

Town of Pomfret Selectboard  
Meeting Minutes  
July 17, 2024

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

Public: Betsy Rhodes, Mike Doten, Hillary White, Andy Mann, Alison Sander, Andrea Murray, Jeff Barger, Andrew Snow, Jason Crance, Nick Mahood

1. Ben called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.
2. Agenda Review – None.
3. Public Comment – None.
4. Road Foreman’s Report – Jim provided the following update via email before the meeting: There is a problem with a sensor on the tractor, roadside mowing is postponed until the condition is diagnosed and repaired; Jim has worked on River Road building berms and ditches to make it safer; Jim is on vacation next week; there have been no applications for road crew vacancy; the Wild Apple Road culvert replacement will be scheduled in late July or early August; Jim thanks the citizens who have volunteered to mow the town the cemeteries while the Cemetery Commission works to hire a full-time lawn maintenance service.
5. Items for Discussion or Vote
  - a. Aggregate/Gravel Purchase Contract – Pike’s pricing was lowest across the board. Steve moved and Emily seconded that Pike be the town’s source of aggregate materials for the coming year. Unanimous.
  - b. Fall Foliage Traffic Management – Ben and Mike Doten attended the Woodstock Select Board meeting last night; Woodstock approved closing their segment of Cloudland Road on the same dates contemplated by Pomfret. Woodstock also will look into placing a highway information sign on Route 12 at River Road again this year.

Meg moved and Steve seconded approval of the traffic management plan as presented in the agenda packet, which provides that from Wednesday, September 25 through Wednesday, October 16, 2024: (1) Cloudland Road be closed from Barber Hill Road to the Pomfret town line; (2) all of Barber Hill Road be made one-way to westbound traffic only, in each case with exceptions made for all town residents; guests and contractors of residents within the closure area; agricultural use; and emergency vehicles; (3) parking be prohibited (a) on both sides of Cloudland Road from immediately north of the driveway to 3655 Cloudland Road to immediately south of the driveway to 2763 Cloudland Road, and (b) on both sides of Barber Hill Road from immediately east of the driveway to 1178 Barber Hill Road to the intersection with Cloudland Road, (4) the town redirect 60% of its existing Sheriff’s patrols during this period to the closure area, subject to more specific direction by the neighborhood working group; (5) the highway crew be asked to install and remove the temporary signage and barriers at the start and end of the closure period; (6) a summary of the foregoing be published in public places as required by state law, in the *Vermont Standard* and on the Vital Communities’ list serves for Pomfret and Woodstock; and

- (7) other details be as specified in the draft “2024 Foliage Season Traffic Management” plan included with the Selectboard meeting agenda. Unanimous.<sup>[\*]</sup>
- c. Eastern States Cup Permit Applications – Steve moved and John seconded approval of the Application to Hold an Event on Public Highways for the Eastern States Cup with conditions that (1) roadside signs alerting motorists of event be set out along route at least three days before event and (2) a certificate of liability insurance to be provided at least one week before event. Unanimous. Emily moved and John seconded approval of the Application for Large Event Permit for an overnight camping event at Saskadena Six with a condition that all activities visible or audible from neighboring properties to cease no later than one hour after sunset. Unanimous.
  - d. River Road Update – Jim has worked on River Road building berms and ditches to make it safer. Hartford is compiling costs of their repairs over the years; the Selectboard will ask Jim to do the same for Pomfret. Discussion to be continued at the August 7 meeting.
  - e. Invasive Plant Management – Betsy Rhodes attended to discuss strategies for invasive species removal by volunteers that don’t interfere with the traveling public or the Road Crew’s road maintenance activities. Betsy will follow up with Jim to brainstorm further. Ben will contact Woodstock about roadside mowing on Pomfret Road near the town line where poison parsnip is about to go to seed. Discussion to be continued at the August 7 meeting.
  - f. Highway Access Permit Approval (Dinsmoor Road) – After discussion, Emily moved and Ben seconded that Mr. Mann be required to (1) further excavate the embankment such that there is at least 20 feet of depth across at least 16 feet of Bartlett Brook Road frontage as required by Section 5.3(k) of the town's Highway Ordinance, and (2) lowering the level of material at the upper portion of the "south apron" – without creating a cliff – such that water will drain off the driveway in that area, rather than down it and potentially into the town road, also as required by Section 5.3(k). Unanimous. Ben will follow up with the parties in writing. The Selectboard would like to finally approve (or affirmatively decline to finally approve) Mr. Mann's highway access permit at the August 7 meeting based on all work done to that point.
  - g. Appointment of Public Officers – None.
  - h. Warrants – John moved and Emily seconded approval for payment of the following warrants:
 

25002	\$ 7,836.78	Payroll
25004	28,289.23	AP (incl. July debit card)
25005	105.10	Tax Refund

 Unanimous.
  - i. Approval of July 3, 2024 Minutes – Steve moved and John seconded approval of the July 3, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Unanimous.
6. Meeting Wrap Up
- a. Correspondence – The Selectboard reviewed the list of patrolling “hot spots” for the County Sheriff to consider when planning routine patrols. Joe McLean has been appointed a superior court judge of the environmental division and will begin

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\* **Editor’s Note:** For a concise summary of the approved traffic pattern changes, see [https://pomfretvt.us/index.php/download\\_file/view/2470/1/](https://pomfretvt.us/index.php/download_file/view/2470/1/). For a more fulsome description of the same, see [https://pomfretvt.us/index.php/download\\_file/view/2469/1/](https://pomfretvt.us/index.php/download_file/view/2469/1/).

transitioning his private practice (including active Pomfret matters) to other attorneys at SP&F.

- b. Review of Assignments – John to speak further with Hartford re: River Road; Ben to email the Dinsmoor Road parties, send Sheriff Palmer list of patrolling “hot spots.”
  - c. Agenda for Next Meeting – Invasives species management, Dinsmoor Road highway access permit, River Road update. Town Hall front porch repair, town building maintenance, large event permit (Emmons).
7. Adjournment – Steve moved and Emily seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 pm.