

**Select Board Meeting, Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 6:30 pm**  
**Town Office Meeting Room: 37 High Street Cavendish, Vermont**

**Present:** Bob Glidden (Chairman), George Timko, Mike Ripley, Sandra Russo, Brendan McNamara (Town Manager), Jen Leak (Recording Secretary), Noah Schmidt (OVTV), and citizens as listed on the attached sheet.

**Absent:** Stephen Plunkard

**1. Call the meeting to order**

Bob Glidden, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

**2. Act upon minutes of January 10<sup>th</sup>, January 20<sup>th</sup> and February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022.**

*Mike Ripley moved/George Timko seconded a motion to approve the minutes of January 10<sup>th</sup>, January 20<sup>th</sup> and February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 as written. All voted in favor.*

**3. Adjust agenda**

There were no adjustments.

**4. Discussion regarding Green Mountain Railroad Right of Way Proposal.**

Brendan said that the Board discussed this request at the January monthly meeting but had postponed a decision pending more details. He said that he had not been in direct contact with anyone at the Railroad yet. Brendan said that he believed they wanted access from the town road to the construction site in order to replace the railroad bridge across the Black River near the intersection of Routes 131 and 103 but he had not heard back regarding the exact location. He said that he and the road foreman would visit the proposed access site once they have more details and he would update the Board.

George asked when the work would take place. Brendan said that he thought they were working on permissions from landowners this year and would do the work next year.

**5. Review of Town Speeding Enforcement Ordinance.**

Brendan passed out copies of the current speeding ordinance to the Board, which was adopted in 2007. He said that the sheriff deputy had recently told him some violations are being thrown out in towns where the ordinances do not list the roads by name. He asked the Board if they wanted him to investigate this matter further and to consider redrafting the ordinance if necessary. George suggested that the ordinance could be amended rather than rewritten. Brendan agreed and said that an adoption hearing would be needed either way. He added that much of the expense of having the sheriff in town is offset by ticket revenue so it would be worth some effort to make sure the violations are enforceable. The Board agreed that Brendan should talk further with the sheriff and work on amending the ordinance.

**6. Select Board to discuss previous ‘Mask Mandate Resolution’**

Brendan reminded the Board that this resolution was made on December 13, 2021 for 45 days so it is now expired. He said that the Board could reinstate it or let it lapse and let individual businesses do what they

want. He added that he thought the Town Office would continue to require masks.

The Board discussed whether they felt the mask resolution was beneficial.

***Bob Glidden moved/George Timko seconded a motion not to reinstate the mask resolution. GT seconded.*** Sandra and Mike commented that they would prefer to keep the mask resolution for another month. ***Bob Glidden and George Timko voted yes. Mike Ripley and Sandra Russo voted no. The motion did not pass.***

The Mask Mandate Resolution will remain lapsed.

#### **7. Review of upcoming Town Meeting and Voting Day.**

Brendan said that the budget should be finished at the last budget meeting on Wednesday. He said that Terry will be present to discuss the Recreation budget. Brendan said that he will also have a draft of the Town Meeting Warning to review.

Brendan reminded the Board that Town Meeting will be a hybrid meeting, taking place in person at the Cavendish Town Elementary School and online via Zoom, on Monday, March 28, 2022 at 7 pm. He said that voting will take place by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 29, at the Proctorsville Fire Station from 10 am – 7 pm, for the town budget and all warned articles. Brendan said that the login information for the Zoom link to Town Meeting will be available in the Town Report and on the Town website.

Brendan added that there will still be voting on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 for the school budgets at the Proctorsville Fire Station from 10 am – 7 pm.

#### **8. Plans for reclaiming the site of the former Highway Garage.**

Brendan said that the former town garage site will be an upcoming summer project. He said that there is ditching material in piles on the site which need to be spread out. He said that the water connection to the Historical Society Museum needs to be replaced. Brendan said that the diesel fuel tank will be moved to the new garage site this summer and eventually also the pole barn. George asked if rebuilding the salt shed is still planned. Brendan said that it was.

Brendan said that Tim Calabrese has designed a site plan for the old garage site with some parking and possibly a park. Brendan said that he is working with regional planning to see what uses are acceptable for the site since there was coal stored there in the past and then it was a garage for 50 years. George added that the affordable housing site in Proctorsville was similar.

Brendan said that he will keep the Board updated and he hoped to start work as soon as the mud clears this spring.

#### **9. Town Manager Report**

Brendan said that the cameras and alarms are installed in the new town garage and seem to be working. He said that when the alarm goes off he can dial into the cameras to see what has triggered it. Brendan said that he is still replacing some of the equipment that was stolen during the last garage break in.

Brendan said that the Act 250 decision discussed at the last Board meeting has been reversed. He said that the original interpretation stands again which is that any parcel over 1 acre will require an Act 250 review. He added that this restores some protection for towns without zoning such as Cavendish.

Brendan said that he has talked with Brett Sanderson from Ludlow Electric Department about switching all the streetlights in Proctorsville over to LED's. He said that there will be some cost to the Town but

Efficiency VT has rebates available and the operating costs will be less. He said that the lighting will also be better. Mary Ormrod was present and said that Peter LaBelle could give figures on the costs savings since the Cavendish streetlights were changed to LED's some time ago.

Brendan said that he is looking into repairing or replacing the sidewalks in Proctorsville.

Brendan said that the Town should be eligible for a Class II paving grant this year which could be used for Tarbell Hill and/or Quent Phelan Rd. He added that High Street and Ranney Hill Rd also badly need work. He said that after Tropical Storm Irene caused all the traffic to be diverted onto High Street it has never been the same.

Brendan said that ARPA funds might be approved for replacing culverts. He said that culverts under Brook Rd and Meadowbrook Farm Rd could wash out if there is another big storm and they should be replaced.

**10. Other business**

Brendan McNamara – none.

George Timko – George asked if the first year for the EV charger is almost up. Brendan said that it is so the Town will soon be charged \$600 per year to be placed on the Statewide EV Station locator system. He said that he is meeting with HB this week to discuss installing a payment method on the charger to deposit into the Town account. He said that Peter Labelle will be putting out a press release to alert people to the change since it has been free to users so far.

Brendan suggested that an EV charger could be installed either behind the Town Office or at the old garage site. Mary said that there are state funds available but they are trying to support areas with nearby multiunit family housing.

Bob added that it takes much longer for emergency personnel to cut someone out of an electric car and when they burn it takes much more water to cool the battery.

Sandra Russo – none.

Mike Ripley – none.

George Timko – none.

**11. Adjourn**

*Mike Ripley moved/Sandra Russo seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:08 pm. All voted in favor.*

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_