

TOWN OF CRAFTSBURY REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING

October 26, 2021

7 PM at Craftsbury Town Hall

Approved

Present: Bruce Urie, Jim, Jones Susan Houston, Michelle Warren, Rob Libby, Elinor Osborn, Brian Machesney, Penelope Doherty, Gina Campoli, Colin Netzley and Ally Dick

SELECT BOARD AGENDA:

- **Action - Adjustments/Changes to Agenda**
Susie said Gina will come in to explain the MPG.
- **Action - Approve of Minutes**
Bruce made a motion to approve the October 5, 2021, Select Board minutes, Susan seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

Susan made a motion to approve the October 19, 2021, Public Hearing minutes for Craftsbury Community Care Center, Jim seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

- **Roadside Ash Inventory Update- Brian and Rob**
Brian and Rob gave a presentation on the Roadside Ash Inventory project.
Brian suggested the Select Board form an ad hoc committee to inventory the ash trees on a regular basis, such as every year or every other year. It's important to train the volunteers on safety. Rob said roadside is roughly 25 feet from center of road.

Brian suggested inventory be done in late spring, since ash trees are often last one to leaf. They will also recognize the tree by bark pattern and document any threat they might pose, by branches overspreading, leaning over roads, size, etc. Photographs will be taken of the trees and threats they may pose with smart phones. Brian further explained the process of transferring to pc, uploading to Agency of Natural resources BioFinder, maintaining long term inventory, sharing with other towns and foresters.

They noted they are not making any recommending, just working on an inventory.

Bruce noted it is important to involve landowners of the roadside. Bruce mentioned the road crew knows many of the roadside trees, with plowing and are very knowledgeable. They discussed getting volunteers of each neighborhood. Rob also emphasized the importance of education, many look-alike bugs.

Rob said the first Emerald Ash Borer infestation was 2018 in Vermont. When it does start to attack, goes quickly. Bruce thought it is about 30 miles from Craftsbury at this point. Rob thought Johnson already has done an inventory of their ash trees.

The Select Board thought the project was a good idea. **Susan made a motion to form an ad hoc ash inventory committee, with Brian and Rob in control, seconded, all in favor, motion passed.**

- Knotweed update slide presentation-Brian and Farley (see attached pdf)
Elinor will be speaking instead of Farley. Susan said it's been great having this demonstration site. On behalf of the Select Board, appreciate the effort put into this.

Brian noted when visiting Warren, mowing was very effective way to keep knotweed in check, so they have cut out a 25x30 area that took out the knotweed, just mowing it. Jim said he heard have to mow every 2 weeks for at least 5 years.

Cooperating with Vt. Fish & Wildlife, they are experimenting with some fast-growing willows, working on the site Oct. 26 & 27.

Brian said Ashley will be posting information about the project on FPF.

- **Action** - Municipal Planning Grant (MPG)-sign and review
Gina said this \$22,000 grant will help support infrastructure, planning in the Village, environmental restraints. This isn't as big of a study as the grant they applied for last year. The Consultants will interview business owners, address parking, pedestrian, bike safety, skiers, trail planning. The wastewater study had to be taken out due to costs. The grant will allow for a collective vision on what we want the village to be, what is going on there today, how we want it to grow in the future. For instance, the Craftsbury Outdoor Center wants a trailhead in the village but needs parking. It will identify solutions, what it would take, including costs and finding sources.

The grant will require a 10% match from the Town. Alison Low from NVDA has agreed to be the administrator. They discussed using the unused funds voted for the Better Connection Grant but can't because it is a different grant. Even though it is the same agency and same type of municipal planning grant for the Craftsbury Village master plan, it has a different name, and the Town will need to vote on it at Town Meeting.

Susan made motion that the Town proceeds with the municipal planning grant for the Craftsbury Village master plan, and execute the resolution, seconded, all in favor, motion passed. Susan signed the document. Gina said having NVDA contribute their resources is enormous.

Gina asked to have it scanned to her Wednesday so she can send it in Nov. 1st.

- **Action** - ARPA update and Planning for Public Meeting
Susan said she participated in a presentation Oct. 18th by Katie Buckley VLCT about ARPA money not allocated to the state and how to use town money to match.

Penelope recommending a task force somewhat versed about ARPA, sooner than later, having a sound process. The State has some good examples.

They discussed, putting info out there, the categories. Bruce suggested waiting until January.

- **Action** - Drip Edge on Town Hall

Keith Dunbar and Karl Adams suggested a drip edge and someone screwing down parts of the roof.

The chimney is down, and repairs have been finished by Keith & Karl. Jim said there is a backdraft right now, may have to move the fireboard up a little more.

Jeff Fellingner took down the top window facing the road and will be sending the Town an estimate.

- **Action** - Stop Sign on Rabe Corner

Steve Marckres has ordered a 3 way stop sign at the Rabe corner; the Outdoor Center is fine with that. Jim reported that the radar speed sign was up at Rabes, now on the Common.

- **Discussion** - Removal Chimney Brick

The chimney bricks that came down in back of the Town Hall is out past the culverts near the Town Garage. Susan will post announcement on FPF, to let residents know the bricks are available for free. They are located off Calderwood Hill Road, on the left.

- **Update** - Young Bridge Status

Jim said he was able to talk to Joe Young about the Young Walking Bridge. Bruce said he is still waiting to hear from Donny at the Outdoor Center. The Select Board talked about steel for underneath and planking that would be needed.

- **Committee Reports:**

- The Conservation Commission recommended two new members, Colin Netlzer and Liz Keglör.

Colin introduced himself to the Select Board. **Jim made a motion to vote Colin as a member of the Conservation Commission, seconded, all agreed, motion passed.** They will wait until the next week to add Liz Keglör, once they know more about Liz.

- Energy: building this week for Window Dresser Project --

Susan said they are building this week, Thursday-Tuesday, picked up all supplies. The Outdoor Center offered activity space and can spread out more if needed.

19 households receiving windows, 178 windows total being built for those 19 households. Adrian's Sterling class is helping to build Thursday morning.

- Forestry Walk

Susan said the Forestry Walk was fabulous, wonderful fall day with 15-20 people. Jim Moffatt gave a wonderful history. Stuart and Rob were there, and Jared talked about the forest management plan. It was a great hike, walked Hatchbrook side only. Susan mentioned Jane Solomon was interested in becoming a member in the Forestry Committee, Jim will let Jim Moffatt know.

Jim mentioned there were concerns about opening everything up, some want it left wild, some want trails.

- Planning Commission: unanimously approved MPG

Susan mentioned the planning commission unanimously approved the MPG.

- Mental Health Resource Group: Walk & Tulips
Michelle reported that the Craftsbury Mental Health Resource Group has raised \$6007 for NamiVt and had over 50 people participated in the NamiWalk for mental health. It has planted almost 500 yellow tulips at the Outdoor Center, Sterling College, the Town Hall, Craftsbury Community Care Center, Craftsbury Library, Craftsbury Academy, Craftsbury Elementary, and Craftsbury United Church. They still need to plant at the memorial on the Common. These Yellow Tulip Hope Gardens symbolize hope and happiness.

- All Other Committee Report
Penelope said the textile/recycling drop off on Oct. 16th received almost 4 tons of textiles and was a huge success. The Helpsie truck took the textiles away and donated \$612 to the reuse room. Penelope thanked the many volunteers who helped with the event.

- Clerk Report
Yvette was absent, no report given.

- Road Foreman's Report
Steve is on vacation.

- Other Business & Walk-ins that have business to come before the Select Board
None

- Decide Next Meeting Date & Adjourn
Next Select Board meetings are November 2nd & November 16th at 7 PM.

Select Board meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle Warren, Select Board Clerk