

SELECTBOARD MEETING
February 25, 2010

Present:	John Quinn David Tilton Bob Bancroft	Gary Estus Nanette Rogers
Guests:	Melissa Manka Randy Botala Laura Dipietro	Paul Birnholz Joan Vrba Barb Peck

The meeting was called to order by John Quinn at 7:04 p.m.

CLOVERDALE BRIDGE EASEMENT

Laura DiPietro from Underhill met with the Board to discuss the Cloverdale Road bridge. Cloverdale Road is a private road serving 30 homes. The Association is applying for a Hazard Mitigation grant to repair the bridge. They are wondering if the Town of Westford is willing to grant an easement for the Cloverdale Homeowner's Association and/or the Town of Underhill to do the work. Westford would not be responsible for maintenance of the bridge. The bridge is located in a Water Resource Overlay District therefore the Association will need to obtain Conditional Use approval from the Westford Development Review Board. Westford is willing to enter the agreement if DRB approval is obtained and the town attorney approves the easement language. The Association has been in contact with State agencies regarding any other permits they may need.

HIGH SPEED INTERNET ACCESS

Barb Peck would like authorization from the Board to pursue retrieval of the \$38,000 returned to Vermont Telecom. The funds were left over from a Broadband grant the Town received. The State has set the funds aside for an undetermined time. Fairpoint recently abandoned its project to put a tower on the Pouliot farm for wireless service, which would have provided service for all of Westford. Fairpoint is now saying they will serve all of Westford with DSL however they are seeking release of coverage from the State. It is questionable if they will cover Westford.

Barb Peck and Kay Alexander would like to use the \$38,000 to finish high speed Internet access availability on Route 128. There are 23 residences on Route 128 that have no option for high speed Internet available to them. Within this section, there is a gap between the utility poles serving Westford and Essex. If the Town agrees to finish Route 128 and the State agrees to return the money, Comcast will do the site work to determine the cost of installing the infrastructure.

Bob Bancroft made a motion to petition Vermont Telecom to retrieve the \$38,000 previously granted to the Town through the efforts of the High Speed Internet Research Committee. The funds may be used toward determining the cost of installing infrastructure by Comcast for high speed Internet service for residents on Route 128 who are not currently being served, provided that Comcast agrees to completing the work. The Board's final decision is pending the outcome of an analysis being prepared by Comcast. Seconded by Dave Tilton. Motion passed: 3-0.

FAIRFAX FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fairfax Fire Department was asked to attend the meeting to discuss why the Westford Fire Department was not called to the Steeple Market fire. No one from Fairfax attended. Randy Botala from the Westford Fire Department advised that Westford has a good relationship with Fairfax. Fairfax has called Westford for mutual aid several times since the

Steeple Market and Westford has done the same. Westford believes Fairfax called the departments who they generally work with even though Westford is closer. He does not see this as problem. John agreed. The Selectboard decided not to pursue this matter unless the situation repeats itself.

DRAFT TOWN PLAN

The Board and Melissa began reviewing the draft Town Plan. Any "shall" that is not necessary will be reconsidered. The review of the draft will continue at the March 25th meeting.

FEE SCHEDULE

Bob Bancroft made a motion to approve the new fee schedule, seconded by Dave Tilton. Motion passed: 3-0.

SALT SHED

Dave Tilton made a motion to approve the Dubois & King contract for the planning stage of the salt shed, seconded by Bob Bancroft. Motion passed: 3-0.

PEDESTRIAN EASEMENT

Dave Tilton made a motion to approve the Pedestrian Easement regarding the Blair subdivision on Plains Road, seconded by Bob Bancroft. Motion passed: 3-0.

CCMPO BLUE RIBBON RESOLUTION

The Board opted not to act on the resolution at this time.

ROAD SCHEDULE

Bob Bancroft made a motion to approve the Road Schedule for February 26, 2010 through March 11, 2010, seconded by Dave Tilton. Motion passed: 3-0.

The Town was awarded a Betterback Roads grant for Pettingill Road.

The Road Crew is having problems turning around at the end of Covey Road because cars are being parked in the turn around area. Gary will talk to the property owner to make them aware of the problem.

VTRANS GRANT APPLICATIONS

Grant applications for resurfacing a section of Woods Hollow Road and replacing the culvert on Huntley Road were signed.

BILLS/CORRESPONDENCE

Bills were approved and correspondence was read.

TOWN COMMON USAGE

Dave Tilton made a motion to approve a request from Building Bright Futures to hold an Easter egg hunt on the common, seconded by Bob Bancroft. Motion passed: 3-0.

PELKEY ZONING VIOLATION

The Zoning Administrator has recommended that the Town pursue this matter in Environmental Court. The Board will send a final letter advising that this action will be taken if the Pelkeys do not submit the proper application within five business days.

MINUTES

Dave Tilton made a motion to approve the minutes of December 17, 2009 as amended, seconded by Bob Bancroft. Motion passed: 3-0.

Dave Tilton made a motion to approve the minutes of February 11, 2010 as amended, seconded by Bob Bancroft. Motion passed: 3-0.

EXCESS WEIGHT PERMITS

The Chair approved an Excess Weight Permit for Barrett Trucking, Newport Sand & Gravel, Redline Unlimited, Bundy's Sewer & Drain, P&P Septic, Pike Industries, Pat's Truck Maintenance, Champlain Oil Company and J. Hutchins.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Bob Bancroft made a motion to enter Executive Session at 8:48 p.m. to discuss personnel, seconded by Dave Tilton. Motion passed: 3-0. People in attendance were John Quinn, Bob Bancroft, Dave Tilton, Gary Estus and Nanette Rogers.

The Board exited Executive Session at 8:52 p.m.

ADJOURN

Dave Tilton made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bob Bancroft. Motion passed: 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Quinn, Chair
Westford Selectboard

Nanette Rogers
Town Clerk