

**TOWN OF CRAFTSBURY
REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
November 16, 2021
7 PM at Craftsbury Town Hall
Approved**

Present: Jim Jones, Bruce Urie, Susan Houston, Michelle Warren, Kevin Gregoire, Matt Krebs, Oliver Burruss and Liz Keglror

SELECT BOARD AGENDA:

Jim called the meeting to order 7:02 PM

Action - Adjustments/Changes to Agenda

Susan requested to move up Kevin, Matt and Liz on the agenda as a courtesy, Jim and Bruce agreed.

Action - Approve of Minutes

Susan made a motion to approve the October 26, 2021, minutes as written, Bruce seconded, all aye, motion passed.

ERSA Trail Grant Program-Matt Krebs

Matt explained that the ERSA Trail Grant would be used for trail building. Craftsbury was one of the communities accepted for the application. The Town would be the applicant of the grant. Since Sterling College is where the trail would be, the state requires a 10-year commitment of access. It will be starting at the parking area at Dustan, a lollipop type shape. Susan said it doesn't require any town match. She also stated that the Town needs to be agent. The Town would need to submit a certificate of good standing and also a risk assessment for the grant, and certificate of insurance, due the 29th. Ollie explained it would be a human, non-motorized trail for snowshoeing, hiking, etc. Matt noted that it would create a more established corridor, help reduce erosion.

Bruce made a motion for the Town to support the ERSA Trail Grant, with documents required, Jim seconded. No discussion, all in favor, motion passed.

Committee Report

- Conservation Commission – Liz Keglror
Liz Keglror saw the post on FPF and has asked to be on the Conservation Commission. Susan explained the Conservation Commission meets Mondays except in December and is a legislative commission, with rules and boundaries. She appreciated people stepping up, and checked to make sure the meeting times would work with Liz.

Bruce made a motion to welcome Liz Keglror into the Conservation Commission, seconded, all aye and motion moved. Michelle will check with Brian, to see who she is replacing.

- Energy Committee - Kevin Gregoire
Kevin gave the Select Board an update on the Energy Committee projects. They completed the 5-day window dressing workshop 2 weeks ago, creating 173 windows, serving 20 households in

the area, mostly Craftsbury. Kevin and the window dressers thanked the town for the \$500 donation. With the \$500 donation and \$2000 from the grant, the energy committee was able to install 90 free inserts along with 83 paid inserts. It was very worthwhile, heat-wise, comfort-wise and also saving pollution in the air. They were able to run the workshop at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center. They were fortunate to get volunteers from the Outdoor Center and also Sterling College. They are hoping to combine with Greensboro and Albany next year.

Kevin said 7 households have received firewood this year. Jared Nunery has been instrumental in getting state land firewood. They are also considering getting cut ends from Columbia Forest Products. They will need to look into transportation costs, and also need to let dry out over the summer.

They have 12 cords cut up, only 2 more cords to split in Dustan Field. It has helped bring people together in town and help those in need. He requested permission from the Select Board to store 2 cords of wood at the Town Garage, Bruce will check with Steve. Kevin said they are looking into getting their own wood splitter.

Kevin said the committee is looking into getting solar panels, for the rest of town electricity, maybe on the 2 newer sheds at the town garage. He asked permission to get a proposal together for funding, and then put to a vote at Town Meeting.

Bruce said this is the last year of the good neighbor funds, with some big expenses such as furnace, painting, etc., that they are hoping to come out of the good neighbor fund, he didn't think there would be enough left to fund a big project like that.

The Select Board would like to look into how many kw savings so far. Susan said that we could invest in better panels now. Kevin said they will look at the footprint and grants to help with this.

The Select Board gave formal permission for the Energy Committee to look at the 2 roof sheds for possible solar panels. Bruce said they will need to have a structural analysis built into the price as well.

Kevin talked about drainage around the Town Hall, putting spray foam in the basement, after they did the walk through. He also suggested insulation board in the basement windows, so it doesn't get so cold, and also insulate the hot water pipes in the basement.

Bruce said since only one pipe now, it shouldn't take too long to do that. Jim mentioned he may have some insulation board left, he will check with Logan.

Bruce commented not sure about doing drainage, Jim said maybe look at in the spring. Bruce said they will plan on doing the hot water pipes though, and Jim will look into the insulation board. Kevin said there was water in the corner near the entrance. When Kevin mentioned lighting, Bruce said LED lights had been put in less than 10 years ago. Kevin also suggested

taking out the AC for the winter, Michelle said that foam boxes can also be put around AC for the winter.

Kevin said that a few towns like Peachum and Danville paid for low-income energy audits. Craftsbury paid for the audits for an energy raffle, but the people chosen didn't follow up for weatherization. Jim said if they didn't do anything, he wasn't sure if it was worth to continue. Bruce mentioned Needham offers many free audits.

Action - ARPA update and Planning for Public Meeting

The Selectboard decided to try and gather a small adhoc committee to help get the word out and facilitate an ARPA meeting. The committee would be helping the town understand the ARPA funding, help put up flyers, and probably have a few meetings themselves before having a town meeting on ARPA funds. It's important that they work well with people. Jim suggested we put the town ARPA meeting and basic ARPA information into the Town Report, the other Select Board agreed. The Select Board brainstormed some names and will send an email asking to see if they would be interested in being a member of this group. Michelle and Susan will work on the wording of the email. Annie McLean is the NVDA ARPA community economic recovery specialist.

Action - Review & Renew Health Insurance Plan

Bruce said the CDHP Gold monthly single plan decreased from \$770.70 to \$723.92. The 2-person monthly plan decreased from \$1541 to \$1447. The family monthly plan decreased from \$2165/month to \$2034/month

Bruce made a motion to stay with the same CDHP Gold BC/BS plan as last year, Susan seconded, all ayed, motion moved.

Bruce mentioned that he heard that insurance prices should be down in towns for workman's comp, etc.

Update - Grant Information -Bruce

Bruce has submitted the Better Roads grant for about \$19,000, should be coming in next few weeks.

The Grant and Aid for about \$17,000 was done for Hatchbrook.

The paving Class 2 Roads grant was submitted, will be getting back \$177,754.62.

The Care Center will be hopefully hearing Friday about their \$500,000 grant.

Update - Young Bridge Status

Bruce said when Donny is done getting ready for snowmaking, he will take a walk with Bruce.

Discussion -Budget Preparation

The Selectboard decided to meet weekly in December. On Dec. 7 & 21 at 7 PM, Dec. 14 & 28 at noon at the Town Hall. Steve and Effie will get together first about the budget.

Discussion-Orleans County “Investing in VT’s Future Community Conversation”

Susan said she went to this workshop, had interesting topics. She will bring up at a future Select Board meeting, when more time.

Clerk Report

Michelle reported they have been busy with tax payments.

Road Foreman’s Report

Bruce said the road crew sanded first time this season, today. Kent’s truck is down right now, waiting for part.

Other Business & Walk-ins that have business to come before the Select Board

Susan was thinking about the Biden Infrastructure, and maybe how we can as a town paint right after the roads get paved for safety, such as Morrisville. Bruce said they had let the State know as soon as the paving was finished, and we are on their line painting list. Much of Morrisville is Route 15, State, so have their own painting.

Bruce said hopefully with the Build Back Better infrastructure, the village bridge can get done.

Bruce said he has been unsuccessful looking for a new safe, could be expensive for a new one. Possibly by rearranging the shelves, could gain another shelf.

Decide Next Meeting Date & Adjourn

The next regular Select Board Meeting is scheduled Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021, at Craftsbury Town Hall at 7 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle Warren, Select Board Clerk