

Town of Craftsbury Selectboard Minutes

~approved amended~

Tuesday, June 16, 2020

AGENDA REGULAR MEETING

- Approve the Minutes of the Last Meeting
- CUD Discussion at 7 PM
- Farley Brown
- Water Ordinance Discussion
- Road Sign Request
- Savage Permit
- VTrans Paperwork to Complete and Sign
- Fires on the Beach and at intersection of VT 14 and S Craftsbury Rd
- Committee Reports & Appointees
 - Replacement needed Energy Committee
 - Neighbor to Neighbor Update
- Road Foreman's Report
- Clerk Report- Property Tax Timeline from the State
- Set Town Tax Rate
- Walk-ins that have business to come before the Select Board
- Other Business
 - Free Yoga Classes on the Common with Renee Rossi
 - Old Home Day

The Selectboard met at Craftsbury Town Hall 7 PM on Tuesday, June 16, 2020. Selectboard present were Bruce Urie, Jim Jones and Susan Houston. Yvette Brown (Town Clerk), Michelle Warren (Selectboard Clerk), Katherine Sims, Rudy Chase, Kristin Fountain, Brian Machesney, Farley Brown, John Zaber, Nakasi Fortune, Linda Ramsdell, Cori Jean Demeritt, Opal Savoy, Lily Dunbar, Tule Fogg, Matt Allen, Jon Szalewicz and Michelle Guenard

Approve Minutes of Last Meetings:

Jim made motion to approved the minutes of June 2, 2020 as printed. Seconded and approved.

CUD Discussion:

Kathryn discussed with the Selectboard the newly formed NEK CUD (Communications Union District) which includes 27 towns. They are in the process of building up assets in the CUD, so they can borrow against them. She reminded the Selectboard that there is no liability to the Town. They discussed the advantages and disadvantages of transferring Craftsbury's fiber network to the NEK CUD. Kristin explained the \$25,000 town investment was used to fund drops to businesses in the town. The NEK CUD's goal is to serve every resident and business in

every town. The Selectboard wanted to check with Kingdom Fiber later as well before making any decision.

Farley Brown:

Farley would like the Selectboard to make a statement that they do not tolerate acts of racism. She stated about 3 years ago a student of color being intimidated and assaulted by four young men making derogatory remarks. The young men threw a full can of beer directly at the student. Farley also mentioned the Black Lives Matter sign disappeared at Sterling College in 2016. Recently, at a peaceful Black Lives Matter protest last week, a community member interrupted with offending comments waving a confederate flag. Susan said there is a recently formed Neighbor to Neighbor group, set up to support the Town in times of distress. Although they are very busy right now with the pandemic, she will check to see if they can assist.

Lily spoke up, and said she felt Craftsbury was a safe place for her growing up and what she saw at the protest was hateful and terrifying.

Nakasi said this has been her home for 3 years. She was disappointed to see what took place at the protest. She is left feeling very scared. She wonders how to continue with people who don't like the color of her skin.

Michelle G. mentioned possibly a mission statement for the Town, John agreed.

The Selectboard will work on wording. They discussed wording starting with "aspiring to be a safe a healthy community."

Another large group of over 25 people outside (not on the agenda), asked to be at the top of the agenda at the next Selectboard meeting. They would like Craftsbury to ban the confederate flag and will discuss more at the next Selectboard meeting. Due to COVID-19 safe distance concerns, they felt a bigger venue for the next meeting would be a better option. John will ask the school if they could meet there for the next public Selectboard meeting.

Water Ordinance Discussion:

The Selectboard were asked to write a water ordinance for the water district on the Common. Bruce explained the Town can't write an ordinance for a private organization.

Road Sign Request:

William Leigh, who lives before the Atwood Bridge on the Creek Road, would like a "hidden drive" or "children at play" sign. The Selectboard will check with Steve.

Salvage Yard Permit:

After discussion, Jim made motion to approve the salvage yard permit for Paul Hodgdon, seconded and approved.

VTrans paperwork to complete and sign:

The Selectboard finished signing the paperwork for VTrans with road standards and certificate of compliance.

Fires on the Beach and at intersection of VT 14 and S Craftsbury Rd:

The Selectboard received an email from John Morgan with concerns of beach fires on the town beach and intersection of Vt. 14 & S. Craftsbury Road. After discussion, Bruce said he would call John M.

Committee Reports & Appointees:

Bruce said the Hazardous Waste Day had 134 people attend, 69 from Craftsbury.

Susan said a replacement is still needed for the Energy Committee.

Susan mentioned Ashley came to the first Conservation Commission meeting and thinks she will be a great asset to the group. They are considering a bench in Steve's memory at the South side of the library. Susan said they Conservation Commission didn't receive the grant to dispose of knotweed.

Susan said the Neighbor to Neighbor group is getting more masks ready, 50 kids masks will be part of the 150 masks this week available. The Monday Soup supper going well and new food location Thursdays at the United Church.

Road Foreman's Report:

Bruce said the Road Crew should be commended for finding and fixing the leaking pipe for Town Hall water. They also should be commended for bringing in water from the fire department to the Town Hall this winter and spring, until the leak was fixed.

Bruce said they are going to document, with GPS coordinates, the spring and waterline and post downstairs.

Clerk Report- Property Tax Timeline from the State:

The Selectboard will meet at 6:30 PM Monday, June 22nd to set the tax rate.

Walk-ins that have business to come before the Select Board:

None

Other Business:

- The Selectboard agreed to the free yoga classes on the Common with Renee Rossie 8-9 AM on Wednesdays in July.
- Jodi Smith from the Recreation Committee would like to have a parade only on Old Home Day. As long as the State allows it at that time, the Selectboard was in agreement.

The Selectboard Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM. Next Selectboard Meeting is scheduled Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Warren, Selectboard Clerk