

Town of Danville
Selectboard Minutes
June 16, 2022
Danville Town Hall (6:00 pm)

Board Members Present: Ken Linsley, Peter Griffin, Janice Ouellette and Eric Bach

Board Members Absent: Kellie Merrell

Others Present: Audrey DeProspero, Keith Gadapee, Walter McNeil, Cathy Baker, Robert Wally, David Houston, Curt Edgar and Wendy Somers

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Eric Bach at 6:00 pm.

1. **Additions to the agenda:**

- Disposal of Animal

2. *Motion by Peter Griffin, 2nd by Janice Ouellette to approve **minutes of Regular meeting of June 2, 2022** as written. Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.*

3. **Visitors**

- **Robert Wally and Cathy Baker – Danville Meal site**

Meeting Owl Pro

Cathy Baker inquired if the Town was able to give the Danville Meal Site money to purchase a Meeting Owl Pro, an all in one, 360-degree camera, mic and speaker platform which costs approximately \$1,000. The Meal Site is starting free site program for seniors with interactive live programming to get everyone connected. The Danville Meal Site serves people from Peacham, St. J, Danville and Hardwick and are open Tuesday and Thursday.

Robert Wally noted they were serving 20 plus people before COVID however the number has lessened because people are still afraid of social contact. The Meal Site offers on Tuesday a walk and talk group which walks around the Green. They have recently brought in two authors to talk about West Danville to entice more people to come to the Meal Site. The Meal Site is trying to get people out and are trying to attract more people so that they can keep growing. The Meal Site is open to anyone who wants to come in. It is not just for seniors. There is a \$ donation for person 60 and older and \$5 donations for persons under 60.

Cathy Baker noted people come in and pick up meals but not a lot of persons stay to eat their meals. The Meal Site is trying to get more people to come in and felt the Meeting Owl Prop would help to do so by helping them be able to reach out to seniors and others virtually.

Janice Ouellette spoke of the Council on Aging and wondered if they had grants to help.

Robert Wally noted the Council on Aging does have grants because that is how they were able to purchase their large screen TV and portable A/C unit.

Ken Linsley suggested to approach AARP and other sources for funding.

Sign

Cathy Baker noted the Meal Site had no sign for some time but has recently purchased one which is in front of the church. The Meal Site is seeking to become more publicly noticed and are requesting permission for a permanent sign to be placed on the Town Green near Park Street and Route 2 to better help identify their location. Cathy Baker contacted the Zoning Administrator who informed her that a 2x2 sign did not need a permit.

Selectboard was concerned with a permanent sign on the Green and suggested installation of a temporary sign like the Farmers Market does (put sign up for event and take down after event).

Selectboard suggested to post Meal Site information on Front Porch Forum, Town Hall bulletin board, Post Office, and Marty's.

Eric Bach suggested Meal Site contact State as they have informational signs that they may be able to erect indicating Senior Meal Site next left.

Senior Meal Site has a website for individuals to access information: danvillemealsite.org.

Fundraiser

Cathy Baker requested use of the Town Green on Thursday, July 21 for a fundraiser BBQ. All are welcome. Set up will be around 10am and clean up by 2pm. The BBQ will have hamburgers, hot dogs, pasta salad, coleslaw and watermelon and will be served for lunch starting at 11:30am until 12:30. If it rains, they will put up a tent. There will be a band 'Just Having Fun' on the gazebo.

Motion by Peter Griffin, 2nd by Janice Ouellette to approve the use of the Green on July 21 from 10am until 2pm for the Danville Meal Site's BBQ fundraiser. Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.

- **Walter McNeil – NEKWMD**

- Waste District met Tuesday night.
- The solid waste agreement for the new transfer station has passed unanimously.
- New charter amendment – waste district budget passed via inhabitants of all towns and voted by supervisors of the towns has had a vote to have supervisors vote the budget in the future instead. Walter McNeil has suggested that the supervisors go before the selectboard to explain the budget and get information from them and then report back to the district as he feels transparency is good.
- Organics – stickers on fruits and vegetables – no town has received three strikes so there have been no penalties issued. Walter McNeil is opposed to penalties as he feels you cannot get every sticker off the item. Management is adamant, no penalties until after 6/30. The organics are fed to chickens and then composted. The vendor chosen was the cheapest but these are unrealistic expectations.
- Budget – deficit of \$8,800. Recycle markets still good. Paper and cardboard are up. Tin is down. Polystyrene is to start being recycled in the near future.

- **Curt Edgar & Dave Houston – Greenbank's Hollow Wall & Bridge**

Curt Edgar discussed main foundation wall on the NW bank is falling into Joe's Brook. Preparing walls would be expensive and he is looking into grants. He has contacted the Preservation Trust of Vermont and has been directed to the Freeman Fund. He has been working on getting contractors (Fairbanks Mills and Thistle Stonework) to look at the wall so that he can get quotes. He has been told that an assessment may cost anywhere from \$2,500 to \$5,000. Graffiti has been found on the bridge also and the Preservation Trust has suggested to combine both items of work under one grant. The graffiti is blue paint and he has received an estimate for power washing for \$250 however the Preservation Trust is concerned with power washing as it may rot the wood and suggests sanding of some kind be done instead. The Preservation Trust is willing to give the Town a \$25,000 grant. During investigation of the wall, ownership of who actually owns the property that the wall is on came into question. It appears that resident Michael Hogue owns the land but is willing to give the land to the Town. An attorney has suggested that a boundary line adjustment be done on the parcels. Curt Edgar spoke to a state archeologist who has designated area significant archeologist location of Vermont. The bridge is on the Historic Registration and a survey was done in June of 1974. Curt Edgar is seeking to have a historic marker placed in the area of the bridge however the markers cost somewhere between \$600 and \$800. He is requesting to incorporate the marker in to the grant or to have the town pay for the marker.

Dave Houston noted the grant depends on resolving the ownership issue of the wall. The Town owns north side of brook, west of road and cannot gain access to it because of the private land. The turnout area was part of the property but town acquired for turn out. A culvert would be needed and land would need to be adjoined to the Town land to make an added extension of Town land.

Peter Griffin thanked Curt Edgar and Dave Houston for all their work.

Eric Bach thought the first thing needing to be done was property line adjustment and then the second step would be to determine how many bids or proposals were needed.

Ken Linsley suggested establishing the property line first and then decide on how they want to contract and look for supplemental grants.

Motion by Ken Linsley, 2nd by Peter Griffin to hire Tobias (Toby) Balivet and draw up Boundary Line Adjustment from Hogue to Town, get cost estimate from Toby Balivet and confirm number at subsequent meeting. Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.

4. **Town Clerk** (Wendy Somers)

Five Special Event Permits for the July 3rd Spirit of Vermont benefit for Pope Library fundraiser at Joes' Pond Pavilion:

- Vermont Spirits Distilling Company

Motion by Ken Linsley, 2nd by Janice Ouellette to approve the Special Event Permit for Vermont Spirits Distilling Company for July 3rd at Joe's Pond Pavilion for Pope Library fundraiser. Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.

- North Branch Vineyards LLC

Motion by Ken Linsley, 2nd by Janice Ouellette to approve the Special Event Permit for North Branch Vineyards LLC for July 3rd at Joe's Pond Pavilion for Pope Library fundraiser. Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.

- Red Barn Brewing

Motion by Janice Ouellette, 2nd by Ken Linsley to approve the Special Event Permit for Red Barn Brewing for July 3rd at Joe's Pond Pavilion for Pope Library fundraiser. Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.

- Vermont Spirits Distilling Company DBA Stone Cutters Spirits

Motion by Ken Linsley, 2nd by Janice Ouellette to approve the Special Event Permit for Vermont Spirits Distilling Company DBA Stone Cutters Spirits for July 3rd at Joe's Pond Pavilion for Pope Library fundraiser. Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.

- Special Event Permit for Eden Ice Cider for Autumn on the Green

Motion by Ken Linsley, 2nd by Janice Ouellette to approve the Special Event Permit for Eden Ice cedar for Autumn on the Green. Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.

- Notified by Jennifer Grace that there has been a change in the pension plan for employers and employees who are at \$26.39 contribute 6.65% and more than that will contribute 7.5%.
- Reviewing credit card policy. Wendy Somers's limit is \$5,000, Sharon Daniel is \$1,500 and Keith Gadapee is \$3,000. If any update is needed Wendy Somers is needed to be notified of increase.

Keith Gadapee noted he did not need an increase.

Wendy Somers noted the Credit Card Policy will be emailed to the Selectboard for review.

- Disposal of Animal – Eric Bach – feud between neighbors. A dead carcass of a cow was put on the property line. This incident is not part of Animal Control as the animal is dead, it is not part of Health Officer as it is the animal is dead however it is part of Department of Agriculture because it is a dead animal and it is against the law to dump a farm animal carcass to rot and decay. Vermont Law for live stock mortality indicates the animal needs to be buried, incinerated. In the past a letter has been drafted which contains information of disposal.

Consensus is for a letter to be written to the offending party.

5. **Highway Foreman** (Keith Gadapee)

- Truck dealership wants signature for purchase and sales and condition of surcharge restatement of revised statement of terms and conditions.

Motion by Peter Griffin, 2nd by Janice Ouellette to authorize Keith Gadapee to sign the document.
Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.

- Curb Cut for Phil Beattie for driveway relocation.

Motion by Ken Linsley, 2nd by Peter Griffin to approve the Curb Cut for Phil Beattie. Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.

- Bucket Loader needs transmission rebuilt. Estimate received from Milton Cat is \$23,000. Keith Gadapee has reached out to local mechanics for estimates also. Keith Gadapee does not want to trade vehicle; he just wants to have it fixed. The budget line effected will be Outside Equipment Repairs.
- Labor – one man down, interviewed one applicant who is a good candidate and he is suggesting to the Selectboard to hire that person, however the candidate does not have a CDL.
- Self-Certified Trainer – information researched and attended webinar. The training will be though Federal Motor Carrier. Trainer would be certifying that the applicant has done the required work. It will take time, as there is 80 hours required for established curriculum or town can also let person get license on his own and give person a deadline to do so.

Janice Ouellette thought the person was a good candidate. Person was a mechanic and had a good work ethic. Person is able to start mid-July.

Eric Bach was in favor of Keith Gadapee getting trainer certified as it will help now and in the future.

- Assistance from Selectboard Assistant – Keith Gadapee seeks help with work items and is seeking Selectboard's input if it is viable to log Selectboard Assistant's time as highway time. Since May 1 there has not been a full highway crew. Assistant would not go over hours, would not be full time and would not do any CDL activities. Assistance would be given just to help complete stuff now. Selectboard Assistant currently helps with MRGP. Keith Gadapee noted if Selectboard was not in favor then he could advertise for a part time non CDL person

Eric Bach discussed hiring a part time person without CDL.

Janice Ouellette suggested to have Assistant help and put add out to see who applies.

Keith Gadapee would like part time person and to advertise as seasonal or as needed.

Eric Bach spoke of possibility of work piling up and then not getting it done.

Selectboard discussed posting for part time non CDL, CDL preferred, not required and to have Assistant help when she can.

Ken Linsley noted he was okay with extending the offer to the candidate and okay with part time CDL preferred but concerned for WC with Assistant.

Motion by Janice Ouellette, 2nd by Ken Linsley to extend offer to individual at \$19.46 hourly wage with CDL to be obtained by plowing season. Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.

Consensus is to use Selectboard Assistant to backfill other tasks and for Wendy Somers to check on insurance and to post for part time position around town, website and on FPF.

6. **Issues and Information (All)**

- (a) **Tree Bids** – three bids received, all with required \$500 Performance Bond

Northern VT Tree Climbers (Dan DeLeo) \$2,600
Calvin Alexander dba Alexander Tree Service (Cabot, VT) \$1,950
Maurice Bedor DBA Bedor's Tree Service \$1,925

Motion by Ken Linsley, 2nd by Peter Griffin to accept Bedor Tree Service for removal of two dead maple trees on the Green. Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.

- (b) **Heat Bids** –

Dead River – no fixed prices or multi-year contracts for oil
Oil – 22 cents a gallon over St. Johnsbury daily landed cost
Propane – fixed price \$2.20 and a two-year fixed price for \$2.20

CN Brown – no fixed prices or multi-year contracts
Oil – cost plus 49 cents
Propane – cost plus 20 cents

Fred's Energy – Oil = four options: \$5.39 fixed, or 35 cents over rack, or Pre-Buy \$5.34 gallon, or Cap price \$5.49 plus 60 cents
Propane – fixed \$2.49 gallon or two years fixed \$2.35

Selectboard discussed volatile energy market.

Consensus is to rebid at end of July.

- (c) **Zoning Computer** – Audrey DeProspero – the zoning office is in need of a new computer as the current one in the office is dated 2014 and the warranty has run out in 2016. It is 8 years old and starting to have issues. A quote received from Ormsby's Computer Systems has been received for \$1,382.49

Motion by Ken Linsley, 2nd by Peter Griffin to approve the expenditure for a new computer for Dennis Marquise in the amount of \$1,382.49. Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.

- (d) **Disposal of Animal** – See Town Clerk's report.

- (e) **Executive Session 1 VSA 313 (a) (3) Evaluation of Public Officer/Employee**

Motion by Janice Ouellette, 2nd by Peter Griffin to go into Executive Session per 1 VSA 313 (a) (3) Evaluation of Public Officer/Employee and to invite individuals (Keith Gadapee and Audrey DeProspero) one at a time along with Selectboard. Vote 4-0-0. All in favor.

Selectboard entered Executive Session at 9:11 pm.

Motion by Ken Linsley, 2nd by Janice Ouellette to leave Executive Session at 9:34 pm. Vote 4-0-0. All in favor. No action taken.

7. **Financials: Orders to review and sign** - Financials signed.

8. **Adjourn** - *Motion by Janice Ouellette, 2nd by Peter Griffin to adjourn at 9:35 p.m. All in favor.*

Minutes taken by Audrey DeProspero submitted June 17, 2022 at 11:00 am.