

**Town of Fletcher – Select Board
Fletcher Town Clerk’s Office
August 07, 2023
Regular Meeting Minutes**

Present:

Members: Matt Gillilan, Jon Bondy, Bruce Douglas

Guests: Aimee Tinker, Jen Getty, David Clark, Glen Packard

1) Call to Order

Jon called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

2) Regular Board Business

Meunier Property

Dave Clark (Town Health Officer) gave his report on the property (attached). He wanted to add that the owner received a zoning permit from the Town on 09/14/2022 to rebuild a garage on the same footprint after demolishing the old structure. David said he’s spoken with the State and has learned that a person needs to get a demolition permit when the structure has contaminates – in this case, asbestos.

Jon asked what resources might be available for clean up and what the next steps might be. David said the State has taken the first step in sending a letter to Meunier. The Board of Health (Health Officer and Select Board) could declare this a public health emergency and force Meunier to clean up, just as the State is now doing. Either path involves the same process.

Bruce reached out to NRPC regarding possible brownfields designation. There are low-interest loans available to residents to whom this pertains but feels this might not be feasible for Meunier. Grants are available for municipality-owned land. Bruce will research as to the possibility of the Town getting a grant to clean up a resident’s property.

Jen said that NWSWD would offer \$1000 towards clean up. She offered to reach out to asbestos-assessing companies for clean-up estimates. Matt G will help in this research.

David asked if the Town would be interested in buying the property. Jon said the Town attorney advised against this.

This issue will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Health Officer

David Clark’s term is up as Town Health Officer. He is interested in continuing to serve in this role. The Select Board reappointed him and he signed his oath.

New One-ton Truck

Matt G said there’s a GMC 3500 in St. Albans that would work for what we need. The cost would be about \$64K (truck plus dump body). We could probably add a v-plow for an additional \$9K. Matt G had spoken with the road crew about this truck, and they all feel it would be suitable for our needs. If we sought out a 5500, the road crew could plow the Town Office

parking lot and possibly the school's as well, but this would also require adding an additional road crew member. The Board feels this isn't feasible at this time.

The Board unanimously agrees to purchase the 2024 GMC 3500 for \$64K from Handy's.

Road Report

Matt G said the Grader has major issues with the motor. Glen said during normal use, it started to make a ticking noise. He inspected it all over and all fluids were checked that morning before use. He continued using it and alarms started going off, so he ceased use. Fairfax and Cambridge are willing to help us out if need be.

Matt G spoke with Tim at United Turf & Ag who said he will speak with John Deere to see what they may be able to do. It's a 2017, but we got it in May 2018 and it is past the warranty period.

Budget Recap

Jon gave a brief overview of the just-ended FY23 budget. We are slightly over on wages, which is explained by raises. The 2020 Int'l Red is over on parts and snow consumables. The Loader is over budget as well due to LOTS of small repairs, hoses, bucket repair. This will be the next piece of equipment to replace. The 2020 Int'l Green had no funds budgeted so this isn't surprising. The Board wants to use this information in order to better budget for next year.

Glen has not heard from Radio North about installing the base radio at the Town Garage. Eva Gillilan is reaching out to them as well, as this is part of the Emergency Management Grant.

Glen said we switched to Clarence Brown as our new diesel provider. He is interested in having a gasoline tank at the garage as well and is researching options. Clarence Brown will supply a tank at no cost to Town if we choose to go with them. (Blouin's won't come to Fletcher. Corse Fuels is phasing out of gasoline.) The Board unanimously agreed to go with Clarence Brown's and have them supply the tank as well, since they offered it at no additional cost.

03 Mack on Municibid

The reserve price of \$15K was not met. The highest bid was \$9K. Matt G will reach out to the highest bidder and try to negotiate higher than his highest bid, but the objective is to get it off our hands. He will work with Aimee to prepare any necessary paperwork.

Guardrails

Matt G reached out to the company regarding the original RFP and possible additions but hasn't heard back. Aimee will call them and see what she can find out.

Werner's Access at Pond

The Board discussed the letter they are drafting. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Listers & Outside Assessor

The Listers are working on dividing up tasks and timeline for a contract with Spencer Potter. They plan to contact his references as well. Aimee will assist them with writing the contract once they are ready to do so. An update will be given at the next meeting.

School Speed Sign

Matt G is working on this and will have an update at the next meeting.

Broadband Update

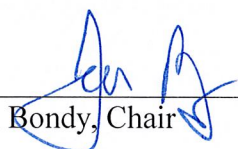
Jon said that NBRC sent a bunch of questions to the Town to which we responded. We are awaiting a response from NBRC.

NRPC

Lynn Douglas is resigning from NRPC as one of Fletcher's representatives. (Lori Ruple is our other rep.) Bruce will send info to Aimee to post on FPF and FB to advertise that we are looking for someone to fill her spot.

3) Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:46pm.



Jon Bondy, Chair

Rich Bidwell



Bruce Douglas



Matt Gillilan

Matt Swartz

presented at Select Board
meeting 08/07/2023

Fletcher Town Health Official Inspection Report

Inspections of 143 Fairfield Road, Fletcher, VT

Initial Inspection: November 13, 2022

On or about November 13, 2022, I received a call from Ted Lancaster concerning the activities taking place at 143 Fairfield Road – a property formerly owned by the Lancaster family – but recently sold to Lee Meunier. Ted was concerned that Lee was beginning to demolish the old garage and had concerns about the environmental impact of such activities. Before the sale of the property, I observed Ted emptying the old garage buildings of much of the contents on my irregular travels past the old “License Garage” that fall. But in our conversation that day Ted claimed that the building was filled with asbestos and other contaminants and that Lee had a permit to rebuild the structure. He also expressed concern that Lee planned to live on the property, even though the land did not have an existing septic, and had never been used as a residence. He was also concerned that Lee planned to burn much of the building on site.

I visited the site on November 13, 2022, and took a number of pictures. No one was on site that day, and there was no evidence of anyone living there. I observed that parts of the building had collapsed, or had been torn down. I did not see any evidence of any of the building being burned on site. I took no further action.

Second Inspection: July 12, 2023

On July 12, 2023 I received an email from Lawton Rutter, Senior Health Lead and Asbestos Engineer with the Vermont Department of Health, regarding an “Illegal Demolition and Burning of a Building”. I spoke with him that afternoon. Our conversation revolved around the complaint that he had received (from Ted Lancaster) about the property at 143 Fairfield Road and the next steps to be taken. I visited the site the next morning, took some pictures, emailed them to him and then had another phone conversation that afternoon.

The pictures that I took on July 13, revealed the significant changes that had taken place since my November visit. Lawton informed me that Ted Lancaster described a recent incident that involved Lee Meunier burning some debris on his property in early July that landed Lee Meunier in intensive care with significant burns. At the end of our conversation, Lawton Rutter said he would issue a Request for Information: Demolition Activities to Lee Meunier. He did so on August 3, 2023.

David Clark, Fletcher Town Health Officer August 7, 2023

Attachments 1-4

Illegal Demolition and Burning of a Building at 143 Fairfield Rd, Fletcher

2 messages

Rutter, Lawton <Lawton.Rutter@vermont.gov>

Wed, Jul 12, 2023 at 4:07 PM

To: "ch87820@gmail.com" <ch87820@gmail.com>

Cc: "Tomanelli, Isabelle (she/her)" <Isabelle.Tomanelli@vermont.gov>

Good Afternoon,

My name is Lawton Rutter. I am the Senior Health Lead and Asbestos Engineer with the Health Department. This is a follow up to the message I left with you wife earlier.

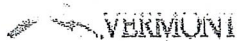
We received a complaint of a property owner of the property at 143 Fairfield Rd in Fletcher demolishing a structure without proper testing and/or abatement followed by improper burning of these building materials. This property owner was subsequently injured and may now be in a hospital.

Our concern first is the improper demo and the fire. If possible, could you put eyes on this address so we can get an idea of what has or is happening at this point. So pictures or any information you may be able to gather.

I can be reached via this email or at 802-503-7026

Thank You

Lawton



Lawton W. Rutter, MPA

Senior Asbestos and Lead Regulatory Program Engineer

Environmental Health

Vermont Department of Health

Attachment 1

143 Fairfield Rd in Fletcher Update Inbox

 **David Clark** <ch87820@gmail.com>
to Lawton 

Lawton.

Any progress on this?

David Clark
Fletcher Health Officer
203-426-4043
802-849-2260

 **Rutter, Lawton**
to me 

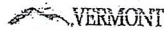
David,

Sorry for the delay, attached is the letter that he is being sent by certified mail today.

It requires that he provide all information about on-going demo activities, including asbestos assessment results, and if he has non he must get an inspe out the included demolition form.

Next steps are see if we get an response from him.

Lawton



Lawton W. Rutter, MPA

Senior Asbestos and Lead Regulatory Program Engineer
Environmental Health
Vermont Department of Health
108 Chery Street, Suite 201, Burlington, VT 05402

If you have concerns about Inspection, Repair and Cleaning (IRC) Practices noncompliance, or observe possible unsafe lead-based paint work practic material, [complete this survey](#). You may submit this tip anonymously.

Learn about IRC Practices [here](#). Sign up for an online IRC Practices training [here](#).

Learn about Vermont Lead-Safe RRPM [here](#). Apply for a Vermont Lead-Safe RRPM firm or supervisor license or UCCO certificate [here](#). Use this [looku](#) license and UCCO certificate holders.

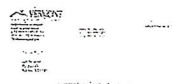
From: David Clark <ch87820@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 10:38 AM
To: Rutter, Lawton <Lawton.Rutter@vermont.gov>
Subject: 143 Fairfield Rd in Fletcher Update


You don't often get email from ch87820@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.



One attachment • Scanned by Gmail



 Demolition Without ...

Attachment 2

Department of Health
Environmental Health
108 Cherry Street – PO Box 70
Burlington, VT 05402-0070
HealthVermont.gov

[phone] 802-863-0357
[fax] 802-863-7483
[toll free] 800-439-8550

Agency of Human Services

August 3, 2023

Lee Meunier
PO Box 43
Fairfax, VT 05454

Request for Information: Demolition Activities

Dear Mr. Meunier,

The Department of Health's Asbestos and Lead Regulatory Program (ALRP) has received information about demolition activity at 143 Fairfield Rd, Fletcher. ALRP does not have any record of a pre-demolition notification for the building /structure, as required by Section 9.1 of the Vermont Regulations for Asbestos Control (VRAC).

As a result, we are requesting that you provide us with the following information about the demolition activities at 143 Fairfield Rd, Fletcher within 30 days:

1. **Completed the enclosed post-demolition form. Please attach any additionally information that may be relevant, as necessary.**
2. **Provide copies of any known asbestos assessment reports for the building(s) affected by the demolition activities. If an assessment has not been performed, you must have a Vermont Licensed Asbestos Inspector complete one immediately.**
3. **Provide copies of the disposal receipts for any demolition waste transported from the site.**

You can email this information to ALRP@vermont.gov or mail it to Vermont Department of Health, Asbestos and Lead Regulatory Program, 108 Cherry Street, P.O. Box 70, Burlington, VT 05402.

As background, VRAC Section 9.1 requires that:

- Before any demolition or renovation is conducted, that a Vermont-licensed Asbestos Inspector assess the structure for the presence of asbestos-containing materials.



Attachment 3

- Any and all asbestos-containing materials found must be removed in accordance with VRAC before any renovation or demolition activities that would disturb these materials.
- The property owner must notify ALRP and, in some cases, US EPA Region 1, at least 10 working days before any demolition or asbestos abatement activity.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have questions about this letter or your obligations under VRLC, please contact the Health Department's Asbestos and Lead Regulatory Program at 802-863-7220 or ALRP@vermont.gov.

Sincerely,

The Asbestos and Lead regulatory Program.