

# Town of Craftsbury Selectboard Minutes

*~approved with correction~*

February 19, 2019

## Agenda

- Approve Minutes
- ATV Discussion
- Highway Mileage
- Planning Commission
- VMERS Retirement Plans
- Road Bridge Standards
- Michael Clark – Use of Common for Soccer Camp
- Municipal Road General Permit to Complete by April 1, 2019
- Consumer Waste Project
- Committee Reports and Appointees
- Road Foreman's report
- Clerk Report
- Weight Permits
- Walk-ins That Have Business to Come Before the Selectboard

The Selectboard met at the Craftsbury Town Hall Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 7 PM. Selectboard present were Bruce Urie, Susan Houston and Jim Jones. Farley Brown, Gordon Waterhouse, Levi Dolan, Diane Morgan, Steve Wright, Elinor Osborn, Margie Ramsdell, Jenny Stoner, Amelia Fritz, Phil Lovely, Penelope Doherty, John Brodhead, Joel Hodgdon, Joe LaMare, Kelly Marckres, Steve Marckres, Tony Jones, Tucker Williams, Sharon Menard, Ernie Menard, Janet Bohannon, Tiffany Bohannon, Frank Halden, Valerie Smith, Sonya Darling, Don Darling, Jason Waterhouse, Steve Waterhouse, Gina Campoli, Ethan Morrison, Andy Moffatt, Carol Maroni, Rudy Chase, Lisa Smith, Kevin Smith, June Cook (Hardwick Gazette) and Michelle Warren (Selectboard Clerk) were also present.

### Approve Minutes Last Meeting:

**Susan a motion to approve the February 5, 2019 minutes with a correction to change ATV hearing to ATV informational meeting, seconded and approved.**

### ATV Discussion:

Bruce explained that this informational meeting is to discuss moving forward in a possible ordinance for ATV use in Craftsbury. Bruce read a draft ordinance so they had a starting point. Bruce said they plan to talk with State Police first about enforcement before they adopt anything. Gordon said they are holding a class for teenage ATV use nearby. Bruce explained ATV signage will need to be posted. ATVs would be for town roads only, not State Highways, not Route 14. Speed limit is 35 mph. No racing, traveling wide, can't travel on the Common, school grounds, woodlots, cemeteries. Bruce mentioned penalties, between \$100-\$300, like speeding, in which the Town would keep, other towns have done that. Bruce said Eric Britton, the Town's constable could enforce it. A trial period could be set as well.

Jenny asked if for all town roads. Bruce said it was open for suggestion.

Gina had concerns on road safety and would like to research it further with VTrans. She questioned why ATVs aren't allowed on State Highways.

Tucker explained that probably it's because ATVs can't go as fast.

Carol said two roads in Craftsbury, Collinsville Road and Hatchbrook Road currently allow ATVs.

Rudy asked if they can explain ATV safety. Lights, brakes, harnesses, hand signals, some helmets were brought up.

Bruce mentioned most ATVs today are \$10,000-\$20,000 and are for 2-4 people. ATV use would increase in sales at the stores.

There were questions on the weight of the machines, impact on town roads.

It was estimated about 1400 pounds.

June had concerns of ATVs up in the school parking lot, horsing around.

Gina had concerns of riding on the ski trails.

Types of ATVs were discussed, such as a side by side.

Phil had concerns if we open 36 miles, will it increase our traffic into Craftsbury.

Tucker said not a huge amount of traffic, no worse than a ski tournament. He said a side by side is safer and easier to control than a jeep 30 years ago.

Gordon said if we just open up the trails on our own, and not involve VASA, then our trails won't be on the VASA map, and help keep the traffic to mainly local traffic.

Eleanor had questions about Section 4 & Section 8; school woodlot is class 3.

Someone asked why don't we only open up certain roads in our town? The crowd said because we live everywhere.

Diane wanted to have the word environment added to the ordinance.

Carol wanted more information about the ATVs and more time to ask questions. Hope that as a community, for us to be neighborly and come together so that it can be a place that we all are comfortable with the impact.

Gina asked if feedback from other towns, any research.

Bruce said Irasburg had to just 2 incidents. Albany didn't have a meeting, they just decided as selection to make the ordinance.

Kevin said when they made an ATV ordinance in Eden, afterwards ATV riders were slowing down, not getting to point A to B illegally, kids were behaving better. Still get a handful that act up, same as an auto though. Most just want to go from point A to point B. There isn't a curfew in Eden, Kevin said he would recommend it, New Hampshire does. Dusk to Dawn.

Sharon, who works at the Hyde Park sheriff's department, says there are very few incidents of ATVs.

June questioned if they were illegally going from point A to point B, why would they then self police others.

Joel said riding ATV riding would be a privilege. We aren't going to want to lose that. Just want to stay on the roads and go from point A to point B. It's a small town, we can figure out who is acting up.

Bruce said we've known for years this is coming, trying to get information from other towns. It isn't spur of the moment, it's been a long process.

Andy said he had one and it was a wonderful investment. Nothing wrong with 4 wheeling, people just like to go out and enjoy. It's as safe as everything else.

Gina had concerns about areas like the Four Square, where trucks and ATVs use cause erosion to adjacent area of the road. She wanted it noted to identify sensitive areas and then mark sensitive places on the map where ATVs wouldn't be allowed.

Margie thanked the Selectboard for explaining what it involves and appreciated the learning discussion.

Farley mentioned the Conservation Commission had past concerns of ATV riding in the Wild Branch streams.

Jim said they were looking into putting signs near the river.

Tucker offered to help put signs up.

The next ATV meeting will be advertised publicly. Bruce explained that if an ATV ordinance was enacted, people still have 44 days from the day the signed ordinance, if they have 45 signatures, to oppose the ordinance and make it a town wide vote.

#### Highway Mileage

The Selectboard signed the certificate of mileage, no changes this year.

#### Planning Commission:

Farley explained that the Craftsbury Planning Commission has completed the draft of the Enhanced Energy Plan, according to the Vermont Energy Development Improvement Act of 2016. Alison Lowe helped the Planning Commission with this project and was able to include American Survey data. Amelia and the Energy Committee also helped with this as well. Farley said they had to look into public renewable resources, siting standards, and wind power. At the next Planning Commission meeting, they will schedule the public hearing for the Enhanced Energy Plan. Then there needs to be another meeting with the Selectboard, which will need to be warned.

#### VMERS Retirement Plans:

The Town is moving forward with VMER Retirement Plans. Yvette, will keep her current plan.

#### Road and Bridge Standards:

Will work on more at a future meeting.

Michael Clark – Use of Common for Soccer Camp

The Selectboard agreed to allow Michael Clark to use the Common for soccer the first full week of August (August 5-9 2019).

Municipal Road General Permit to Complete by April 1, 2019:

The Selectboard will work on at the next meeting.

Consumer Waste Project

The Selectboard received flyer from the Product Stewardship Institute regarding raising awareness of problems and solutions for managing unwanted household batteries, thermostats, pharmaceuticals and pesticides. Penelope will look into.

Committee Reports and Appointees:

Susan updated the Selectboard on the Saplings.

Michelle updated the Selectboard about the last Mental Health meeting.

Road Foreman's Report:

Bruce said down to about 300 yards of sand.

Clerk's Report:

Town report should be back soon, so it can get mailed out.

Weight Permits:

The Selectboard signed the following weight permits: Bournes Energy, Cardination, JP Sicard and Scott Brown Trucking.

Walk-ins That Have Business to Come Before the Selectboard:

None

The Selectboard Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM. Next meeting is scheduled 7 PM Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at Craftsbury Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Warren, Clerk of the Select Board