

Town of Pomfret Selectboard Meeting  
Approved Minutes  
09/21/2022

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

Public: Laura Foley, Pam Pickett, Cathy Peters, Marge Wakefield, Phoebe Jones, Barclay Kopchak, Kathy Wimmer, Gordon Modarai, Josh Trimpi, Tyler Wellington, John Moore (Planning Commission), Bob Crean, Wimmer Associates, Karen Osnoe (Zoning Administrator; Delinquent Tax Collector), Michael Doten, Nancy Robinson, Jim Robinson, Laura Kent, Lisa Parsons, Christine Dolan (Vermont Standard), Michael Pitney, Nick Mahood, Kevin Rice (Fire Chief), Lisa Parsons, Scott Barber, Scott Pierce, Jacob Astbury, Michael Reese, Karen Montella, Mark Montella, Cynthia Hewitt (Selectboard Assistant)

1. Emily called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. Public Comment: Michael Reese and Phoebe Jones, residents of Wild Apple Road, expressed concerns about the use of recycled asphalt on portions of the Class 4 section of Wild Apple Road. This discussion will occur in Highway Items.
3. Agenda Review: Delete employee handbook; delete health insurance eligibility; add approval of Large Event Permit application form; add Wild Apple Road recycled asphalt. Steve moved and John seconded approval of these changes; unanimous.
4. Road Foreman's Report and Highway Items
  - a. Cloudland Road Foliage Traffic Control. Mr. Doten, Ms. Kent, and the Robinsons, all residents of Cloudland Road, raised concerns regarding signage and traffic changes in connection with foliage traffic. They feel the fencing in the road poses risks, especially for pedestrians, and should be removed. Ms. Kent would like the one-way section to begin after her driveway near the Woodstock/Pomfret town line as this would reduce traffic in the problem area. After discussion, Ben moved and Steve seconded removal of the fence and movement of the one-way traffic signage to begin north of Ms. Kent's property; unanimous.
  - b. Disability Insurance Rates. Ben will follow up with Ellen and report back to the board at the 10/05/2022 meeting.
  - c. Speed Signs. Emily will inform Ms. Haydock that three horse crossing advisory signs will be installed on Skyline Drive. Multiple residents are concerned about speeding traffic on Stage Road. They would like the speed limit to continue at 35 mph to the Barnard town line. At present the last sign says "End Speed Zone" which indicates the 35 mph zone has ended and the default limit of 50 mph has begun. Ben and John suggested the board begin with a traffic study, removal of the "end speed zone" sign, and alert the Sheriff of the problem.
  - d. Hidden Ridge Road Plow Turnaround/T.H. 24 Right-of-Way Relocation. The board will begin the process of formally moving the T.H. 24 right-of-way to the present roadway location. A small portion of the existing right-of-way will be retained to allow the Town's snowplows to turn around at the end of Hidden Ridge Road. Ben will contact local surveyors to begin this process.
  - e. Wild Apple Road Recycled Asphalt. Milled asphalt from the recent paving project was recovered for resurfacing certain gravel roads. Mr. Reese and Ms. Jones raised

environmental and aesthetic concerns about placement of recycled asphalt on portions of the Class 4 section of Wild Apple Road. Jon explained this is an accepted practice in Vermont, it stays in place and compacts well, does not wash away, and there is no conclusive evidence of environmental harm. After discussion, it was decided to revisit this at the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting when the Road Foreman is in attendance, Vtrans has been consulted, and research has been accomplished.

5. Items for Discussion or Vote

- a. Zoning and Delinquent Taxes. Karen will issue a notice of zoning violation on Broad Brook Road. She will be more proactive in sending such notices generally now that information regarding zoning in Pomfret was circulated with the recent tax bill. Karen also reported on progress toward several tax sales for delinquent accounts; she is working with Stitzel Page on these.
- b. Eastern States Cup Right-of-Way Permit. Ben moved and Steve seconded approval of the requested permit with a condition that signs be posted on the road the week prior alerting motorists to expect increased bicyclist traffic; unanimous.
- c. Large Event Permit Application Form. This new permit form was created to accommodate the upcoming Eastern States Cup event, but can be used to address concerns around other large events in town. Ben moved and John seconded approval of the permit form with no changes; unanimous.
- d. Eastern States Cup Large Event Permit for Camping at Saskadena Six. Nick estimated that ~ 100 attendees of the Eastern States Cup event will camp overnight Saskadena Six. This will entail a mix of RV and tent camping on both sides of Barnard Brook. Porta-potties will be provided. There is no organized activity at night, quiet time will commence one hour after sunset, and Woodstock Emergency Services informed. Ben moved and Steve seconded approval the permit with a condition that all activity (including lighting and noise) cease one hour after sunset, consistent with the existing Act 250 permit; unanimous.
- e. Emergency Services Agreement. Chief Rice expressed concerns about the automatic response fire coverage provision. He also questioned the process by which the contract was negotiated. Chief Rice indicated he has suggested changes to the contract; those will be discussed in executive session with Chief Rice invited to attend.
- f. South Pomfret Scoping Study. Discussion postponed to the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting when additional information will be available.
- g. Warrants
 

23025	Payroll	\$ 10,681.90
23026	A/P	34,270.55
23027	A/P	953,075.24

 Jon moved and Ben seconded approval for payment; unanimous
- h. Ben moved and John seconded approval of the 09/21/2022 meeting minutes with no changes; unanimous.

6. Meeting Wrap Up

- a. Correspondence. Request for a speed limit reduction on Pomfret Road immediately north of Hewitt Hill Road. This was mentioned during the meeting and will be discussed further on October 5.

- b. Review of Assignments: Emily to speak with Ms. Haydock re: horse signs on Skyline; Jim re: asphalt on Wild Apple Road and changes to Cloudland Road foliage traffic control measures; Two Rivers re: Stage Road speed study; Ellen re: dental plan cost. Ben to speak re Ellen re: disability insurance invoices; Vtrans re: removal of “end speed zone” sign; surveyors re: T.H. 24 right-of-way surveying.
  - c. Agenda for next meeting: South Pomfret Scoping Study, Wild Apple Road recycled asphalt, dental insurance, disability insurance, employee handbook, T.H. 24 right-of-way.
7. Executive Session
- a. Ben moved Steve seconded that the board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(1)(A) to discuss contracts the premature disclosure of which would place the public body at a substantial disadvantage; unanimous. The board entered executive session at 9:47 pm.
  - b. The board exited executive and deliberative session at 10:39 pm, and no decisions were made therein.
8. Emergency Services Contract. Ben moved and Steve seconded approval of the Emergency Services Contract in the form previously signed by the Town of Woodstock Select Board; unanimous.
9. Adjournment. John moved and Ben seconded that the meeting be adjourned; unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 pm.