

**DRAFT MINUTES- Special Brookline VT Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday August 9, 2022
10:00 AM - Brookline Meeting House**

Selectboard Members Present:

Dorothy Maggio, Bruce Mello and Stan Noga

1. Dot Maggio called the special meeting to order at 10:05 AM
2. Changes to the agenda if any.

Mr. Mello asked to add time at the end of the meeting to inform the SB of new information regarding the possibility of additional rebates from Green Mountain Power. He asked to also add a few minutes to share information about how the Inflation Reduction Act may affect Solar Install rebates in the future. He also would like to make the SB aware of a 2017 excavator for sale.

3. Members of the public
There were none

4. Discussion / Vote about mowing attachment for the rented excavator to mow along the sides of town roads. Mower cost \$1,335.00 a week

Dot Maggio made a motion to approve renting from ALTA the mowing attachment for one week at a cost not to exceed \$1335.00. Bruce Mello seconded the motion.

Discussion: There was a brief discussion about being unsure that the SB voted to rent the mower at the last regular SB meeting as the draft minutes from August 3 were not yet available.

A vote was called and all were in favor.

The motion passed

5. Discussion / Vote on extending the 6 week rental agreement to 7 weeks to accommodate the mowing of town roadsides with the HD110W Excavator at a cost of \$2,640.00 per week

Dot Maggio made a motion to approve adding one more week onto the current 6 week rental of the wheeled excavator for a total of 7 weeks at a cost not to exceed \$2640.00.

Stan Noga seconded the motion.

Discussion: This will allow the extra time needed to do the roadside mowing in light that the original mowing machine was canceled by the rental company back in June..

A vote was called and all were in favor.

The motion passed

6. Discussion / Vote on tree removal behind the Daycare building for safety and possible solar panel exposure.

Dot Maggio made a motion to remove trees in question.

Bruce Mello seconded the motion.

Discussion: There was a discussion about the number of trees that needed to be removed. Bruce spoke of one large dead pine that could fall and damage the daycare over the infant room area. He also noted other trees that should be removed in consideration of

improving the amount of sunlight that would reach the roof of the daycare if in the future solar panels were installed. Mark Bills and Bruce had discussed the necessary manpower and equipment needs for such a project. With the use of the excavator, Mark Bills told Bruce Mello he could spend one Saturday cutting down trees, buck them up and moving the slash on the side for chipping on another weekend. Doing the work on a weekend would not interfere with the operation of the daycare building. Stan Noga asked why we would be cutting trees down that were related to solar panels when a solar project is not currently on our "to do list". Bruce replied that since we have the machine it would be cost effective and we would not have to hire a vendor to do the work. Mr. Noga also asked about the number of hours the project would add to the limited hours available with the rented excavator. Because there were several questions about the removal of trees that were not in danger of damaging the building, Dot Maggio asked to table the motion until the August 17th selectboard meeting. All agreed to table this project with the understanding that the SB would like to see any dangerous trees removed. This will be added to the next agenda. **Motion Tabled**

7. Request for Proposal - FEMA repair on Parker Road

Road commissioner Archie Clark emailed a suggested RFP to request bids for stream bank repairs along Parker Road caused by July 27, 2021 flooding. The area of the stream bank is approx. 60 feet long and 7 feet high. The existing rip-rap must be removed and replaced with a stacked toe slope at least 4 feet high, then existing stone may be reused to the road surface.

Dot Maggio made a motion to publish the RFP. Stan Noga seconded the motion

Discussion: The project completion date is listed as October 1 2022. There was some time spent on discussing communication gaps between the Road Supervisor, Road Commissioner and Selectboard members on road projects. Ideally, road projects that should go out to bid due to purchase policy limits should be listed early on in the year so that a project schedule or calendar can be set up. Since this is a FEMA related project that was known to need repairs, the RFP should have been done in the spring or after meeting with the selectboard members. Request that any other FEMA related RFP that needs to be advertised be written up ASAP.

A vote was called for and all approved.

The motion passed to publish the RFP on Saturday August 13, 2022 Brattleboro Reformer for opening at the September 7 2022 selectboard meeting.

8. Request for Proposal - Ditching / Drainage improvements on Hill Road.

Dot Maggio made a motion to approve the request to put out an RFP for bids to remove ledge, stump and fill removal as needed, ditch 24 inches below the road surface and adding 4-8 inch ditch stone to form a shaped ditch. Seeding and mulching disturbed areas and traffic control to be part of the contract proposed. Bruce Mello seconded the motion.

Discussion: The due date on the suggested RFP is for October 15, 2022. Mr. Noga noted that both the Road Supervisor and Road Commissioner are aware that this is the site selected to use the Grant money for and that there is a requirement that the project be completed and inspected and a report submitted no later than September 30, 2022. Again the need for better communication and scheduling needs to be addressed going forward so that there is no rush to get bids and then get the job done. The RFP would go to the Reformer for publication on Saturday August 13, 2022. The bids would be due September 7, 2022 at the

next regular meeting as August 17th would not allow enough time for bids to be composed and submitted. Since this mitigation project which is supported by a grant in aid must be completed at least three weeks before the suggested Project completion date of October 15th, the motion was amended to have a project completion date of September 23. This will allow ample time for inspection and submitting the required grant report by September 30th.

A vote was called for. All were in favor

The Motion passed

9. Update on Health Department Rental visit and report

Dot Maggio and Stan Noga completed the initial visit to a rented home whose tenants requested an inspection with concerns about rodents and plumbing and rainwater damage issues. Using the Town Health Officer Handbook, the checklist was followed examining both interior and exterior health related concerns. Photographs were also taken to substantiate the notes taken. Dot contacted via phone the Springfield Office 802 289 0603, Enforcement Office 802 828 1254 and Department of Public Safety Springfield office and Vermont department of Health 800 439 8550 and left voice mail messages.

A law enforcement officer will be hired to serve the report to the property owners. Dot Maggio will deliver to the tenants their copy of the initial inspection with due dates for completing the deficiencies.

An additional Health Department request about renting/bartering the use of a deer camp by an acquaintance of the land owner is reactivated. In review is the Health Orders issued several years ago. If the basis of the health order is not remedied, then the interested party will be notified.

10. Request to have access to BMH on Saturday August 13 for a wedding ceremony in case of rain at the original outdoor venue.

Discussion: The building is not ready to lease for an event, however using the building for a wedding exchange of vows would be acceptable. A simple form should be developed outlining basic expectations for building use and clean up.

11. Discussion about ARPA funds.

Dot Maggio asked the SB members to consider how much time should be added to the August 17 agenda for ARPA review and suggestions on its appropriations. It was noted that there is a need to open the discussion up to the community as well. It was decided that the SB would add 30 minutes to discuss their ideas on August 17th and invite interested residents and parties (ie Steven John - Dan Demaine DVFiber) to attend the September 7th regular meeting.

12. Bruce Mello wanted to inform the board that after speaking with Tim Harte who is installing the 6 air to air cold climate heat pumps at the school building, there may be additional rebates available from Green Mountain Power company. There will be a need to submit 3 years worth of electric bills and 3 years worth of Propane gas usage bills. We noted that the propane use was over 7000 gallons just last winter. Rebates may reach nearly \$7,000.00. Bruce will keep us informed.

Bruce Mello then spoke about the Inflation Reduction Act and how this program could further increase the tax benefits for those who add solar panels. Bruce spoke with a representative from Southern Vermont Solar. Currently a deposit of 20% down is an industry standard.

Lastly, Mr. Mello spoke about the VSECU loan program and how it could benefit the town. There are good used wheeled excavators available for purchase and a discussion about moving forward on this during the next month or so was agreed upon. Research into loans and other costs should be started.

13. Dot Maggio made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Stan Noga seconded the motion

There was no discussion. All were in favor

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 AM

Submitted by:

Dot Maggio

August 14, 2022