

TOWN OF CRAFTSBURY SELECT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at 7 PM at Craftsbury Town Hall (*approved*)

Present: Bruce Urie, Jim Jones, Susan Houston, Rudy Chase, Katherine Sims, Emmett Avery, Kris Coville, and Penelope Doherty

AGENDA:

Action - Adjustments/Changes to Agenda:

Susan asked to have roadside cutting discussion added to the agenda.

Action - Approve of Minutes:

Bruce moved to accept the July 6, 2021 minutes as printed, Susan seconded, all aye.

Action - Request using Block Party funds for the Old Home Day fireworks and Music:

Kris Coville discussed the plans for the 100th anniversary of the first Old Home Day. Since the Village was unable to hold the Block Party due to Covid-19, Emily Maclure had suggested using the funds that were voted in for more of a blowout celebration on Old Home Day, with fireworks and music. Bruce explained the Town already had paid the store \$1,000 last September for the voted 2020 Block Party funds. This year, due to Covid-19, it wasn't on the ballot for Town Meeting vote. Kris will check with Emily at the Store. Jim suggested having donation jars at the local stores.

Action - Request Old Home Day Fireworks 9 PM on Dustan Field, spectators will be on the Common.

Kris said they found someone willing to do fireworks on Dustan field. Because it would be on Dustan Field, the Select Board suggested talking with the Academy, who owns that property. The Fire Department is working on filling out the fireworks permit. Jim suggested talking to adjacent landowners to let them know about the event, as a courtesy.

Susan asked if they have found music yet, Kris said Emily had one lead. Susan has been helping Rec. Committee plan the parade. She's been trying to get more animals, but owners are concerned noise with from Fire Trucks. Bruce said they could not run the sirens on the fire trucks if that would help. Bruce said there isn't a vintage Craftsbury fire truck, Katherine mentioned that Danville has a vintage fire truck from Danville that might be able to be in the parade.

Discussion -- Broadband Update - Rudy Chase:

Rudy gave the Select Board an update on the Northeast Kingdom CUD. Their goal is to provide 100 symmetrical broadband to every business and residents in the Northeast Kingdom. He explained the four phases. There are 2,803 miles for the fiber backbone; 33,336 residents and businesses will have access to service. They are currently working on partnerships; the State is fully behind this. This a fully transparent municipal body. Christine Halquist has been

instrumental getting to this point, but is stepping down. Her replacement will be Krista Shoot, with a strong legal background and experience with utilities.

They estimate receive 40 million dollars in ARPA funding (which will be from Federal & State, not town contributions). They estimate 6-10 years, but if everything goes without delays, could be as little as 5 years. They are anticipating delays due to workforce, scheduling and fiber supply. Although Craftsbury isn't first in the phases, Rudy said their approach is logical and he fully agrees with the process. 40 towns have now joined. Both Rudy and Katherine said to contact them if the Select Board has any questions.

Discussion - Town Hall Chimney Repair:

Bruce said he has spoken to Karl Adams and Keith Dunbar about the Town Hall repairs and Jim has spoken to Chris Sanville. If Chris starts painting the front, he plans to have Pat Warren fix the soffit area first, so it doesn't hold him up. They discussed bringing down the back chimney to a lower level and box in. Fred's Energy said they change their current furnace to gas with a power vent, for about \$3000-\$4000. Work estimates are roughly \$45/hour with an extra \$25/hour for the lift. For the bigger lift in the back, would probably be \$400/day, maybe cheaper if weekly rate. Karl & Adam were looking to work on it in the fall. The Select Board will vote on it at the next Select Board meeting.

Discussion -updated Use of the Common Form:

The Select Board reviewed and agreed to the updated Use of the Common form, needing just one Selectboard member to sign it at their convenience and also added a phone number section for the contact person. Michelle will update on the town website.

Information - Update on Free Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Training from VLCT and NLC Online trainings are scheduled for June 21st and June 28th from 3:00 to 5:30, and July 14th from 3:00 to 4:30:

Susan reported she watched the replay of the first training and also watched the last training. She would like all of the Select Board to watch the training.

Information - VT20-1 ER E20-1(909) Grant -Federal Highway Relief Program -signed and emailed.

Bruce said this is the 2 for 1 paving. He is working with Deborah Pierce, no firm money yet for FEMA infrastructure and nothing has been voted for federal money yet.

Committee Reports:

Susan reported that the Conservation has set up 4 working groups-education/outreach, invasives, inventory of natural history data and conservation fund. They are still working on brainstorming names for the replacement on the Conservation Commission to bring to the Select Board. They suggested Steve Moffatt ask on FPR for new member possibilities.

Susan said that Hilary has asked who else was interested in the Equity project. Penelope said she and Matt Allen also had shown interest, she may have some notes of other people at that

meeting as well.

Susan discussed the VOREC and ERSA grants. 5 million dollars coming to the state, no match needed. Gina has stepped forward to help coordinate. They are looking for recreational projects that will help bring jobs and help the economy. Jim said the Forestry Committee is meeting soon, he will bring up again.

Susan wanted to find a way to thank Jodi and Kris for all of their hard work on the Rec. Committee planning the 100th Old Home Day. She will try and put something on FPF.

Clerk Report:

Bruce said the Town has received \$326,000 so far for taxes.

Bruce said the Town really needs to look into getting another safe, the last one is almost filled up. They will also have to strengthen the floor underneath where the new safe will be. Michell will put on the next agenda.

Road Foreman's Report:

Jim reported the town crew is working on Morey Hill Road and Guy Lot Road. Bruce is working on the grant for Morey Hill Road. Should get about \$30,000 from the Better Back Roads grant.

The Select Board discussed having uniform guidelines to mark flowers, etc. that people don't want mowed during roadside mowing. Bruce suggested orange flagging tape, above the grass so it can be seen.

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

Bruce said he will get together with Steve to work on reviewing pricing for the sand and gravel on the Mellet gravel pit and then get back to Margo.

Rudy said the hazard litigation team plans to kick off in September with Alison Lowe.

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 9 am.

Next Select Board meeting is scheduled Tuesday, August 17, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Warren, Select Board Clerk