

Town of Craftsbury Selectboard Minutes

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January 7, 2020

Energy Plan Hearing

Agenda Regular Meeting

- Approve the minutes of the last meeting
- Gina Campoli – Trails Group
- Harry Miller - School
- Request to add matt Moody and Paula Davidson to Energy Committee
- Bulky Day invoice for Albany
- Budget and Warning Work and Review
- Care Center Follow Up
- Committee Reports & Appointees
- Road Foreman's Report
- Clerk Report
- Other Business Walk-ins That Have Business to Come Before the Selectboard
- Other:
 - Town Meeting 1 PM
 - Bike Ride July 20th

The Selectboard met at the Craftsbury Town Hall Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 7 PM. Selectboard present were Bruce Urie, Jim Jones and Susan Houston. Yvette Brown (Town Clerk), Michelle Warren (Selectboard Clerk), Amelia Fritz, Katherine Prentice, Kevin Gregoire, Harry Miller and Gina Campoli were also present.

Energy Plan Hearing:

The Energy Plan Hearing was postponed until January 21, 2020.

Approve Minutes Last Meeting:

Jim a motion to approve the December 17, 2019 minutes with one correction, seconded and approved.

Gina Campoli – Trails Group:

Gina gave the Selectboard a handout and explained the VOREC Grant request that the Craftsbury Trails group is working on (see attached), no match is required. She suggests that \$4,000 from the Good Neighbor fund be set aside to cover administrative costs and other 2020 grant opportunities, most of which has local match requirements.

The Selectboard would like to know the exact wording that the Trails Group wants to put in for the Town Warning.

Harry Miller – School:

Harry let the Selectboard know that the Schoolboard will be putting out a RPF for a new elementary school. He hopes the Selectboard will be supportive of the Schoolboard's decision for the new school. They discussed possible uses of the currently elementary school space, such as Saplings, fire department and town offices. Harry remarked that if all goes well, he hopes to have a bond vote by the end of the summer.

Request to add matt Moody and Paula Davidson to Energy Committee:

Susan made a motion to add Matt Moody and Paula Davidson to the Craftsbury Energy Committee, Jim seconded, motion approved.

Bulky Day invoice for Albany:

Craftsbury owes \$1000 for Bulky Day. Yvette will send out the payment, she had been waiting for an invoice.

Budget and Warning Work and Review:

The Selectboard postponed until Tuesday, January 20th, from 10 AM to Noon.

Care Center Follow Up:

The Selectboard will have an informational session January 21st at 6:30 PM.

Committee Reports & Appointees:

No Committee reports given.

Road Foreman Report:

Road Crew working on plowing. One of the truck has power steering leaking, will need to get fixed.

Clerk Report:

Yvette asked for Michelle to work at the Town Hall on Wednesdays and Fridays. The Selectboard will work on budget next week.

Walk-ins That Have Business to Come Before the Selectboard:

None

Other:

- Reminder, Town Meeting will be at 1 PM, while the School Meeting will start at 9 AM.
- A bicycle group will be riding through Craftsbury again on July 20th.

The Selectboard Meeting adjourned at 9 PM. Next Selectboard Meeting is Tuesday, January 21, 2020, which will start with an informational session for the Care Center at 6:30 PM, followed by the hearing for the proposed energy plan at 7 PM and regular Selectboard meeting afterwards. They will be working on the budget January 14th from 10 AM to Noon.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Warren, Clerk of the Select Board

Craftsbury Trails Summary and 2020 VOREC Grant Request

January 2020

What is "Craftsbury Trails":

Craftsbury Trails (CT) was formed in 2018 when a group of residents representing businesses, non-profits, and other town committees, and outdoor recreation enthusiasts came together to create a network of mapped trails and gravel roads for non-motorized recreational uses.

CT is a volunteer driven effort, welcome to all and supported by the Select Board. Funding is through public and private grants and donations

The Craftsbury Trail's goal is: to provide easy access for people of all ages and abilities to trails for non-motorized activities such as skiing, walking, running, hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding, improve the health and quality of life of Craftsbury residents and increase economic opportunities associated with outdoor recreation.

While some trails are already in place, the focus for the future is improving trail access in each of the Craftsbury village areas - Craftsbury Common, Craftsbury Village and East Craftsbury and in providing improved connections between all the village areas and to trail assets at the Outdoor Center, school Woodlot and Sterling Trails.

Many visitors now come to Craftsbury to ski on the Outdoor Center's ski trails. The idea is to expand the trails-based outdoor recreation economic benefits to year round, make visitors more aware of the area's numerous farms, businesses, and cultural attractions, improve trail connections to those places, and grow the town's economic base.

While some ski trails may be suitable for year round use, others are not. New trail corridors, as well as trail heads, signage, parking facilities and more are all part of the future Craftsbury Trails vision.

Craftsbury Trails 'Priorities:

The Outdoor Center, Sterling College, the Craftsbury Academy (woodlot) and the town have or plan to expand their trails networks. We want to work with the resources the town already has, while making improvements including wayfinding signs, filling in trail corridor gaps and creating new connections.

Some examples include:

Creating a brand that would identify Craftsbury as an outdoor recreation destination. It would be in coordination with the Outdoor Center but separate and also be linked to Northeast Kingdom outdoor recreation marketing efforts. It would also help visitors connect with Craftsbury's cultural, agricultural and educational assets.

Improving mapping of Craftsbury trails by using an existing state trail mapping digital platform that is easily modified as new trails are added.

Creating a Craftsbury Trails information kiosk on Dustan Field thus providing parking and linkages to improved Sterling trails and new routes connecting Craftsbury Common with Craftsbury Village and the Outdoor Center. This kiosk would be the first of several at each of the village centers and the Woodlot and would include maps, information about the town's natural and cultural history and businesses, and upcoming events.

Creating a trail link between the Common and the Village to serve both recreation and as a safe alternative transportation route for walkers and bikers.

Creating a trail network in Craftsbury Village that improves access to the Black River flood plain and better connects the Community Green Space with the Village while also addressing Village bike and pedestrian safety and parking.

Identifying a trail route that connects Craftsbury Village to East Craftsbury and partnering with the 4Cs, Saplings and others on an East Craftsbury trails network.

VOREC 2020 Request:

Craftsbury Trails would like to submit a 2020 Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economy Collaborative grant to the state (Forest Parks and Recreation Department) on behalf of the town. State officials indicated that the town was a finalist in 2019 and was encouraged to apply again.

The 2020 program has shifted somewhat with a focus, not on trail infrastructure given the limited funding, but on programming that will help increase use or complete projects that are well underway. They are again looking for projects that will have demonstrated economic benefits to businesses and increases in job numbers and also get more people out in the woods to improve the health and welfare of Vermonters.

There is no match required to apply, but a town dollar commitment to the project will help our chances. CT suggests that the town once again put aside Good Neighbor Fund dollars (\$4,000) to cover the administrative costs of this and other 2020 grant opportunities, most of which will have local match requirements. Our budget for this and all grant applications will also include donated volunteer time and use of equipment from both individuals and the Outdoor Center.

NEK towns are also able to benefit from federal Forest Stewardship dollars as part of their VOREC request, thus increasing Craftsbury's likelihood of receiving funding.

CT Proposes the following for its 2020 VOREC request:

Create an official Craftsbury Trails map that can be added onto as new trails are created in order to promote what the town has today (The COC, the Woodlot, Sterling, the GreenSpace etc.) and into the future We would have a small print run and to supplement the digital version.

Use TrailFinder as the trail platform

Design and install a Dustan Field kiosk and way finding signs that connect Dustan parking and recreational assets to the Common, new Common/Village trails and Sterling trail network.

Create a unique Craftsbury Trails brand that is distinct from the COC and has connections to broader regional trails tourism marketing efforts.

CT intends to apply for additional 2020 funding for the town for trail construction through an NEK federal pass through for outdoor recreation purposes and other private grant sources. The Common/Village route is our first trail infrastructure priority.