

Town of Pomfret Selectboard  
Meeting Minutes  
July 19, 2023

Attendance: John Peters, Benjamin Brickner, Steve Chamberlin, Meg Emmons, Emily Grube

Public: Cy Benoit (Tree Warden), Cathy Emmons, Josh Chisari, Mike Doten, Amy Robb, Margarete Pierce, Scott Pearce, Scott Barger, Jake Astbury, John Moore (Planning Commission), Gerry Fields, Glenn Morley, Greg Olmstead, Jamie Ziobro, Greg Hartford, John Morley

1. John called the meeting order at 7:02 pm.
2. Agenda Review – Ben moved and Meg seconded that items 5B (revised financial policies), 5D (Paving Town Office Parking Lot), 5E (Town Office Entryway Renovation), 5F (Warrants), and 5G (Approval of Minutes) be deleted; and that Fire Department Appropriations and Town Hall Revitalization Committee be added. Unanimous.
3. Public Comment – Cathy Emmons and Cy Benoit commended the Road Crew on how well the roads held up during the recent flooding.
4. Road Foreman’s Report – None.
5. Items for Discussion or Vote
  - a. Foliage Traffic Management – Meg presented a traffic management plan prepared by several Cloudland Road and Barber Hill Road residents that would entail closing both roads, posting traffic signs, moveable barriers and traffic control/law enforcement officers during peak fall foliage (from September 16 through October 22). The residents estimate the implementation cost will be \$18,500, and they have privately raised a GoFundMe to defray the same.<sup>[\*]</sup> The roads will remain open to local residents and their guests, emergency and agricultural vehicles. It is hoped that Woodstock will offer to coordinate on the signage, etc. to be placed in Woodstock and assist with the cost of the traffic control/law enforcement officer at the Woodstock end of Cloudland Road. Ben will contact the Woodstock Select Board chair to inquire. John will communicate with emergency services in Woodstock and Pomfret to explain the plan and determine if they can work around movable barriers in the event of an emergency. A final plan and decision is anticipated at one of the August 2023 Pomfret Selectboard meetings.
  - b. MERP Mini Grant – After consideration of the two solicited proposals for the Town Hall Feasibility Study, Meg believes the plan from Ulf Architecture, PLC to be best suited to the current phase of work. Mr. Ulf has offered a courtesy discount to the Town. Emily suggested that the results of an unrelated 2013 Town Hall scoping study may be useful and should be made available to Mr. Ulf. The \$7,500 cost will be paid primarily from MERP Mini Grant proceeds, with the balance paid from unallocated ARPA funds. Ben moved and Emily seconded that Ulf Architecture’s May 3, 2023 proposal be accepted. Unanimous.
  - c. Fire Department Appropriations – Scott Barger explained that additional turnout gear is needed to enable new personnel to attend training and become certified. There are

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\* **Editor’s Note:** See <https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-cloudland-road>.

- funds available in the related reserve account and other funds were appropriated for this purpose in the current fiscal year. The Selectboard explained that any expense over \$1,000 will require two price quotes unless only one provider is available. Scott also explained that the Fire Department will need to replace pagers and equipment at the radio repeater on Totman Hill, some of which is now 20 years old. Two quotes will be needed for this as well. It was suggested that the Fire Department's capital plan be updated to include these expenses on a timeline to assist with forecasting the anticipated costs. The Fire Department will return at a future meeting with price quotes and an estimate of the Department's immediate needs.
- d. Town Hall Revitalization Committee – Meg prepared a proposal for the objectives, members and deliverables of a new committee that will develop future uses of a revitalized Town Hall. Ben moved and John seconded that a Town Hall Revitalization Committee be created; that the committee be charged with assessing the Town Hall's historic functionality and collecting community feedback and engagement regarding ongoing utilization of the Town Hall by the public as a community center; providing this information to the Town to maximize the impact of efforts to improve the Town Hall's functionality; and strengthening connections within the Pomfret community; that the committee be comprised of Katie Brickner, Marie Cross, Meg Emmons and Gennie Lawrence (all appointed without term); and that the committee be directed to deliver a written report outlining findings and recommendations for uses of the Town Hall based on community feedback to the Selectboard on or about August 14, 2023, for presentation at the next available Selectboard meeting. Unanimous.
6. Meeting Wrap-Up
    - a. Correspondence – None.
    - b. Review of Assignments – Ben to contact Woodstock Select Board chair re: foliage traffic management, consult with Stitzel Page on legal matters; John to speak with emergency services in Woodstock and Pomfret re: Cloudland Road and Barber Hill Road closures; Meg to communicate with Ulf Architecture re: Town Hall feasibility study, and to organize the new Town Hall Revitalization Committee.
    - c. Agenda for Next Meeting – Dog Ordinance matters, delinquent dog license fines, foliage traffic management, Broad Brook Road zoning matter.
  7. Executive Session
    - a. Ben moved and Emily seconded that the Selectboard enter into executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(1)(F) to discuss confidential attorney-client communications. Unanimous. The Selectboard entered executive session at 8:55 pm.
    - b. The Selectboard exited executive session at 9:23 pm, with no decisions having been made therein.
  8. Items for Discussion or Vote
    - a. Dinsmoor Road Highway Access Application and Related Correspondence – Ben moved and Emily seconded that the recent highway access application, current and future correspondence related to the same be forwarded to the Town's outside counsel (Stitzel Page & Fletcher, P.C.) for review and recommendation to the Selectboard on how best to proceed. Unanimous.
  9. Adjournment – Ben moved and Meg seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 pm.