

SELECTBOARD- TOWN OF BRADFORD

REGULAR MEETING

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 12, 2023

6:00 p.m. at BA Building Rm 26

In Attendance:

**Board Members Present:** Meroa S. Benjamin, Dan A. Perry III, Michael Wright, Ryan Lockwood, Nikki Stevens

**Others Present:** Gary Moore, Ted Unkles, Alex Nuti-de Biasi, Nancy Jones, Marcey Carver, Andrea Wilkins (via zoom), Jean Carlan (via zoom), Marguerite Cawley (via zoom), Elizabeth Friend (via zoom), Colin Kennedy, Monique Priestley, Tom McBride (via zoom), Paul Hunt, Ed Wendell (via zoom), Donna Wing (via zoom), Kyle Katz (via zoom), Molly Morin (via zoom)

Meroa Benjamin, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Additions & Changes to the Agenda:**

Add adoption of the Town Plan.

**Public Comment:**

Nancy Jones made the Selectboard aware that the contractor has started the work on the access road and there may be additional costs for fill up to \$4,000 which will come out of the Friends of Wrights Mountain account.

Ashley Griffen owns the hair salon on the Upper Plan and there is tree that fell in the middle of the road, near the cemetery and there is dispute of who owns the tree. Ashley stated that the cemetery commission was going to remove it but now they're saying it's on the neighbor's property and they're refusing to remove it. The estimated cost for removal is \$4,300.

Dan Perry stated that Green Mountain Power is going to take care of the trees, but it could take up to a year.

Phil Page, Highway Forman, would like it to be documented that he is opposed to any new sidewalks in the Town of Bradford. Phil believes we need to maintain the sidewalk infrastructure that we currently have before we build new ones. It was stated in a few public meetings that he was in support of new sidewalks, and he would like it made clear that he is not and the person that stated that this misspoke on his behalf.

Paul Hunt stated that he would like it documented that he is not a fan of restricting public comments to the beginning of the Selectboard meetings.

Marcey Carver responded to Phil's stating that she over stated his enthusiasm for new sidewalks in Town.

Monique Priestley made the Selectboard aware that the Bradford Resilience committee is meeting on Wednesdays at 8:15a.m. and focusing on the homeless population.

Phil Page made the Selectboard aware that the interstate southbound will be closed starting October 23<sup>rd</sup> for four days during the evening hours.

**Snow Removal Bid/Sidewalk Snow Removal Bid:**

The Selectboard Chair, Meroa Benjamin opened bids from the following:

Snow Removal Bid- Nate Locke

Snow Removal Bid- Jason Fornwalt

Sidewalk Snow Removal Bid- Simmons

Mike Wright made a motion to allow the road commissioners and highway foreman to review and reward the bids.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

**Summer Lawncare Bid:**

The Selectboard Chair, Meroa Benjamin opened bids from the following:

Summer Lawncare Bid- Simmons Lawncare

Mike Wright made a motion to allow the road commissioners and highway foreman to review and reward the bids.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

**Hazard Mitigation Plan:**

Federal Law (FEMA) covers 75% of the cost for municipal facilities and the State of Vermont kicks in 12%. If the Town has a hazard mitigation plan in place, we qualify for the least amount of funds required in the event of a FEMA event.

A committee and Two Rivers took the 2017 plan and updated it.

Steps for approval include:

Present it to the Selectboard.

Send it to the State division.

Comes back for formal adoption by the Selectboard.

Then gets sent to FEMA.

The plan needs to be updated every five years.

**Conservation/Energy Committee:**

The Energy Committee would like to become a separate committee from the Conservation Commission.

They're recommending that they have their own set of bylaws, appointed positions, terms and budget within the Town. They believe this will make them become a more permanent committee, help with visibility issues and the purchasing process.

**Highway- Structures Grant:**

Dan Perry made a motion to approve the request for reimbursement for the structures grant in the amount of \$200,000.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

**VLCT's Welcoming and Engaging Communities Program:**

Training for town leaders, town staff and employees. Eight hours total training at a cost of \$100. Dates are December 12, March 12, May 14. At least three people need to sign up and attend to insurance the \$100 cost.

Send training opportunity out to staff and committee members and see what there is for response.

**Draft Public Records Policy & Request Form:**

VLCT recommends that the Town has a public records policy in place have a policy in place, a sample was in the packet. Take and adjust it to fit Bradford.

Review and come back with a new draft.

**Draft Refund Policy:**

The draft policy needs more updates to include when the Town asks for donations it should state there is no refunds and be more diligent on how we ask and accept donations.

Review and come back with a new draft.

**Special Liquor Licenses:**

Ryan Lockwood made a motion to approve the following special liquor licenses.  
Montview Winery on November 4, 2023, at Farmway.  
Shelburne Vineyard on October 21, 2023, at Farmway.  
Eden Ice Cider Company on October 21, 2023, at Farmway.  
MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

**Thanksgiving Meeting Date Change:**

Dan Perry made a motion to approve the date change for the Selectboard meeting that falls on Thanksgiving to: Tuesday, October 21 at 6:00 p.m.  
MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

**Purchase Orders:**

Mike Wright made a motion to approve the purchase order for the Heather Carrington Development Services for the Municipal Planning Grant through CCDS in the amount of \$1,500.  
MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

**BA Use Applications:**

Ryan Lockwood made a motion to approve Parks and Recreation to use auditorium and stage on January 18, 2024, February 15, 2024, March 21, 2024, April 18, 2024, for a sing a long event from 4p.m.-9p.m.  
MOTION PASSED, 4 VOTES IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, 1 (MEROA BENJAMIN) VOTE OPPOSED.

Dan Perry made a motion to approve Oxbow middle school basketball practice in the gymnasium from November 27, 2023, to February 23, 2024, Monday through Friday 3p.m.-9p.m.  
MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

**Minutes:**

Nikki Stevens made a motion to approve the minutes of September 28, 2023.  
MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

**Orders:**

Dan Perry made a motion to approve the orders dated October 13, 2023, in the amount of \$250,850.65.  
MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

**Town Plan:**

Mike Wright made a motion to adopt the town plan with the modification that is recommended from Two Rivers Ottawaquechee for policy number five in Land Use and have Two Rivers accept the plan.  
MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Mike Wright made a motion to accept the Enhanced Energy Compliance Resolution.  
MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

**Other Business:**

Meroa Benjmain received letters from four Oxbow students for a class that she responded to directly. Four letters from Oxbow Highschool as part of American government class included topics of:

1. Crime/homeless people
2. Maintenance on back roads
3. Bridge interstate 91 on fairground road becoming a hazard
4. Nothing to do in town

Andrea Wilkin, Recreation Director, made the Selectboard aware that the pole next to tennis court is cracked, she is going to get a hold of Green Mountain Power to replace.

**Personnel- Executive Session:**

Nikki Stevens made a motion that the Selectboard has determined that a personnel issue needs to be discussed in executive session because the premature public knowledge would place both the Town and the employee at substantial disadvantage.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Nikki Stevens made a motion to go into executive session at 7:25 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue as allowed by 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1).

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

The Selectboard came out of executive session at 8:12 p.m.

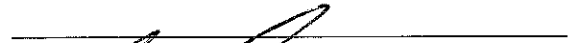
The selectboard adjourned at 7:38 p.m.



Meroa S. Benjamin, Chair



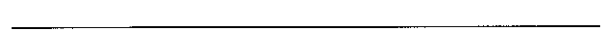
Daniel A. Perry III, Vice Chair



Ryan Lockwood



Michael Wright



Nikki Stevens