



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF August 15, 2022 AMENDED BY JUDI ALBERI SEPTEMBER 7, 2022**

MEMBERS: Bob Beeman, Judy Bickford, Jessica Graham, Brian Kellogg and Don McDowell

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Eric Dodge, *Town Administrator*; Judi Alberi, *Administrative Assistant*; Kevin Barrows, *Highway Superintendent*; Paula Beattie, *Human Resources Director*; Sara Haskins, *Town Clerk/Treasurer*; Tina Sweet, *Finance Director*; Jason Luneau, *Chief of Police*

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Tim Bryan*, Laura Streets*, David Ring*, Jason Kelley, Prudy Newton, Carole Deuso, Joanne Godfrey, David E Campbell, Melissa Rose, Paul Griswold, Philip Rochette, Ali Miller, Pat Michelson, Kristin Marriott, Tom Cloutier, Duane Sprague, Nancy Pritchard, Ruth Brown, Martin Green, Laura Green, Sharon Rowell

**participating via Zoom*

Bob Beeman called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 6:00PM at the Tegu Building.

AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

Remove Item #3, Review and approve bid for reclaiming Duhamel Pit, from New Business. Remove Executive Session from Other Business

APPROVE MINUTES

Judy Bickford requested that we add “Bob is not here due to work travel issues” under Selectboard Concerns.

Motion made by Brian Kellogg to approve the minutes of August 1, 2022 with changes discussed. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried (3/0). 1 abstained, Bob Beeman. Jess Graham arrived after minutes were approved.

Bob Beeman addressed the community present for the meeting and asked that they raise their hand to speak, go to the microphone, state their full name, and address the Selectboard.

LIQUOR CONTROL

On a motion by Brian Kellogg, motion seconded by Judy Bickford, the Selectboard recessed their regular meeting to meet as the Board of Liquor Control at 6:06PM. Motion carried (5/0).

Museum serving permit request was received for the Board's approval:

Applicant	Location	Event	Date	Outside consumption
Morristown Historical Society/Noyes House Museum	Noyes House Museum, 122 Lower Main Street	Membership mixer	August 25, 2022	Yes

Todd Thomas spoke to the event being a membership mixer and hoping to see other community members attend this event. Jason Luneau, Chief of Police, has no concerns regarding this event permit.

Motion made by Brian Kellogg to approve Museum serving permit for Morristown Historical Society/Noyes House Museum as presented. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried. (5/0)

Motion made by Brian Kellogg to come out of Liquor Control, motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried. (5/0)

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss former gas station property with new owner, Tim Bryan.

Tim joined the meeting via Zoom to discuss weighing all options for the old gas station property he purchased at the intersection of Main St/Congress St. A possible option is the realignment of the 4 corners. Todd Thomas gave a draft of what the intersection could look like with the proposed realignment. Other possibilities discussed was green space for the town or more public parking. Tim has no solid plan but wants to work with the town in making this purchase beneficial for all. Tim would get a buildable lot and the town would get a true aligned intersection. Due diligence has been done by the owner regarding the brownfield mitigation and Tim was comfortable with the purchase. The site plan needs to be done first in order to proceed with the right of way. After much discussion, the town will pay for the topo survey by Becky Gilson and engineering site plan by Tyler Mumley. Tim has agreed to pay for the survey and share the results with the Town. Tyler Mumley and Becky Gilson have given estimates for the engineering and surveying that would need to be done in order to conceptualize the option. Don McDowell voted for the town to spend the money required so that the town did not have to look at a "pit".

Motion made by Judy Bickford to approve Becky Gilson's proposal for Congress Street existing conditions site plan for a cost of \$1,650 and asked Eric Dodge to sign proposal. Motion seconded by Don McDowell. Motion carried. (4/1) Brian Kellogg opposed.

Motion made by Judy Bickford to approve Tyler Mumley's proposal for engineering services intersection of Main and Congress Street at a cost of \$2,500 and asked Eric Dodge to sign proposal. Motion seconded by Don McDowell. Motion carried. (4/1) Brian Kellogg opposed.

2. Hire Highway Tech 2 – Earl Peno

Motion made by Don McDowell to hire Earl Peno in the Highway Department as a Tech 2 Step 10 at a rate of \$24.86 per hour with a start date of August 22, 2022. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried. (5/0)

3. Set the Tax Rate for 2022 -2023

Motion made by Judy Bickford to set the municipal tax rate of \$1.0543. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried. (5/0)

Motion made by Judy Bickford to accept the residential education tax rate of \$1.5841. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried. (5/0)

Motion made by Judy Bickford to accept the non-residential education tax rate of \$1.7045. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried. (5/0)

4. Discuss IDEAL VT

“IDEAL” stands for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Action, and Leadership. Through this statewide initiative, the State will play a convening and assistive role for municipalities seeking to advance equity through policy and knowledge-sharing. Member municipalities must opt in to join and will be held to a high standard to ensure genuine commitment among the cohort. The initiative will unify, educate, empower, and support municipalities that are committed to making Vermont more equitable through regular convening’s, workshops, data sharing, and technical assistance, online platforms where members can connect and grant funding. A meeting will be held on October 26th and Eric Dodge and Judy Bickford will plan on attending.

5. Discuss Park Street Sidewalk

Community members were present at the meeting to encourage the Selectboard to put back the Park Street sidewalk that was removed for safety reasons as it was crumbling and created a hazard. The town budgets annually for sidewalks but can only do so much each year. Park Street will have the sidewalk put back in place but the timing of that is uncertain. A sidewalk inventory will be conducted and the town will determine how the sidewalks will be prioritized.

OLD BUSINESS

None

APPROVE WARRANTS

***Motion made by Brian Kellogg to approve the warrants. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford.
Motion carried. (5/0)***

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. Center road will be closed all day on Wednesday, August 17th so that the highway crew can replace 3 culverts.
2. Interviews were conducted for the openings at the Police Department.
3. Vermont's Department of Public Safety recently had a workshop that Eric attended called SURVIVERMONT. This initiative is created to educate and empower Vermonters with actions they can take to protect themselves and family members if they are confronted with an active shooter or violent threat situation. Eric has asked for 25 stop the bleed kits. Judy Bickford and Don McDowell are saddened by the fact that this training is necessary these days.
4. The personnel policy is getting updated and will be discussed at a future Selectboard meeting.
5. Eric mentioned to the Selectboard that he will be out of town Wednesday August 17 – Sunday August 21.

SELECTBOARD CONCERNS

Don McDowell – Helping Jason Luneau with interviews for the openings at the Police Dept. Development concerns have been expressed during the last 2 meetings, in particular the high density zoning for the Brooklyn Heights area which is also a concern of Don's. Spoke with Kevin and plan on doing a walk around Duhamel Pit for mountain biking area and other recreation ideas.

Judy Bickford – Eric gave Judy and update on the Duhamel pit and the fact that we are still waiting for our amendment to the ACT 250 permit. Attorney Brooke Dingleline wrote a very strong letter regarding the delays in issuing the ACT 250 permit for Duhamel Pit. This delay is costing the taxpayers money and our budget has been shorted in hopes that the permit would have been received by now. Judy thanked the Highway Department for filling in the storm drains on some of the roads.

Jessica Graham – Also thanked Highway Department for the storm drains being filled in as well. Jess wants to acknowledge the folks that are upset with the proposed zoning by law changes. The Duhamel pit could be a great resource for the town and would like to see some recreation opportunities be developed in the future. Appreciative of the opportunity for community members to voice concerns. Thanks for everyone that works for the town and their hard work.

Brian Kellogg – Thank you Eric for your work. Front porch forum has had mentions of the town and its transparency. Brian wants the public to know transparency is a two way street and citizens need to be present for meetings in order for transparency to really work well. Thanks to the town staff. Thanks Sara for great election.

Bob Beeman – Reads everything on Front Porch Forum and all the new in our local papers. Attending meetings is very important. Bob feels the town is very transparent but you have to show up to know what decisions are being made and what discussions are happening. Bob would like to get more folks to meetings. Citizens may not be happy with the decisions that are happening but Todd Thomas is doing everything by the letter of the law. Best way to be involved is to come to the meetings. We want your input so come to meetings.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Sara Haskins reminding the community that there is money to help folks with delinquent taxes. Primary election was not our highest turnout but it was high. November ballots will be mailed to everyone so make sure your mailing address is updated with the Town Clerks office prior to September 1st.

The following community questions and concerns were expressed:

The village is responsible for waste water concerns. Dinner with Trustees and Selectboard are paid for by the taxpayers and rate payers. Pike Industries will be reclaiming Garfield Rd, Stagecoach and Randolph Rd with a potential completion date end of September. There is a lot of new housing going up in Morristown and it is needed. Sewer and water are capable of keeping up with the housing demand. Citizens can be put on an email list to be notified of future Planning Council and DRB meetings.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURN

Motion made by Don McDowell to adjourn. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried. (5/0)

Meeting adjourned at 8:47PM.

Submitted and filed this August 18, 2022

Judi Alberi, Scribe

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