

TOWN OF BROOKLINE SELECTBOARD MEETING
Wednesday, May 2nd, 2018 at 6:30 PM
Approved Minutes

Present:

Selectboard: Dorothy Maggio (Chair), David Jones, Gwen Tanza, Chris Webb

Members of the Public: Mark Bills, Guy Tanza (Videographer), Peter Barus (Recorder)

Call the meeting to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:56 PM.

Review changes to agenda if any

Approve Minutes from April 18, 2018 Regular meeting

Mr. Webb moved to approve the Minutes from April 18, 2018, as amended. Second by Mr. Jones. **All in Favor.**

***Scheduled members of the public* (none)**

***Unscheduled members of the public* (none)**

Summary / Update Reports

Guy Tanza - Town Clerk Report

Mr. Tanza reported eight dogs still unregistered.

Dot Maggio - Animal Control, Town Health Officer concerns

Ms. Maggio reported unsuccessful attempts to capture a feral cat a resident had been feeding; a request from 74 Merrill Drive about water quality and septic system; Ms. Waters had brought documents from previous inspections which showed deficiency in having water tested; Ms. Maggio ordered a test and performed it; the flush-dye test did not appear definitive, but the previous septic service provider is on record that the system is not functional. Ms. Waters will be notified of next actions.

Highways & Roads

Current projects and plans

Mr. Bills reported that the majority of gravel roads have been cleaned up, some gravel applied; Putney Mountain loses an inch a year or so of gravel; there was some erosion; he was able to make repairs with what was on site and open the road. A pothole by Howard's is not yet repaired, awaiting cold patch availability from WW.

Salt/Sand Shed Federal Grant - Discussion on hiring MPM.

Mr. Bills had discussed project management for the sand shed with Mr. Clark, who suggested that there are some carpenters in the area who have supervised work and might be qualified. Ms. Maggio noted that the Federal grant requires specific qualifications that must be met.

Ms. Maggio spoke with Susan McMann at WRC and was referred to Erica Roper; she will make contact tomorrow; they do have people who do project management but they are overextended; they discussed the three ways project management may be hired:

- RFP on the state website www.vtbid.com
- Look for RFQ, and negotiate cost of hiring
- "At-the-Ready" list may not be the most cost-effective but may be the best way to go.

Ms. Maggio reported that Chris Hunt, Vermont Agency of Transportation had called, did not make contact yet; she will be happy to discuss the PM question with Mr. Clark.

There was discussion; the risk of non-conformance with grant requirements; the time frame is five years; the project not likely to begin this year; the amount of the grant may not be sufficient to complete the project, given the added cost of a Project Manager; Mr. Bills suggested inviting Mr. Clark and Ms. Zwick to a meeting to discuss next steps after more is known.

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Other

There was discussion of a fallen tree that was cleared from the road after the recent wind storm; the wood belongs to the landowner; Mr. Bills explained that some owners don't want the wood and others are sometimes willing to take it. Mr. Bills removes it after an interval if it is not picked up.

There was discussion of a mound of material being dumped in the right-of-way; the landowner will be contacted about the Town policy.

Some roads are still moist, and warning signs have been left in place.

Old Business

Green Up Day

Mr. Jones noted that Green Up Day is Saturday. There was discussion of the purpose of cleaning roadsides, and not necessarily dumping sites. Mr. Bills noted that he encountered a State Trooper while driving the grader on Ellen Ware Road, and they discussed whether patrols might include Ellen Ware and Putney Mountain Roads. He noted some handmade signs prohibiting shooting that have remained in place.

Recycle Decals

Mr. Jones discussed use of stickers or tags to identify local residents; cost comparisons; changing colors at intervals; Mr. Tanza noted that having only one bin in place at a time has worked well, and not as many non-residents have been using the site. Mr. Bills will fabricate a push-pole for compacting the contents occasionally. Mr. Tanza explained that he calls to have the bins exchanged about every week.

The Board will reconsider stickers at a later meeting.

Traffic Ordinance draft review

Mr. Webb had researched the roads and mapped the signs as required by the Ordinance. He provided copies of the draft Traffic Ordinance.

He noted no 40 MPH sign entering town at the bridge (there is one that says "35 unless otherwise posted"); and the Merrill drive sign may have been knocked down; Mr. Bills will make repairs. He noted a modified 30 MPH sign on Hill Road hanging upside-down from a mailbox. If the Ordinance is passed the owner will need to be notified. He discussed the only "no parking" sign found.

Mr. Webb invited fact-checking and questions, and discussed the process of passing the Ordinance.

It was noted that Ellen Ware and Putney Mountain roads cannot be posted until the Ordinance is passed.

There was discussion about an informational sign, "Left Turn Yields to Bridge Traffic". Mr. Webb had changed "Selectmen" to "Selectboard" in the draft document. He again suggested that others check his work. He noted that the highway numbers are consistent with the online State maps.

Ms. Maggio discussed next steps.

The Selectboard expressed gratitude to Mr. Webb for his work.

SLDC UV system supplies

Ms. Maggio had been called about alarms from the UV system; some of the sensors had failed; backup UV bulbs are required, and are on order; Mr. Bovat was working on the system last Friday. Mr. Jones asked about life-expectancy of the parts, considering replacement budgets.

Mr. Bills reported that he had closed the chain links on the swings and removed extra links.

Round Schoolhouse tree removal discussion and plan

Mr. Tanza had spoken with the neighboring property owner about the trees.

Ms. Maggio had discussed the tree work with Mr. Carr, and obtained an informal estimate:

- \$2,490.00 for the ash, no-impact removal (crane)

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- \$2,905.00 if adding the large cherry
- \$4,000.00+ if removing all five trees with the crane.

In discussions with others it had been suggested that after the recent wind storm there is not imminent danger; if the Ash was to be retained, it could be elevated, deadwood removed, cabled, for about \$1,700.00 to \$1,900.00. Treatment for Emerald Ash Borer is about \$200.00. If it becomes infested costs are higher. Ms. Zwick reported that the budget is insufficient to cover this at present. Ms. Maggio discussed other details provided by Ms. Zwick.

Mr. Jones suggested the ash tree was the highest risk, and proposed an RFP for removal. There was discussion of insurance coverage; that insurance payment is not possible until a tree actually falls. There was discussion of possible availability of other grants; of of engaging the Historical Society to address the problem if other alternatives are not found.

Mr. Tanza discussed the Historical Preservation Grant, with whom Mr. Mello has been in contact; calls to WRC, VLCT might produce an answer. He noted that the Emerald Ash Borer may be a factor. Mr. Bills noted that larger cities have committees that deal with plans to remove vulnerable ash trees and replant. Mr. Tanza will make phone calls this week.

Ms. Maggio noted that while this is not considered an imminent danger, it needs to be addressed soon. She discussed brush removal; Mr. Bills offered to do this if there is permission from abutting property owners noting that this would help to keep the shed drier.

Mr. Tanza will make calls to research grant possibilities.

Ms. Maggio will discuss the budget for “summer contract services” with Ms. Zwick.

Contract development for mowing old cemeteries, Round Schoolhouse & Town Hall

Ms. Maggio reported that Jaime Bernard has resigned; that Ms. Zwick recommended a certain kind of contract language; that Mr. Bloom has no contract and there are insurance liability questions. She noted that branches have fallen and been dragged to the side at Austin Cemetery. She and Mr. Carr had discussed an estimate for cleaning up a “bully pine” which will help with mowing access. There was discussion of contracts and vendors and of the cost of mowing; cost-effectiveness of the Town purchasing equipment. Ms. Maggio will continue research.

Neighbor Day - June 2 Discussion

Ms. Maggio noted that the landscape around the Meetinghouse is in bad shape for an event and timing is not the best. There was discussion of setting an alternative date later in Summer. Ms. Nau and Ms. Parker will be informed that this will not be done in June.

Ms. Maggio proposed to obtain legal advice about a withdrawing a contract with Beck Inc., on the water system at SLDC; the firm is not experienced in the work; \$2,100.00 of the \$4,200.00 contract had been paid, and no services had yet been provided; some of the work involved reporting that is no longer a regulatory requirement; Ms. Maggio had emailed the firm to stop work.

New Business

2018-2019 plan for Speed Enforcement - VSP vs. WCS

The Vermont State Police notified the Town that there are not enough troopers interested in overtime; there was discussion of possible steps to take. Mr. Tanza will call Lieutenant French about what services are available.

Communications

Email:

- Peter Meyer, re: critter hole under the Meetinghouse; significant movement of the queen beam in the rafters. There was discussion.
- A solar company sent marketing materials; redirect to the Planning Committee.

Regular Mail:

- VLTC News (Magazine)
- Darley (Firefighting)

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- Valley Cares (newsletter)
- VLTC forum announcement
- WRC (re: Energy Plan)
- Roads Scholar course brochures (to Mr. Bills)

Pay Orders

Accounts Payable

Ms. Maggio moved to accept Accounts Payable Warrant #2018-42 dated 5/2/18 in the amount of \$9,918.30. Second by Mr. Webb. **All in Favor.**

Payroll

Ms. Maggio moved to accept Payroll Warrant #2018-43 dated 5/2/18 in the amount of \$1,478.85. Second by Mr. Webb. **All in Favor.**

Set agenda for meeting on Wednesday, May 16, 2018

- Recycling Decals
- Update on Beck Engineering contract
- Update on SLDC plumbing issues
- Police services
- Round Schoolhouse Trees: RFP and permission from abutters
- Lawn Maintenance Contracts
- Traffic Ordinance
- Meetinghouse beam movement, Peter Newton

Adjournment

Mr. Webb moved to Adjourn. Second by Mr. Jones. All in Favor.

The meeting Adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Peter Barus, Recorder, May 5, 2018