

TOWN OF BROOKLINE SELECTBOARD MEETING
Wednesday, May 16th, 2018 at 6:30 PM
Draft Minutes

Present:

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

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

Call the meeting to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM.

Review changes to agenda if any

Move discussion about the Round Schoolhouse Tree removal to Unscheduled Members of the Public.

Add Dog Ordinance Discussion under New Business.

Approve minutes from May 5, 2018 Regular Meeting

Ms. Maggio moved to approve the Minutes for May 5th, 2018, as amended. Second by Mr. Webb. **All in Favor.**

Scheduled members of the public

Unscheduled members of the public

Round Schoolhouse Tree Removal Costs

The Chair recognized Ms. Nau and Mr. Greene.

They were invited to discuss tree removal costs; Ms. Nau cited a letter sent to the two arborists, Carr and Bloom; Ms. Maggio noted that Mr. Carr had responded with an estimate that was thought not very competitive; Mr. Tanza noted another call that might have been a bid.

There was discussion of the condition of the trees; the large ash tree does not appear to be infested with Emerald Ash Borer at present; Mr. Bills described some of the other conditions, and the effect of the tree on the roof of the Round Schoolhouse; Ms. Nau had heard from other residents about the situation, and suggested finding a local person to removed the tree; the Historical Society may contribute \$500.00; there was discussion of the funds on hand, and communicating with the primary donor as to planned expenditure; tree removal would be preservation in this case.

Ms. Maggio will seek at least one more bid. She noted that Mr. Bloom, Mr. Carr and Ms. Nicholson had been kept informed. She read the letter sent to prospective contractors. There was one proposal in hand, which Ms. Maggio circulated (amount not published). She will work to obtain the best price, noting the Historical Society's \$500.00 donation to offset costs that the Selectboard will cover.

Mr. Jones discussed where the cost of the tree removal would come from; potential sources from the Town budget and the Historical Society were discussed; it was noted that the tree is on the Nicholson property. Mr. Jones observed that there had been no work done on the Round Schoolhouse, and suggested that the cost should come from its funds.

Ms. Maggio read from documents that the Round Schoolhouse had total assets of \$5,359.53.

There was discussion that the bidding process was not complete; Ms. Nau suggested that at least the donation of \$500.00 should go toward the tree removal.

Ms. Maggio will complete the bidding process and suggested Warning a meeting on the subject.

Mr. Bills noted that the end of FY 2018 is close. Mr. Tanza cited other contract services funds used beyond the budget; it was noted that FY 2018 ends July 1st.

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Ms. Nau and Mr. Greene will be on the agenda for the June 6th, 2018 meeting.

Ms. Maggio thanked Ms. Nau and Mr. Greene.

Summary / Update Reports

Guy Tanza - Town Clerk Report

Mr. Tanza noted six or seven more dogs approaching the deadline of May 30, incurring additional \$50.00 fees and fines; and that Green Up day was very successful.

Dot Maggio - Contracts out and resident letters sent.

Ms. Maggio reported that Tanner Wynot of Wynot Work was hired to take over mowing work at the Round Schoolhouse and Town Office, also the cemeteries. He will remove deadfall and clear paths for access; the overall condition of the cemeteries is not very bad; Resident Letters were sent to Ms. Nicholson, Mr. Bloom, Mr. Carr; there was discussion of letter about the fill on the road (it was removed) and a possible driveway being cut at the location; Ms. Maggio had written Mr. Bloom about this possibility.

David Jones - Green Up Day 2018

Mr. Jones discussed the event; \$119.00 was spent for hauling; there had been some tires and appliances; Mr. Clark's truck was filled. The Selectboard acknowledged Mr. Clark and Mr. Bills and others who did a lot of work hauling junk out of ravines. Young Ms. Webb had helped.

Highways & Roads

Mark Bills - Road Supervisor

Current projects

Mr. Bills reported bringing all roads up to par, applying fresh gravel, etc.; planning for ditch cleaning for the beginning of the new Fiscal Year and end-of-June roadside mowing; cold-patch was completed; he discussed surfacing at the transfer site; Mr. Mello asked about the Paving Fund. Ms. Maggio read from the documents that \$30,000.00 had been budgeted, total liability under \$99,000.00. Mr. Mello brought to attention a section near the Hill Road triangle that needs repair; Ms. Maggio noted that the following year this might be done, but no grants are available now; this can be considered for the next budget.

Upcoming projects

Mr. Bills discussed paving that section noting a dangerous hill in front of John Swing's shop, suggesting the crown of the hill be dug down two or three feet to improve sight lines; he suggested digging out about 100 feet of roadway and repaving; with buses pulling out this would be much safer, and not very expensive; it could be done in a day. There was discussion of possible grants for safety improvements on side roads. He suggested obtaining professional opinions, noting no culverts, just surface removal and fresh gravel. He suggested further that above the location the road could be made a foot or two wider for improved safety. This was noted for the 2020 budget discussions.

Mr. Bills will add gravel to the recycling site for better drainage.

Salt / Sand Shed Project

Ms. Maggio discussed the Municipal Project Manager question, noting this is a five year plan and there is a grant; Mr. Jones suggested that the next step could be to invite Ms. Zwick and Mr. Clark to attend a meeting and bring everyone up to date on specifics; there was discussion; Mr. Bills suggested an experienced local resident to call about the MPM position; he will call that person.

Mr. Bills noted that there could be time to work on SLDC with Mr. Mello.

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Old Business

Updated Traffic Ordinance - Discussion and Vote

Mr. Webb reported that this may be voted at this meeting, and the acceptance document signed; Ms. Maggio can post notice in the Reformer in time for Saturday; a copy will go into this minutes (**see Appendix**); notice must be posted in five location; three bulletin boards, the Town Office and website; Mr. Tanza also noted an additional location in case the website might not be official, making six postings in all.

It was noted that when the ordinance is approved there are 44 days to bring a petition to reject from five percent of the Town voters; it is effective on day 60, July 16th. Mr. Jones verified that the Ordinance must be posted May 19th in the *Reformer* and adopted on May 16th.

Mr. Jones moved that the traffic ordinance be approved as updated. Second by Mr. Webb. **All in Favor.**

Resident Recycling Decals - Purchase or not purchase

Mr. Jones discussed his research on recycling decals, whether dated or non-dated, etc. He had looked into less expensive stickers for the back of rearview mirrors; there was discussion that there is no enforcement; that it may be the most cost effective approach to dispense with tagging altogether. It was suggested that signs and personal challenges may be most cost effective. Mr. Tanza suggested a magnetic sign on the bin.

It was decided to spend the money on better signs and abandon stickers for the time being.

Meetinghouse beam movement

Mr. Mello had seen the photographs, and noted that no discussion has occurred with Mr. Newton so far. He suggested that the Selectboard visit the site, and if there is a concern, meet with Mr. Meyer; and that the Selectboard should initiate discussions.

Ms. Maggio will communicate by letter with Mr. Newton, enclosing the photographs.

SLDC

Mr. Mello discussed Calvary Construction; Mr. Tanza noted that they are interested in the soffit work. Mr. Mello discussed the work list with Mr. Bills; he had researched railings and suggested painting the exterior. There was discussion. It was suggested that parents might volunteer. Mr. Mello discussed maintaining a loose-leaf notebook to track work on SLDC.

New Business

Logging policy development discussion

Ms. Maggio invited Mr. Webb to begin work on the policy; there was discussion.

Dog ordinance update

It was noted that there is an ordinance in effect; Mr. Tanza discussed VLTC ordinance templates. There was discussion of needed changes. Ms. Maggio will gather materials for research.

Budget Review – Plan

Ms. Maggio reported that Ms. Zwick has suggested reviewing the current position and how this may impact the next fiscal year; and suggested inviting Ms. Zwick to discuss this in more detail.

Mr. Webb asked about the Round Schoolhouse and BMH Advisory Committees; it was noted that the Selectboard is responsible for the buildings. There was discussion. Mr. Mello recommended getting the tree down and finding the funds later.

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Communications

Email

Regular mail

- WRC rec'd 5/16/18 re: road grants
- WRC rec'd 5/15/18 re: Planning Commission information
- Vermont Public Safety Broadband Commission rec'd 5/10/18 (newsletter)

Pay Orders

Payroll

Ms. Maggio moved to accept Payroll Warrant #2018-45 dated 5/16/18 in the amount of \$1,495.35. Second by Mr. Webb. **All in Favor.**

Accounts Payable

Ms. Maggio moved to accept Accounts Payable Warrant #2018-44 dated 5/16/18 in the amount of \$16,843.69. Second by Mr. Webb. **All in Favor.**

Set agenda for meeting on Wednesday June 6, 2018

- Historical Society regarding Round Schoolhouse tree removal discussion
- Meeting House beam movement
- Road Commissioner discussion

Adjournment

Ms. Tanza moved to Adjourn. Second by Mr. Webb. **All in Favor.**

The meeting Adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Peter Barus, Recorder, May 20th, 2018

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Appendix
Updated Traffic Ordinance

TOWN OF BROOKLINE, VERMONT
Website: www.brooklinevt.com

NOTICE OF AMENDMENTS TO TRAFFIC ORDINANCE

On May, 16, 2018, the Selectboard of the Town of Brookline, Vermont, adopted amendments to the existing "Traffic Ordinance" pursuant to the Selectboard. This notice is published pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1972 to inform the public of these amendments and of the citizens' right to petition for a vote to disapprove these amendments.

Summary: The Traffic Ordinance includes updates to the list of existing speed limits to include newly posted limits Ellen Ware and Putney Mountain roads based on traffic studies conducted in 2017 and new articles regarding traffic control devices, stop and yield intersections, parking regulations, loaded vehicle regulations, and general provisions related to adherence to the ordinance.

The full text of the Ordinance may be examined at the Town of Brookline Town office at 734 Grassy Brook Road, Brookline, VT, and may be examined during regular office hours and online at www.brooklinevt.com.

CITIZENS' RIGHT TO PETITION FOR VOTE

Title 24 V.S.A. § 1973 grants citizens the right to petition for a vote at a special or annual Town Meeting to disapprove ordinance amendments adopted by the Selectboard. To exercise this right, citizens must present to the Selectboard or the Town Clerk a petition for a vote on the question of disapproving the amendments signed by not less than five percent (5%) of the Town's qualified voters. The petition must be presented within forty-four (44) days following the date of the adoption of the amendments. Unless a petition requesting a vote is filed pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1973, the amended "Traffic Ordinance" shall become effective sixty (60) days from the date of said adoption.

PERSON TO CONTACT

Additional information pertaining to this Ordinance may be obtained by contacting Guy Tanza, Town Clerk at P.O. Box 403, Brookline, VT, 05345, or by calling (802) 365-4648 during regular office hours.