

Town of Londonderry, Vermont
Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 11, 2023
Twitchell Building - 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, VT

Board Members Present: Thomas Cavanagh, Martha Dale, Melissa Brown, James Fleming, and Taylor Prouty.

Board Members Absent: None.

Others in Attendance: Town Officials – Town Administrator Shane O’Keefe and Conservation Commission Chair Irwin Kuperberg. Others – Residents Randy Foster and Terry Merrow; and GNAT camera operator Bruce Frauman.

1. Call meeting to order

Selectboard Chair Tom Cavanagh called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

2. Additions or deletions to the agenda **[1 VSA 312(d)(3)(A)]**

Taylor Prouty moved to add to the agenda, under Old Business, consideration of the proposed zoning permit application for new sign for the pollinator garden at the Prouty Property, seconded by Melissa Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Selectboard Pay Orders

Martha Dale moved to approve the pay orders for payroll and accounts payable, seconded by Taylor Prouty. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Roads and Bridges

a. Updates

Prouty mentioned that 1,000 yards of sand has already been delivered, and that a minor repair to the loader at the sand pit has been handled.

Cavanagh noted that Spring Hill Road is expected to be open by the end of the month. Issues with ordering such a large culvert were mentioned.

O’Keefe stated that there would be a meeting with project engineer Everett Hammond the following day to discuss scopes of work for repair of Edge Hill, Rowes and Cohen Roads and Memorial Park. He added that the invitation to bid for storm-related paving is being advertised and bids are due at the end of the week.

Brown mentioned that with all the recent rain parts of Little Pond Road that are eroding and need to be watched.

b. Review bids and award contract for Cobble Ridge Road Bridge Repairs Project

O’Keefe noted that two bids were received for temporary repair of Cobble Ridge Road Bridge, which was severely damaged by the 7/10/2023 storm and resulting flooding. The

solicitation process included a mandatory site visit, he mentioned, and both attendees provided bids as follows:

- Hunter Excavating, Inc. \$192,000
- Ameden Construction, LLC \$90,000

He noted that the engineer's estimate of probable construction cost of the project was \$156,375, and distributed to the Board an email from the engineer that stated that there were no issues with the low bid price.

The Board discussed the large disparity of the bids, and was comfortable with the ability of the low bidder to provide the required services.

Jim Fleming moved to accept the bid from Ameden Construction, LLC for temporary repairs of the storm-damaged Cobble Ridge Road Bridge over the West River, and to authorize the Town Administrator to execute any documents necessary for the hiring of the contractor to provide the necessary services. approve the pay orders for payroll and accounts payable, seconded by Taylor Prouty. The motion passed unanimously.

It was noted that the completion date is scheduled for 11/15/2023, and Prouty mentioned he understands that Ameden can begin work on the bridge right away.

Cavanagh and O'Keefe spoke to ongoing discussions with FEMA and the State of Vermont about funding a permanent replacement of the bridge that meets State hydraulic standards, noting that a VTrans representative quoted an estimated cost of \$5 million for a new bridge.

Cobble Ridge Road neighborhood resident Randy Foster inquired about design for the bridge repairs, and it was explained that the 2011 design plans from the previous repairs from Tropical Storm Irene were used to create the new plans. He expressed concerns about sight lines for traffic coming off the bridge onto VT Route 100 and suggested addressing this in any designs for a permanent replacement bridge. Neighborhood access considerations relative to a new bridge were briefly discussed.

5. New Business

a. Consider request for use of Pingree Park and use of alcoholic beverages in a public place – Londonderry Village Marketplace fundraiser for the American Cancer Society at Pingree Park

Terry Merrow presented his request for use of Pingree Park for day-log cornhole tournament to raise funds for the American Cancer Society as part of its October breast cancer awareness month campaign. Associated Grocers of New England, owner of the Londonderry Village Marketplace, has partnered with the American Cancer Society on this event, which was successfully held in Weston last year. He said that due to anticipated growth and proximity to the Londonderry Village Marketplace, and availability of a playground for families, it is hoped that Pingree Park can be available. Merrow added that it would be BYOB event with no liquor sales and food provided, and no issues with alcohol use would be expected given past experience.

When asked whether the Parks Board had given its approval of the event, Merrow mentioned that he had spoken to Parks Board Chair Kelly Pajala who mentioned there would be no problem with it and directed him to the Selectboard for consideration. Cavanagh added that he had heard no objections from anyone.

Prouty inquired whether additional parking or a police presence would be required, and Merrow stated that attendees could park remotely and that it would not likely be a large enough event to warrant the traffic control. It was generally agreed that this is not required.

On the hours of operation of the event, Brown suggested that ending at dusk as opposed to a specific time would be more appropriate.

Martha Dale moved to authorize the use of Pingree Park by, and grant a permit allowing the use and consumption of alcoholic beverages to, the Londonderry Village Market for an American Cancer Society fundraiser event on Sunday, 10/15/2023 from 8:00 AM to dusk, subject to the conditions that 1) the permittee shall adhere to all local regulations and ordinances, including the Town's Ordinance Relating to the Use of Alcoholic Beverages in Public Places and the Town's Facility Use Policy, and 2) provision prior to the event of an acceptable certificate of insurance indicating adequate liability insurance and which names the Town as an additional insured, seconded by Taylor Prouty. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Old Business

a. Authorize zoning permit application for new sign for pollinator garden at the Prouty Property

Following up from Selectboard concerns expressed at the 8/21/2023 meeting, Irwin Kuperberg spoke on behalf of the Conservation Commission's interest in erecting a sign advertising the pollinator garden planted the previous summer at the Town-owned Prouty property, noting that the Commission had available funds to pay for this. He questioned why the Selectboard would hold up the permit process due to the cost of the sign, and clarified that the sign they are seeking to have made at this time will cost ~\$400, not the \$800 noting in the permit application. Prouty noted that the Board had questions about the source of funding.

The original sign design was too large under the existing Zoning Bylaw, Kuperberg explained, so a revised smaller sign was designed but would be replaced once larger signs are permitted. He added that the "Bee the Change" organization promoting installation of these gardens did not have a requirement for signage, and the sign is the initiative of the Commission.

There was discussion about Town-related signage throughout the community, such as the "Welcome to Londonderry" signs installed the previous year and whether there is, or should be, Town design standards for the sake of consistency and marketing the community. O'Keefe suggested taking up a project to establish a unique Town seal, logo or letterhead as there presently is none for Londonderry.

Dale suggested to Kuperberg that the sign graphics should try to emulate the "Welcome to Londonderry" signs.

Cavanagh stated that he felt that the sign and the future replacement sign would be a waste of taxpayer dollars, and that the property may be the site of a future Town facility. Brown suggested allowing for the smaller sign now and holding further budget discussion when the second sign is proposed. Dale stated that the proposed sign was an appropriate recognition of the pollinator project.

Kuperberg spoke about how the garden was installed and seeded, and how it would be maintained in the future, and how it is attractive to passersby.

It was clarified that the Board is not taking a stand on zoning conformance; only whether a submittal of a permit can be authorized. Use of budgeted funds by boards and committees was briefly discussed. Kuperberg offered that payment for the signs can come from the Conservation Commission's conservation fund, which is not part of the Town budget.

Cavanagh noted the impacts of flood recovery efforts on the Town's budget and the need to create savings where possible. Brown brought up the issue of level-funding of Town budgets over the years.

Melissa Brown moved to authorize the submittal of a zoning permit application related to signage for the pollinator garden on the Town-owned Prouty Property, and authorize the Town Administrator to sign the application on behalf of the Town, seconded by Martha Dale. The motion passed 3-0, with Dale, Brown and Prouty voting aye, and Cavanagh and Fleming voting nay.

7. Adjourn

Melissa Brown moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jim Fleming. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 PM. The next regular meeting of the Selectboard is scheduled for September 18, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shane P. O'Keefe
Town Administrator

Approved September 18, 2023.

LONDONDERRY SELECTBOARD

Thomas Cavanagh, Chair