



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF JULY 15, 2024**

Members: Don McDowell, Christopher Palermo, Laura Streets, Richard Craig*, George Cormier

Absent:

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Tom Cloutier, Ron Stancliff, Martin Green, Laura Green, Alex Cyr, Jerry & Evelyn Throne, Nathan Cote, Marc Cote, Sheila Tarbox, Tony Cote, Tracy Desrocher, Mason Kemmerer, Julia Compagna

**participating via Zoom*

5:30PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Don McDowell called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:30 PM at the Tegu Building.

5:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

None

5:32PM - APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes 6-27-24

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the minutes of 6/27/24. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (5/0)

2. Approve minutes 7-1-24

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the minutes of 7/1/24. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (5/0)

5:35PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. Board of Liquor & Tobacco Control

a. Approve Liquor License Renewals

Motion made by Chris Palermo to recess the Selectboard meeting and open the Board of Liquor and Tobacco Control. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the Liquor License application by Lost Nation Brewery, LLC as presented. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

Liquor Licenses

Applicant	DBA	Location	First Class	Second Class	Third Class	Outside Consumption
Lost Nation Brewery LLC		87B Old Creamery Rd			X	

Motion made by Motion made by Chris Palermo to adjourn the Board of Liquor & Tobacco and reconvene the Selectboard Meeting. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

2. Consider a motion to purchase 2024 Ford F-250 Super Duty, plow & financing

Discussion ensued regarding the difference in pricing between the quotes received and the color of the truck.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the purchase of a 2024 Ford F-250 Super Duty from Nucar Ford of Lebanon for a total purchase price of \$72,989.36 minus a trade in valued at \$16,000. Total funds due are \$56,989.36. This includes a 7-year warranty. Funds to be borrowed for the truck and plow for a 5-year term. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the purchase of a plow for the 2024 Ford F-250 Super Duty for a total price not to exceed \$9,824.00. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve Brent Raymond to approve the financing of the loan for the 2024 Ford F-250 and plow for a total of not more than \$66,813.36. The loan shall be for a 5-year term and the institution with the lowest interest rate of all the bids shall be chosen upon conferring with Sara Haskins, Town Treasurer. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0)

3. Approve Private Road Names

- a. Aviation Boulevard (Pvt)
- b. Solutions Way (Pvt)
- c. Quarry Road (Pvt)

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the following private road names off Laporte Road and owner will install signs: Aviation Boulevard, Solutions Way, and Quarry Drive. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

4. Clarification of facts from Planning Council meeting 7-9-24

Brent Raymond attended the July 9th meeting of the Planning Council and thanked the committee for their work. Discussions ensued regarding communications, the town plan, and the members' concerns over the last few months. Brent Raymond read a statement he had written in response to statements made by the Planning Director with the following points:

Importance of Facts in our Community:

- Emphasized the necessity of focusing on facts to make informed decisions and prevent misinformation about local issues like agriculture, health, and zoning.
- Highlighted that valuing factual information supports community well-being and sustainable progress.

July 9th Planning Council Meeting - Zoning Administrator's Statements:

- Town Administration urged the Planning Council to expedite Zoning changes.
- Former Administration frequently pushed for quicker Zoning changes.
- Selectboard schedule created by the former Administration.
- Emphasized the need to vote on zoning by July 15th to avoid consequences.
- Industrial Park and Funeral Home approvals pending a new Zoning vote.
- Concerns about the impact on Morristown's economy due to slow work and halted construction jobs.

Current Town Manager's Inquiry:

- Sought to understand communication breakdowns between Administration and Zoning Administrator.
- Investigated the claims of the Administration's push for expedited Zoning changes and lack of information.
- Requested emails and communications for clarification.

Findings from Emails and Selectboard Meetings:

- No evidence found that the former Administration pushed for faster zoning changes or created the schedule.
- Evidence of a requested amendment to the 2022-2030 Town Plan's Transportation Chapter by the former Town Administration and Selectboard, estimated to take 10–15 minutes to consider.
- Planning Council prioritized zoning changes over the Town Plan amendment, despite it only needing 10–15 minutes to approve.

February 5th, 2024 Selectboard Meeting:

- Interim Town Manager and Planning Council Chair discussed the Town Plan amendment.
- Selectboard approved the amendment to the Town Plan.
- Interim Town Manager clarified that the Town Plan amendment should proceed independently of the zoning change schedule.

Economic Impact and Legal Counsel Findings:

- Town Manager's research indicated that construction job impacts and economic concerns were not substantiated, as DRB decisions could be made under existing and proposed zoning.
- Emphasized the need to maintain statutory time periods for decision-making.

Brent Raymond shared this information with the Selectboard. After defining the scope of his job as Town Manager, he indicated that his main concern was to encourage improvement in the communication between both groups.

5. July 10 Storm Update

There are approximately 25 sites that may qualify for FEMA's involvement in Morristown. Randolph Road had the largest washout with another on Randolph Rd near Graves' Farm. Golf Course Rd and Stagecoach Rd were damaged as well. Many roads were triaged on the day of the storm and after to make them passable. Jerry Audi assisted the town crew and the committee thanked him. A public thanks to Luke Heller goes out for his assistance.

Community response included Mr. Brewster asking if the cause of some damage was because culverts were debris-clogged. Laura Streets stated that she cleaned out her ditches. Julia Compangna referring to the Golf Course Rd washout, noted the town needs to pursue remedies and preventive measures to avoid this situation from reoccurring and that a proactive plan is necessary that will diminish storm damage, especially if this is to be our new normal. A question was asked: how does FEMA assist when applications are filed year after year? LCPC is taking the regional lead and helping with FEMA applications.

Mason Kemmerer spoke for the Oxbow Morristown Community Gardens. This is the second year that the gardens have been underwater. It has been a big loss to those who planted there. He will approach Peoples Academy to ask if they will share space for the community gardens. This space needs to be easily reachable for walkers and bicyclists within the town. Laura Streets commented that the Oxbow flooding would have contaminated the soil and would be unsuitable for future gardening. She thought the soil should be tested. There were conflicting opinions about planting trees to prevent flooding on

the Oxbow. Others declared that only the upper level of the park should be used. Everyone agreed that we could not afford to have recurring flooding in the park where activities are planned, and a meeting should be held to discuss the future of Oxbow Park.

5:55PM - OLD BUSINESS

1. Update on Walton Rd Bridge

Nathan Cote reported he has been working on the bridge. The next steps include pouring out the deck and allowing the concrete to cure for a week. While curing, he plans to strip the forms that he can. He will then backfill the back walls once he has enough strength in the concrete. The guardrails can then be installed. Following that, the membrane will be on and paved. The estimated time frame is the end of August.

2. Update on Goeltz Bridge

Brent Raymond gave the Selectboard an update on the Goeltz Bridge project. The RFP bidding process is complete and MSI was \$120K lower than the next lowest bidder, so MSI was awarded the project. Consolidated Communications has some wires that need to be moved. The Morrisville Water & Lights Department has to remove electrical lines above the location. Potentially the time frame for completion is set at the end of August, but one small issue could push it out till September 2024.

5:56PM - APPROVE WARRANTS

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the warrants. Motion seconded by George Cormie. Motion carried. (4/0/1)

6:00PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Jerry Throne was parked on Pleasant Street, where he observed the traffic and determined that there was a need for a consultant for the traffic flow in town, along with a comprehensive traffic plan. The traffic plan of two years ago needs to reflect the current town's population.

Evelyn Throne added that the traffic to Morrisville Co-op and the parking lot should be included in the traffic plan.

Tony Cote asked if Stagecoach Road was a main artery to Stowe. He commented that it had been washed away for the last 10 months.

Alex Cyr commented that the Charter Comm has been sloppy regarding the charter.

Mason Kemmerer, traffic design engineer, agreed that the traffic patterns are unsafe. He suggested a safety audit of Portland St and Bridge Street.

6:10PM - SCHEDULE

1. Meetings:

a. Tuesday, July 16, 2024 - Charter Comm Meeting 5:30PM

b. Monday, August 5, 2024 - SB Meeting 5:30PM

c. Monday, August 19, 2024 - SB Public Hearing Town Plan Amendment 5:30PM

d. Monday, August 19, 2024 - SB Meeting 6:00PM (following Public Hearing)

6:15PM - OTHER BUSINESS

None

6:30PM - ADJOURN

Motion made by Chris Palermo to adjourn. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (5/0)

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm
Submitted and filed this 7/15/24.
Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

Please note all minutes are in Draft form and are subject to approval at the next Selectboard meeting.