

Town of Pomfret Select Board Meeting  
Approved Minutes  
10/05/2022

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

Public: Jim Potter (Road Foreman), Doug Tuthill (Constable), Greg Tuthill, Michael Reese, Jack Pearsons, Betsy Siebeck, Tom Gubbins, John Moore (Planning Commission), Charlene Kelly, Pam Pickett, Tim Reitner (Planning Commission), Leslie & Markus Tarkington, Mary Ann Barbi, Mary Worrell, Phoebe Jones, Elsa Tarlow, Cathy Peters, Neil Lamson (Lister), Bill Emmons (Planning Commission), Michael Piekny, Marge Wakefield (Trustee of Public Funds), Cynthia Hewitt (Selectboard Assistant)

1. Emily called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.
2. No Public Comment
3. Agenda Review: Ben moved and Steve seconded to add Town Plan Transportation Chapter. Unanimous.
4. Road Foreman's Report and Highway Items – Jim has started grading on the south end of town. He is still unable to get a price for rock salt – supplies are scarce. Jim would like to add right-of-way vs fences to the agenda for the next meeting. The excavator has been serviced and a bad rubber seal was found; getting price for winter.
  - a. Cloudland Road Traffic – traffic volume is up, but seems to be moving smoothly. Emily will connect with the Sheriff's office. Jim would have preferred that changes approved at the prior meeting had not been made until we had had more experience with the initial set up.
  - b. Eydt Highway Access Permit – It was agreed that the current proposed access is marginal under the highway ordinance and due to the high speed of travel on that portion of Pomfret Road, an alternative location may be preferable. Ben moved and John seconded to require that a site plan be submitted showing compliance with the highway ordinance and including permission from Oatway (owners of the parcel immediately south) to remove vegetation and/or regrade in order to improve sightlines. Unanimous.
  - c. Speed Limit (Stage Road) – After discussion, John moved and Ben Seconded we obtain a speed study on Stage Road. Unanimous.
  - d. Wild Apple Road – Greg Tuthill explained the need for Class 4 roads to be stabilized and maintained by law to a level that emergency vehicles can get through. He praised Jim for upgrading most of the Class 4 roads in Pomfret. Scott Jensen of the Agency of Natural Resources told Jim there was “no worry” for the wetlands, and Rebecca Chalmers, District Wetlands Ecologist with Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Watershed Management Division, recommended regular maintenance. Michael Reese brought samples from the asphalt to show the board the type of material that had been placed on the road. Michael Reese and Phoebe Jones would like to see more definitive studies; Phoebe expressed particular concern about impact on the frog pond. Betsy Siebeck stated there weren't definitive studies on the effect of recycled asphalt pavement in low-lying areas. She encouraged the town to proceed with caution when using this material in wet areas and generally to consider whether

its use is appropriate in a particular location. Some residents suggested that Jim remove the recycled asphalt. John moved and Emily seconded the Board take this under advisement for future application. Unanimous. The board will discuss at its next meeting whether to cover the asphalt with another material for aesthetic purposes.

5. Items for Discussion or Vote:

- a. Town Plan Transportation Chapter – Connor Rigney from Two Rivers sent a document covering this project; to be discussed at the next meeting.
- b. Pomfret Associates Easement – John Moore requested board approval for asking the Town Attorney for help in acquiring and defining access with the former Sennott Property, the Planning Committee raised this issue at their 09/19/2022 meeting. John moved and Ben seconded approval. Unanimous.
- c. Hazard Mitigation Plan. RFPs were opened – there are 5 bids ranging from \$7,000 to \$30,000. Ben will prepare a spread sheet for discussion at the next meeting.
- d. South Pomfret Scoping Study – Jonathan reports that after a local concerns meeting, the Consultant drafted a Purpose and Needs statement. The statement has been shared with Vtrans for feedback. Charlene Kelly wanted to be sure the statement included the notion of “livability” and consideration of alternative suggestions. Pam Pickett agreed. The study now includes motorized vehicles as well as pedestrian and bicycles. There will be a second meeting in November to review final recommendations from the consultant. Ben moved and John seconded the most recent Purpose and Needs statement. Unanimous. [Nydia Lugo, Technical Development Engineer, Agency of Transportation approved the statement on 10/06/2022.]
- e. TH 24 Right of Way. Ben has received no response from the surveyors he contacted by email. Jonathan will try to reach them by phone. There are no surveys on record.
- f. Warrants  
Ben moved and Steve seconded approval of the following warrants. Unanimous.

23029	A/P	\$ 854.18
23032	A/P	28,614.75
23033	P/R	8,352.38
- g. Approval of 09/21/2022 Minutes – delete “, i.e., the end of the pavement” in the Stage Road discussion. Ben moved and John seconded approval as amended. Unanimous.

6. Meeting Wrap Up

- a. Woodstock Resort Corporation and event participants expressed appreciation for the town’s support and how smoothly the Eastern States Cup event went last weekend. No complaints were received.
- b. Review of Assignments: Ben – prepare spread sheet of RFPs for Local Hazard Mitigation Plan; Jon – contact surveyors; Jim – contact Rita for a speed study and Eydt transaction parties regarding the new highway access.
- c. Agenda Items for next meeting; Fences and ROW, Haydock Race, Budget scheduling, Town Plan Transportation, Hazard Mitigation plan

7. Adjournment: Steve moved and John seconded adjournment at 9:09 pm.