

TOWN OF CRAFTSBURY
REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2023
7PM | CRAFTSBURY TOWN HALL

Present: Jim Jones, Bruce Urie | Serin Decherd, Kevin Gregoire, Michelle Warren

Meeting Agenda

Jim Jones called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

- **Action – Adjustments / Changes to Agenda**

No changes.

- **Action – Approve Select Board Regular Meeting Minutes of August 22, 2023; Special Select Board Meeting Minutes of August 25, 2023**

Bruce Urie motioned to approve the August 22 meeting minutes; Susan Houston seconded it. No more discussion. All aye. Motion passed.

Susan motioned to approve the August 25 Special Select Board Meeting Minutes; Jim seconded it. Discussion re: Bruce Urie in grant administrator position: allows for FEMA reimbursement for administrative services. Payment only for FEMA contract work; will cost the Town nothing. For future consideration: Town to mull addition of a line-item for the grant administrator position in its 2024 budget. No further discussion. Bruce abstained from the vote. **All aye. Motion passed.**

- **Discussion – Serin Decherd | “Children at Play” or “Hidden Driveway” Signage**

Building a house on hill on North Craftsbury Road. Electrician was almost t-boned by someone racing up hill; waiting for bus have witnessed speedy vehicles. New house. New driveway. What’s the process for obtaining *Hidden Driveway* sign? One facing drivers headed down the hill. *Children at Play* signage no longer legal for municipalities. Cannot appear to be a town sign; liability issue. Two-to-four weeks for delivery of sign; no cost to homeowner. Mirrors (multi-directional): are those allowed? Yes. No need to coordinate with town. Cost to Town for signage: \$75-\$100 per sign/based on letter count.

- **Discussion – Town Garage Update**

State has only one bridge left; Craftsbury rejected for temp/movable bridge. Makes Town eligible for FEMA funding; have three RFPs to start process. Discussion: don’t want to send snowmobilers and skiers through pedestrian area; will post not for trucks. Town working on tentative plans. Write RFPs; all won’t happen this year; get engineers to start looking at it – how to repair and make bridge accessible on both sides (fill in/repair cracks in walls). Hoping by this week to send out RFPs.

- **Discussion – Update on Energy Committee Activities Including Grant Request | Kevin Gregoire Activity Update – report submitted.**

- Firewood Program – college assisted with firewood program for a full day. Have 17 recipients of firewood this year; will have probably six or seven cords of split wood stored over the winter for those who will need it.
 - Potential Structure of Program for Sustainability: an unknown. Spoken with other programs; some have hired person. United Way and in Maine – in an affluent town – someone to do logistics. Some programs run by local churches using all volunteers; structured programs have hired workers. Sterling College and Outdoor Center provides good volunteer sources along with the general public. Parks and Rec providing wood to group programs.
- Window Insert Program – end of October workshop: build 230 or more inserts at workshop. Dates: Oct 23 (Monday) through Tuesday (Oct 31) .
- Grant Request – proceeds would allow for purchase of two-four log splitters (as much as \$15K application limit). Having log splitters of our own would be an incredibly useful tool; no need to beg-borrow-steal for last-minute efforts. Those people who cannot receive on a delivery day can split their own. Can be stored in local barn / on other property covered by tarp, out of sight. Requires proof of liability insurance for program; what does Town liability insurance cover for Firewood Program (will need to contact adjuster; Bruce to contact and get back with Kevin). Another grant: \$4K (\$3800 towards income challenged people who need inserts). \$4K grant can be spent on education / outreach; also look toward adding to savings fund for unforeseen costs. Something not covered by main grant. Encouraged to collaborate with other towns: potentially with Greensboro (weatherizing library).
- Solar Project at Library – battery lost warranty due to flooding. Donors came forward and purchased battery; 36K of storage; now stored on higher ground; electrical vehicle charger at library potential: seeking grant; potential for heat pump.
- Municipal Energy Resilience Program – weatherizing town buildings; lots of info and tracking; good progress on this.

QUESTION: Ash Tree removals? Any new movement? No. Follow up: Thermostat?

- **Discussion – Lamoille Kennels Is No Longer Taking Stray Dogs**
Alternate place in Newport; has other location options.
- **Discussion – Update on Dog Concern | Two Dogs**
Beagle and Black Lab found; dog warden picked up. They were Wolcott dogs; they were very tired. Picked up by Wolcott warden.
- **Discussion – Grader Expected August. 29th; Payment Due in a Week**
Not here yet. Payment not made yet. Discussion.
- **Discussion – Signed Use of Common Form Rural Arts Oct. 7th**
It's all signed. (8 am to 5 pm)
- **Discussion – ACLU Letter**
Letter received from ACLU re: homeless / sheltering on public lands.

- **Discussion – Antiques & Uniques Disbursements**

Work ongoing on balancing receipts/disbursements. Discussion. Net profit: \$1796; \$15/hour payment = \$2221. Remove \$400+ from backup account (\$5K). **Action – Bruce moved to pay the \$15 to payouts; Jim seconded the motion. No further discussion. All aye. Motion passed.**

- **Committee Reports**

- *Mental Health Resource Group* – 1 pm | Sunday, October 1, Annual Suicide (Out of Darkness) Walk AFSP
- *Recreation Committee* – Establishing an ice-skating rink on the Common. Will see where it goes.
- *Antiques & Uniques* – Meeting on September 29 at 3:30 pm
- *Freedom & Unity Group* – two community meetings; the October 17 meeting (6:30 – 8:30 pm) at either Town Hall or Craftsbury Library

- **Clerk Report**

- P & L (distributed for review)
- VT Municipal Clerk & Treasurers Association Annual Conference Sept. 12 & 13 (will have coverage)

- **Road Foreman Report**

On vacation.

- **Upcoming Projects to Keep on Agenda**

- Hidden Sign - Paul Pitt Town Line Road
- Aleta Akerlind request for “Hidden Driveway” sign
- Test Pits at Gravel Pit
- Triggers for Opening the Emergency Shelter, Providing Assistance, Activating N2N
- Group Process: Throw Up Class 4, TH 23, Bruce Awaiting Word from VTrans
- VOREC Grant: Upgrade Sterling Trailing; Parking Signage - Gina Campoli
- Appreciation Certificates
- Act 172 Municipalities o Assessing Spaces and Needs

- **Other Business & Walk-ins With Business to Come Before the Select Board**

Received email re: meeting with Board of Civil Authority (Wednesday, Sept. 13 at 6:30 pm at Town Hall). Town Clerk will email members tomorrow to confirm.

- **Decide Next Meeting Date & Adjourn**

Next meeting will be held at 7 pm on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at Town Hall. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Victoria Hudson
Select Board Clerk