

Selectboard Members Present

Matt Gillilan (Meeting Chair)
Rich Bidwell
Matt Swartz (online)
Bruce Douglas (Recording Minutes)

Town Officials Present (as noted)

Karrie Sweet (Town Clerk)
Aimee Tinker (Assistant Town Clerk)

Members of the Public Present

Terry Riggs
Hannah Doyle
Liz Tower
Josh Gerasimof
Holly Miller
Elizabeth Sargent
Alex Sargent

Agenda

1. Meeting called to order on 7:01 pm
2. Public Comment
 - a. Terry Riggs asked if there were still federal funds available for capital expenditures. If there are he recommends purchasing a scarifier to help address the pothole situation. Terry feels that the current grader with a straight blade is not cutting the potholes out. Therefore, he would like to see it in the budget for FY 24. Rich mentioned Fairfax is using a vertical screen attached to the grader blade. The selectboard agreed that Terry's proposal is worth considering, will check with road crew and look into a scarifier and other options to address pothole situation. Terry asked when the Selectboard needs to compile warrant articles for budget and he is willing to work on a warrant article to acquire a scarifier.
 - b. Liz Tower (1969 Cambridge Road) expressed her concern with the new 50 mph speed limit signs on Fletcher-Cambridge Road. She requested lowering the speed limit in the 2.5 mile stretch from Boneyard Farm to Fletcher village. She pointed out that there are a lot of families with young kids along that road. It was pointed out to Liz that the speed limit was not changed, only that the signs have been posted due to new town-wide speed limit ordinance that was passed by the Selectboard in May 2022. Matt S. mentioned that changing speed limit does not necessarily change driver's speed without enforcement.
 - c. Hanna Doyle (Owner of Boneyard Farm) said that cars have to struggle to get their speed up to 50 mph and then there is a curve where someone went off the road this past summer. Hannah has a farmstand where customers are pulling in and out and the 50 mph speed limit makes it less safe for them to

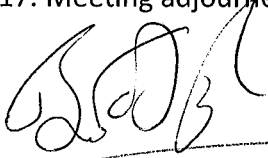
- do so. Hannah also runs along that stretch of road with a double stroller and is concerned about signs that may encourage higher vehicle speed.
- d. Elizabeth Sargent asked what course of action we can take?
 - e. Matt G. responded that coming to this meeting was the right course of action. The Selectboard can review it next board meeting
 - f. Matt S. pointed out that state guidelines say that vehicle operators will operate at a speed that the operator deems safe.
 - g. Alex Sargent said that he is on the rescue squad, who is allowed to drive faster, but has trouble keeping up with car in front of the ambulance.
 - h. Rich B. brought up the issue of vehicles speeding pas the Elementary School, and suggested that speed tables along here should be put around school.
 - i. Matt S. lives near school and the road there is very unsafe when there are cars parked along road by the school. Matt S also mentioned that he has observed unsafe driving behaviors (Fletcher resident passing a car in front of the school almost hitting him head on) that would only be made more hazardous by speed tables.
 - j. The Selectboard thanked the residents for coming to the meeting.
3. Listers RFP and Schedule
 - a. Alex did not have anything to report – tabled until Jon and others work out plan to be brought before the board
 4. Speed Limits: The Selectboard had a brief discussion of speed limit issue. There was agreement that the board we should think about and research. One option is to revisit the issue of hiring State Police or County Sheriff to do enforcement. Rich mentioned that a state trooper had told him that if a Town contracts with the State Police, then Troopers may be able to do the enforcement outside of their scheduled shifts. Bruce mentioned that policing policies may have changed due to a general shortage of police officers. Matt S. stated that he will fight speed tables, as their placement near the school would increase wear and tear on vehicles and punish people who need to drive by school.
 5. Historical Society Deed – tabled until next meeting
 - a. The board will ask Aimee for copy of entire agreement for next meeting
 6. Snowplowing Objectives
 - a. Matt G will share with crew and bring back to board
 7. Cambridge Rescue Squad (CRS) communication
 - a. Bruce presented that CRS has provided their requested edits to the Emergency Medical Services document that he will share with the Selectboard as a redlined version of the draft that was emailed to CRS. He will also forward a partial draft CRS budget that he received from CRS, who is going through a management transition with an interim chief at this time.
 8. SB Report for FY 22
 - a. It was agreed that everyone should review prior to next meeting. Ideally by 12/12/2022, to allow time for revisions to be considered at the 12/19/2022 Selectboard meeting


9. Road Report Matt G
 - a. Road signs (addressed earlier)
 - i. Bruce brought up the need for a 40 mph sign for beginning of Fletcher Fairfax Road
 - b. The Town has received the newly purchased 2020 International truck and it is in service.
 - c. The privately owned truck that had been parked on River Road has been moved off of the Town right of way.
 - d. Paving grant application is here and signed by three of us. The grant total is \$131,522.18 with the Town's contribution is approximately \$32,000.
 - e. Boozan Hill Box Culvert was installed and signed off by Tyler Billingsley, PE.
 - f. Kinsley Box culvert will be scheduled for Spring (Matt G will check on easement status).
 - g. Garage cleaning up was done well.
 - h. Rich explained how the Fairfax screen blade that Fairfax uses are installed and adjusted – Matt G will look into them.
10. Unwritten culverts and other road policy
 - a. Matt G will work on this. He explained that the State has a policy that the town has to provide structures for Class 4 roads. Also the Town needs a written access policy, that states if driveway owner installs the proper culvert when the drive way is put in, then the Town will take over maintenance of the culvert.
11. Line of credit at Peoples Trust Company – motion to accept; motion passed unanimously.
12. ARPA - The Selectboard discussed Amy Doolittle's recent emails regarding broadband access to her home on a private road - Hillside Lane. Matt Swartz talked to Brian at Mansfield Community Fiber (MCF), and Matt recommended that it would be better for Brian to explain the issue of where MCF fiber network ends and where extending fiber is the responsibility of the individual user or a group of users. Matt S. used his road as an example of where his service comes from his neighbor's pedestal. Matt S also reached out to Christine Hallquist, the executive director of the Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB), regarding funding opportunities. No new funding opportunities were identified.
13. Metcalf Pond - No one had any new data on pond water levels. Rich will try to get down there tomorrow AM before the upcoming rain.
14. Annual maintenance events – Rich is working on this. The Selectboard members should review this document as well as the Fletcher Selectboard's annual events document. (Bruce will ask Aimee to copy the latter)
15. Ash Tree inventory – Bruce provided an update on his progress preparing a grant application for the Vermont Community Forest program. He has reached out to Aaron Jenson an arborist who lives in Fletcher who recommends having an arborist review the identified ash trees to come up with a list of priority trees, and a program for efficient removal of the high priority trees. There was concurrence by the Selectboard that this can be part of the scope of work proposed in the grant. The


grant application is due on December 31st, so Bruce will have a complete application ready for Selectboard approval by the 19th.

16. The Town has been notified that the Cambridge Fire Department's (CFD) annual retainer will be going up \$500 in the next fiscal year, per recent communication from Alan Cary, CFD Chief.

17. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm



BRUCE F. DOUGAN




Matthew Swartz