

Town of Danville  
Selectboard Minutes  
July 11, 2024  
Danville Town Hall (6:30 pm)

**Board Members Present:** Eric Bach, Janice Ouellette, Glenn Herrin and Alison Low

**Board Members Absent:** Peter Griffin

**Others Present:** Audrey DeProspero, Michelle Leclerc, Patty Conley, Dianne Langmaid, Greg Prior, Evangelyn Morse, Gary Farrow, Laural Ruggles, Alice Kitchel, Clayton Cargill, Chelsea Hewitt, Rob Balivet, Kathy Manns, Debra Bixby, Marilyn McEnery and Judith Corso

**Others Present Using Telephone:** Keith Gadapee

**Meeting called to order** by Chair Janice Ouellette at 6:30 pm.

**1. Additions to the agenda:**

- Update on Roads
- Agenda sequence move

**2. Visitors Introduction**

- **Greg Prior** – Has family in town, believes in government, thinks tools should be used more to feed data into Selectboard and data needs to be standardized. Greg Prior spoke of agendas and minutes noting committees are an extension of Selectboard.
- **Alice Kitchel** – Town Meeting Committee
- **Dianne Langmaid** – Historical Society
- **Patty Conley** – Historical Society
- **Laural Ruggles** – Energy, Train and Regional Trail Counsel
- **Kathy Manns** – Energy Committee
- **Judy Corso** – Planning Commission
- **Evangelyn Morse** – Conservation Committee (Chair)
- **Chelsea Hewitt** – Dog Park Committee, Historical Society, and Chamber of Commerce
- **Gary Farrow** – Dog Park Committee

**3. Addition to the Agenda: Update on Roads**

- **Glenn Herrin** – State Emergency Ops Center – most of Vermont not hit too bad, central Vermont hit really hard. Areas hit: Barre, surrounding neighbors, Peacham had one death, Plainfield hit hard, Walden got 7" of rain, and Danville got 4.5" of rain. Keith Gadapee's hydrologically connected segments held well. Cormier and Joes Brook down to one lane, Roy and Water Andric one lane, stream bank damage on Bruce Badger, Rail Trail closed and beach closed.

**4. Issues and Information: Town Plan**

- **Glenn Herrin** – resigned from Planning Commission, no longer Planning Commission Chair. The Planning Commission adopted the Town Plan. Official submission to Selectboard tonight. Changes: updates on census, went through entire plan, tried to task it out, timeline in Planning Commission, Historical not directly tasked but Planning will work in conjunction with them. Plan complete and handed to Selectboard. At the next Selectboard meeting they can make changes if needed and then adopt. It takes 4-5 months to adopt.

**5. Joint Committee Discussion (Priorities, Focus, Vacancies, Q&A):**

- **Dog Park** – Alison Low, Gary Farrow and Chelsea Hewitt – committee holding their meeting after Joint Committee Meeting. Their goal is to establish a dog park behind waste treatment facility. Initial site plan established, will have double gated entry and two fenced in areas. Committee is actively fundraising and they have over \$1,500.
- **Historical Society** – Patty Conley – Danville Historical Society is hosting America's 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Project. They were awarded \$,000 to fund staff activities to focus on the 250<sup>th</sup>. They need people to help. An activities meeting will be set up and all are welcome. A handout is going

around and audience members and others are welcome to participate. Interested persons are being asked to contact Patty Conley.

- **Energy Committee** – Laural Ruggles – inquiry as to how best to communicate, formal or informal. She has worked on energy plan and not sure how it fits with new Town Plan. Energy audit came back so they met to review. Planning EV Fair in September, it is their fourth year. Window Dressers is this year in Peacham, Barnet and Ryegate, it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year doing this.
- **Conservation Commission** – Evangelyn Morse, Chair – focus on 2 Town forests, Pumpkin Hill and Rodgers Lot. Trail development being done in Rodgers Lot. Grand Opening is July 28. There is a work day this Sunday and all are welcome. One Kiosk is up in Rodgers Lot. Pumpkin Hill kiosk going in shortly. Their main goal is focus on the 2 Town forests, keeping trails open, open to public, find out what the likes are, and to do education on invasives.
- **Planning Commission** – Glenn Herrin, Rob Balivet and Judy Corso present, Kate Whitehead and Alison Despathy also on the commission but not present. Alison is acting Chair. Their main task is to do whatever the Selectboard tell them to do. They write the Town Plan every 8 years, and maintain zoning bylaw that DRB enforces. They have received a grant for Bylaw Modernization which will do a deeper dive into zones, and condition of river corridors, which will take longer. August or September this PC Plan will come to Selectboard. Thinks it is a really good group. The group has one vacancy.
- **Train** – Rob Balivet – should be done by October. Clapboards being removed, problem with such being done, but being addressed. Local vendors have been recommended and bids submitted.

Laural Ruggles noted the renovation came out of the Village-to-Village Master Plan. In order to keep moving the plan forward a corporation was formed, Village to Village, Inc., they are waiting to hear on their 501c3 designation.

Evangelyn Morse inquired if clapboards are to be put back on is there any lead paint on them.

Rob Balivet noted plan is to put back but they need to get with state. He would need to look at the Hazmat survey that was done to see if there is any lead paint noted. He spoke of builders 8x4 project sign which is size across the state but size is not in the bylaw, it is not temporary nor permanent as it is not defined.

Alice Kitchel discussed the sign facing the Rail Trail which says Danville.

Rob Balivet discussed crawl space with granite block engraved BRP.

Patty Conley discussed station agent's wife, Bertha R Pressy and noted the initials BRP could be for her name, but it was just a guess. Patty Conley noted the sign is a reproduction of the original sign that was on the front door, which the Women's Club paid for to do a reproduction of the original which was in the passenger side of the building but has left the building. Noted were the findings of graffiti of historical names in the crawl space.

## 6. Issues and Information: Highway New Hire

Keith Gadapee discussed he and Glenn Herrin interviewed potential candidate who comes with experience however, to place him on the pay scale, it is a challenge. The candidate does not have a lot of VLR credits and a determination of what to offer should be on the chart. His experience is equal to Bill and he comes with 4 years of town service but not with Danville. He has 18 years excavation experience. Keith Gadapee thinks the chart is flawed as to where to place the candidate so he seeks Selectboard guidance. He noted he cannot offer him what he currently is making and thinks they should offer him something that will not cause a ripple effect.

Janice Ouellette wondered if they could give him 4-year highway crew experience (1-5 window).

Eric Bach wondered how long it would take him to get VLR credits.

Keith Gadapee noted he is required to take on boarding credit, other courses some think are waste.

Janice Ouellette discussed redoing steps, the tiered approach to award people with more skills.

Keith Gadapee noted they need reasons behind where they place him, his opinion was good and bad come with experience and he cannot determine how he will fit in, but he could be an asset.

Glenn Herrin noted they shouldn't go out of their way to get him on board at the cost of losing what they currently have but they need to put him on pay scale where he fits.

Eric Bach noted they could offer better pay now than where they were years ago.

Keith Gadapee noted the offer should be around \$24. With that pay he would be second ahead of four others: 3 inexperienced, 1 vet, and 1 in middle. Current employee experience discussed.

*Glenn Herrin left at 7:16 pm.*

*Motion by Alison Low, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eric Bach to hire candidate at Pay Grade 8 (1–5-year experience), pay rate \$24.27, as soon as he is with Danville one-year he will jump to year 5 giving him credit for 4 years. Vote 3-0-0. Motion carries.*

#### **7. Joint Committee Discussion (Priorities, Focus, Vacancies, Q&A) continuation:**

- **Town Meeting Committee** – Clayton Cargill – work largely done. One more presentation to do. Committee was tasked with finding out how Danville can improve Town Meeting. Report to Selectboard on the 18<sup>th</sup>, recommendations to be presented. Most production found was Town Meeting needs shepherding.

Alison Low noted the findings found were equal between people who work and who don't.

Alice Kitchel noted there was no right day, just mostly making the most of the day.

Alison Low noted there were a lot of respondents to the survey, but there was no clear majority but they had a lot to say and the balance would be hybrid meeting.

- **Selectboard – Janice Ouellette discussed Selectboard Goals:**
  - Buildings & Grounds – 501c3 Train Station in process, achieve by end of year; address decay of Green and Hill Street, pop up Charrettes, meetings and work day; shovel ready parking lot, apply for funding
  - Capital Planning – capital spending for reserve fund, adopted policy
  - Community Engagement & Outreach – quarterly newsletter, get input from committees and community, set date for articles, have one person put together
  - Fire Department – new Fire Chief appointed, Selectboard to decide what to do with station
  - Grants – comprehensive strategy
  - Personnel – adopted June 6.
  - Water and Wastewater – funding plan, Dufresne Group review progress plans

Alison Low discussed work day recruitment to get people to join committees.

Eric Bach discussed process of how someone takes people on board, how people join committees.

Alison Low discussed training on volunteers, how to get them involved, to help on board capacity.

Discussion of how to communicate and tie into newsletter – new to town, non-discriminative, liaison (Selectboard member) for connecting persons, welcoming person, sending out welcome package to introduce new persons to town items, such as recycling.

#### **8. Adjourn – Eric Bach motioned to adjourn at 7:52 pm.**