

Town of Craftsbury Selectboard Minutes

~approved~

Tuesday, July 7, 2020

AGENDA REGULAR MEETING

- Approve the minutes of the last meeting
- Gravel Pit Discussion- Tony VanWinkle
- Delinquent Dogs
- Little Hosmer Sign Update
- Continued Discussion re: Town Resolution to Address Racial Justice & Equity
- Jay Wright - discussion on racial justice committee
- Gate on Mountain Hill Road
- Black Top
- Roadside Mowing
- Committee Reports & Appointees
- Road Foreman's Report
- Clerk Report
- Walk-ins that have business to come before the Select Board
- Other Business

The Selectboard met at Craftsbury Town Hall 7 PM on Tuesday, July 7, 2020. Selectboard present were Bruce Urie, Jim Jones and Susan Houston. Michelle Warren (Selectboard Clerk), Joe LaMare, Jay Wright, David Waterhouse, Susan Waterhouse, Angel Prescott, Iva Wright, Jeannine Young, Mark Masse', Colby Masse, Mandy Woodley, Terry Taylor, Chris Sanville, Tony Jones, Leanne Kinsey, Sung-Hee Chung, Andrew Martin, Bill Quinn, Heather Quinn, Earl Kinsey, Farley Brown, John Zaber, Linda Ramsdell, Cori Jean Demeritt, Opal Savoy and Matt Allen. There were also participants on zoom, Tony VanWinkle, Anne Morse, Penelope Doherty who spoke.

Approve Minutes of Last Meetings:

Jim made motion to approved the minutes of June 16, 2020 as amended. Seconded and approved.

Gravel Pit Discussion- Tony VanWinkle:

Tony wanted to file a formal complaint about the gravel pit. He understands that it is an invaluable public resource and acknowledges it must happen. In late April he was told the gravel production would last 3 weeks, now going on 10 weeks. It has been a long period of time where their quality of life has been disturbed, vibration issues. He appreciated that the workers have observed hours of operation.

There also has been excessive traffic back and forth from town storage area to gravel pit, driving fast with near collision.

He said that in the lease agreement between the town and Margot Day, they were promised, at one time, gravel as part of a gesture. Later he was told in order to do so they would have to load themselves, at our own risk.

So, first he wanted to lodge a formal complaint and second, he asked if the town would consider dropping off a load or two of gravel at his place.

Bruce mentioned they had trouble with scheduling the crushing this year with a new contractor. Bruce said he would check with the road foreman and get back to him in a few days.

Delinquent Dogs:

Bruce said it's time to clean up the number of delinquent dog licenses. They need to make a plan for Emily on how to get dogs licensed. He explained it's a risk if rabies are not updated. **Jim made a motion to have a deadline of 4 weeks for delinquent dogs, motion passed.**

Little Hosmer Sign Update:

The Selectboard Discussed signage for Little Hosmer stating no camping. They are waiting to hear back from Vermont Fish & Wildlife.

Continued Discussion re: Town Resolution to Address Racial Justice & Equity:

Opal read "we the undersigned support the establishment by the Selectboard for a racial justice and equity task force. The task force would be in charge of a rigorous process in order to represent Craftsbury diversity. We recognize our diversity in race, gender identity, sexual orientation, immigration status, religious or political affiliations. This task force would be in charge of facilitating guidelines about racism and other inequities in Craftsbury with a goal of developing an action plan for the town to implement. "

Farley said that the towns of Hardwick, Bennington, Woodstock and Hartland are making statements about working toward understanding racial justice and brought the Selectboard a copy. She also mentioned Gov. Scott's recent resolution regarding racism.

Matt said they received 65 digital signatures and read some of the comments submitted with the signatures.

When asked if they knew of any racial incidents in Town, a few incidents were reported.

Many people spoke of support for the task force and offered to be part of the task force. Overall, supporters wanted the town to come together to have conversation about racism with all kinds of viewpoints, all kinds of backgrounds, anyone who would like to be involved and be willing to listen to one another to help make Craftsbury a safe environment for all.

Jonathan said that if someone feels afraid in our community, we have to respect that and ask what we can do to help.

The Selectboard made a motion to create a racial justice and equity task force, seconded and motion moved.

The Selectboard will work on picking people for the small core task force and are considering a mailing for more town participation.

Jay Wright - Discussion on Racial Justice Committee:

There were concerns that issues didn't happen until BLK signs came up, that it has caused a division in the town. Some felt all lives matter, not just black.

One commented on being discriminated in town because of a shirt worn, another because of their political belief. A person commented, that it hurt when called white privileged.

When asked if the task force would be paid, Bruce reported that it would be a volunteer task force.

Several people were upset of the BLM mural on the Common, that it's town property and should come down.

Gate on Mountain Hill Road:

The gate was put up by Burt Strong. Bruce thinks because it is a class 4 road, and the Strongs own both ends of the road, that a gate would be allowed, as long as it's not locked. They will talk to Bert more about it.

Black Top:

They are still waiting from a quote from Pike. They discussed holding off until next year or maybe only \$20,000 instead of \$60,000 since prices are down \$20/ton.

Roadside Mowing:

Jim reported that Brian is onboard to do roadside mowing in Craftsbury, probably the middle of July through the first week of August. The Selectboard decided on just one pass this year, try to cut back where they can. Jim will still confirm with Brian.

Committee Reports & Appointees:

Susan reported that the Neighbor to Neighbor committee gave the Roussells' the second check of \$500 for the masks, all together they made 600 masks for the Town. Michelle said the task force gave some gift cards to the stores to hand out to those in need.

Susan mentioned the Planning Commission is meeting this week.

Road Foreman's Report:

Bruce said that FEMA cleared Craftsbury to work on the roads hit by the flood last year. The Town crew is working on Town Line road now.

Clerk Report:

Current use came in at \$88,838, which is down a little from last year.

Tax rate for non-residential is \$1.6746, homestead (residential) is \$1.7228. Town tax is .639. Total taxes are up about 12-14 cents from last year.

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

None

Other Business:

None

The Selectboard Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM. Next Selectboard Meeting is scheduled Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Warren, Selectboard Clerk