency Preparedness Grant

- a. Matt presented that Eva Gillilan has requested support to apply for a \$10,000 State of Vermont grant with a 50% required match, that can be covered in ARPA funding. The request is for communication equipment at an Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
- b. Bruce brought up issue of two-way radio signal repeaters that has been brought up by Cambridge Rescue Service due to cell phone signal dead spots. Matt responded that there are dead spots by portable two-way radios by a stronger base station is needed and truck mounted radios. Signboards are also part of the current draft scope of the proposal, and a laptop could be considered. There was an unanimous vote to authorize use of \$7,500 of ARPA funding to match \$7,500 in grant funds.

13. Ash Tree Inventory

- a. Bruce presented poster-sized draft of map of ash trees located in the Town of Fletcher Right of Way. The map was created by the Northwest Regional Planning Commission using data collected by Ed and Glen on the road crew.
- b. Aimee Tinker pointed out that she attended Municipal Day in Montpelier last week and a database of Ash Tree Inventories was part of a Community Forestry session. The ash trees need to be located using GPS to enter data, but the road crew did not use GPS to locate trees.
- c. Jon asked if the trees were numbered, Bruce said no, but he would ask NRPC if that is readily doable.
- d. Bruce left the draft map with Matt who will see that Ed receives it so he can check the data with the field data.

14. Road Intersections without yield or stop sign

- a. Rich pointed out that the following intersections do not have either yield or stop signs:
 - i. Taylor Road and Metcalf Pond Road – Matt pointed out that there is bald ledge here so sign would have to be across Metcalf Pond Road.
 - ii. North Road and Metcalf Pond Road – Rich pointed out that there is a sign post there that just needs a stop sign.
 - iii. Matt will talk to the road crew about whether they have any signs available.

Jon Br
Matt Fletcher
Rich

Rich