

Town of Pomfret Select Board Meeting  
Approved Minutes  
08/17/2022

Present: Emily Grube, Steve Chamberlin, John Peters, Ben Brickner, Jon Harrington

Public: William Emmons (Planning Commission), Connor Rigney (Two Rivers), Art Lewin (Road Crew), Pam Pickett, Betsy Rhodes (Library), Sherry Haydock, Cynthia Hewitt (SB Assistant)

1. Emily called the meeting to order at 7 pm
2. Public Comment – Sherry Haydock reported that traffic on Skyline Drive poses a danger to pedestrians and equestrians; there are several horse farms on that road. The Selectboard will decide what is the best solution. The board can establish speed limits as low as 35 mph without a traffic study, but that was felt to be too fast. Sherry has spoken with some of her neighbors about the situation.
3. Agenda Review – Move Two Rivers planning contract to beginning since Mr. Rigney is already present. Emily – add Artistree permit issues; Steve – add road crew job applications. Steve moved, John second; unanimous.
4. Items for Discussion or Vote:
  - a. Two Rivers contract – Mr. Rigney presented the proposed Two Rivers contract for assistance with the revised town plan. Ben proposed amending to include revising the draft plan following the required Planning Commission hearing in the scope of work. Mr. Rigney indicated that would be acceptable to Two Rivers. Ben moved and Steve seconded approval of the contract as amended; unanimous.
  - b. Cloudland Foliage Traffic – Emily considered closing the road to thru traffic from Pomfret town line to Barber Hill Road. Mr. Emmons pointed out this would produce bottlenecks at the bottom and the top of the road. It was decided to have one-way traffic northbound from the Pomfret town line to Barber Hill Road from September 17 through October 17, with parking prohibited on the left side of Cloudland Road in the vicinity of Sleepy Hollow Farm. Emily will ask the Sheriff to provide additional patrols in the area during foliage season. Claude Wayans will be invited to next meeting to discuss. “No parking” signs will be posted at Sleepy Hollow Farm. Ben moved and John seconded the foregoing, as well as courtesy notifications to the Town of Woodstock and local residents; unanimous.
  - c. Dental insurance – postponed until Jim returns
  - d. VMERS – Ben discussion at length with VMERS. The town was originally enrolled in the less generous Group A, switching to the more generous Group C in 2014. Employees with employment history in multiple groups will have their benefits determined on a group-by-group basis, with each history calculated separately according to the related Group rules. Ben suggested that employees contact VMERS directly to discuss their specific situations. The decision to switch to Group C was irrevocable and the town cannot change switch again.
  - e. Tree Policy – John moved and Ben seconded adoption of the draft policy discussed at the August 3 meeting; unanimous

- f. South Pomfret Village Scoping Study – Jon announced that VHB hopes to schedule an informational meeting on September 14 or 15 (dependent on weather) in the Grange Theater (VHB will contact Artistree to use the space). Jon hopes to offer the meeting on Zoom as well. Jon will post an announcement on the web site, list serve, and notify abutting landowners. He assured Pam Pickett and Betsy Rhodes that this is only information gathering, and that development and discussion of options will occur at a later meeting.
  - g. Emily would like to have the Artistree driveway, catering, and other permit requirements sorted out. She will ask Karen Osnoe to determine the needs and report at the 09/07/2022 meeting. It is not clear whether Artistree needs another Act 250 permit in order to increase number of activities.
  - h. Road Crew Job Applications. Steve would like to have Jim begin screening interviews for crew candidates.
  - i. Warrants: Ben moved and Steve seconded approval of the following:
 

23014	\$ 8,450.36	Payroll
23015	28,043.83	A/P

Motion carried
  - j. Ben moved and Emily seconded approval of 08/03/2022 meeting minutes with edits Ben circulated on August 14; motion carried 3-0 with Jon and Steve abstaining as they were absent from the August 3 meeting.
5. Meeting Wrap Up
- a. Correspondence – none
  - b. Review of Assignments: Emily to speak with Karen re zoning permit issues; Jim re parking signs, road crew applicant screening interviews, and dental plans; Mike Doten re Cloudland Road foliage traffic; and Claude Wayans re additional sheriff patrols during foliage season. Ben to revise Two Rivers contract for signature and adopted tree policy for web site.
  - c. Agenda for next meeting 09/07/2022: Dental insurance; Artistree permits, Sheriff for Cloudland foliage season traffic control.
6. Executive Session
- a. Ben moved and John seconded that the board enter Executive Session per 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(1)(A) to discuss contracts; unanimous. The board entered executive session at 9:33 pm.
  - b. Executive Session was adjourned at 10:43 pm, and no decisions were made therein. Negotiations will continue with Woodstock regarding ambulance service, and discussions will continue regarding unpaid ambulance bills.
7. Ben moved and John seconded that the meeting be adjourned; unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 pm.