

1 **SELECTBOARD MEETING**

2 October 20, 2021

3 Attending the meeting in person; Merrily Lovell, Maggie Gordon, Dennis Place, Joy Dubin Grossman,  
4 Todd Odit, Robert Frost, Anne Frost, Jason Bassard, Brendan Keenan, Kendall Keenan, Mitch Cypes.

5 Attending the meeting remotely; Phil Pouech, Mike Loner, David Whitney, Shannon Kelley, Colin Connor,  
6 Missy Ross, Pat Souzzi, Charlie Baker, Mike Bissonette, Robert Hedden, Alex Weinhagen, Val Spadaccini.

7 Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

8 Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

9 None

10 Public Comment

11 None

12 Selectboard Forum

13 Mike said he has had a couple communications regarding vehicle noise on Rt 116. He is not sure how  
14 much enforcement the Town has on that. He suggests we address noise when we talk about traffic  
15 calming.

16 Phil reported the United Church chicken pie supper has sold out.

17 Merrily noted when Andrea Morgante retired after 27 years on the Selectboard, Phil wrote a resolution  
18 which was to be placed on the pedestrian bridge on Mechanicsville Rd. Now, thanks to many  
19 individuals the document has been placed on a plaque that is mounted on a brass plate and bolted to  
20 the bridge.

21 Merrily said Joy and Todd worked on a draft assessment which includes the goals for the Town Manager.  
22 She hopes the Board can have a second retreat at which they will review it.

24 Approve Minutes of 9/15/21, 9/23/21, 10/1/21, and 10/6/21

25 Maggie moved to approve the minutes of 9/15/21 as amended. Seconded by Phil and approved with 5  
26 yes votes.

27 Maggie moved to approve the minutes of 9/23/21 as amended. Seconded by Phil and approved with 5  
28 yes votes.

29 Maggie moved to approve the minutes of 10/01/21 as amended. Seconded by Phil and approved with 5  
30 yes votes.

31 Maggie moved to approve the minutes of 10/06/21 as amended. Seconded by Phil and approved with 5  
32 yes votes.

33 Lake Iroquois Association Update – Shannon Kelley

34 Shannon Kelley, president of the Association, shared highlights of the work of the LIA last year.

- 35 • significant decrease in phosphorus levels continue
- 36 • they are a co-awardee of a Lake Champlain Basin Program Watershed Action plan grant
- 37 • they have completed the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of a lake wide management plan
- 38 • worked with LIRD to apply for an implementation grant to address Beebe Lane stormwater
- 39 problems
- 40 • aquatic invasives management; application of herbicide on 6/28 treating 40% of the impacted
- 41 area, deployed channel markers for boats.
- 42 • greeter and boat wash program
- 43 • data collection of samples from tributaries
- 44 • completion of aquatic plant survey on 9/13 showed no milfoil and only invasive found was curly
- 45 leaf pondweed
- 46 • conservation – Loon restoration project
- 47 • outreach and education – creation of a lakeshore property owner’s manual addressing shoreline
- 48 health
- 49 • addition of the ice out challenge – funds from sale of tickets are used for shoreline protection
- 50 efforts

51 Maggie asked how much funding they are requesting from other towns and how much they have

52 received from other towns. Shannon said the request is \$15,000 from Williston / Richmond \$2000 to

53 support the greeter program and \$1000 from the Richmond Conservation Commission toward the plant

54 survey. Last year they received \$7500 from Williston and \$7500 from Hinesburg. Maggie asked how

55 many homes have been awarded gold status on the Lakewise program. Pat S said 6 have received the

56 award and there a few more working on it now. Pat said they need about 14 homes to achieve gold

57 status for the lake.

58 Phil asked what the next plan is for the herbicide use on the milfoil? Shannon said the permit is good for

59 five years. They will do a plant survey earlier in the season next year to detect milfoil which will guide

60 the decision regarding another treatment. Phil asked why the DASH program was not done last year.

61 Shannon said the long term plan is to do selective diver work on certain areas of the Lake.

62 Mike asked what funding was used to pay for the herbicide? Shannon said it was funded through

63 donations and no Hinesburg funds were used per the Selectboard’s request.

64 Shannon said the strongest goal for the future is to increase the greeter program.

65 Mojo Update and Request for Removal of Orders – Michelle Sudol

66 Phil referred to the paperwork submitted by Michelle. He was hoping there would be a specific

67 statement from the trainer regarding Mojo being muzzled when on the trails.

68 Maggie asked if the Board specifically asked for that. Todd said he does not believe we did. He added

69 he is not sure the trainer would be willing to make such a statement.

70 At the last meeting the request from Michelle was that she be allowed not to have to use the muzzle.

71 Val Spadaccini asked about the mention of training by use of a shock collar, is that one of the methods  
72 that will be used when the dog is walked on the trails to keep him under control. Merrily said it is not  
73 clear in the report from the trainer.

74 Todd said he will email Michelle and let her know the Board is looking to clarify these questions.

75 South Boutin Road Improvement & Easement Request – Robert and Anne Frost

76 Dennis recused himself as this project is before the DRB which he chairs.

77 Mitch C said this is for 3 units on a single access which requires a road name.

78 Jason B., engineer for the project, reviewed the plans with the Board. The Frost's are requesting  
79 proposed improvements to Boutin Rd South and stormwater infrastructure within the right-of-way.

80 Mitch explained the decision of the DRB was that they come to the Selectboard as they are proposing  
81 work in the Town right-of-way. The second request is to put a stormwater system in the public right-of-  
82 way.

83 Merrily said her understanding is that this is class 3 road that the Board intended to make a class 4 but  
84 the paperwork was not completed.

85 David Whitney, design engineer, said it currently is designed as a wet pond. Merrily asked if it could be  
86 located out of the right-of-way. David said that would require moving more earth and would be costly.

87 Phil said if we are looking to make it class 4 road the Town will not be maintaining the roadway. He  
88 addressed the Frost's providing the legal documents so the Town can approve this with the stipulation  
89 that this is not infrastructure that the Town will ever have to maintain. It would be the responsibility of  
90 the owners of the three lots.

91 Merrily said she is not in favor of putting stormwater in a Town right-of-way.

92 Dave W asked who is responsible for culverts under driveways as those are stormwater conveyance  
93 infrastructure. Todd said that is to deal with the run off from the road not from the individual driveway.  
94 Mitch said if in the Town right-of-way, the Town maintains but it generally is for road run off.

95 Mike suggested research be done to find out if this was voted to be a class 4 road and what happened to  
96 the lost paperwork.

97 Merrily said the Board needs time to consider this and suggests the request come back at a future date.  
98 Phil said it would be good to get input from Mike Anthony.

99 Robert Hedden, homeowner on the other end of the road, said if there are three families on the road it  
100 seems to him it should be a class 3 road. He currently maintains the road but will not continue to do so if  
101 it serves three properties. He added that he does not think the wildlife habitat intrusion has been  
102 resolved, the proposed driveway interferes with this. He also mentioned there are wetlands on all sides  
103 of the property.

104 Mitch said the core wildlife is being addressed by the DRB.

105 Brendan K, who is looking to purchase one of the lots, said re-doing the driveway makes maintenance  
106 easier.

107 Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission Annual Report

108 Charlie Baker of CCRPC highlighted Hinesburg's projects.

109 Phil noted a priority of Hinesburg is traffic calming, pedestrian and biking access. Phil asked the status  
110 of the I-89 study. Charlie said they have been focused on what can be done to reduce traffic demand.

111 Merrily asked about the possibility of school buses being used for public transportation. Charlie said  
112 there are statutory and legal hurdles to doing this.

113 Dennis asked what can be done to encourage students to ride the bus. One of the biggest traffic  
114 problems in the morning is parents driving children to school. Mike B said with COVID perhaps this is  
115 not the time to address this.

116 Phil asked if the CCRPC is involved in looking at regionalization of services. Charlie said this is really  
117 driven by the municipalities.

118 Consider Approval for Applying for a Transportation Alternatives Grant

119 Todd reviewed past actions on the Lantman's / Charlotte Rd intersection and the current grant  
120 opportunity.

121 Todd noted applying for the grant does not bind you to accepting the grant.

122 Phil moved to apply for the grant as described in the Board's packet. Seconded by Merrily and approved  
123 with 5 yes votes.

124

125 Town Meeting 2022 Voting and Budget Discussion

126 Todd said an exception has been made in the process to change to Australian ballot for voting the  
127 budget. This would allow for a special vote before the end of the calendar year to make the change.

128 Phil said he does not feel there is enough time to have good discussion and input to do this. He thinks  
129 we can safely hold the in person Town Meeting.

130 Missy agrees it would feel rushed and she has asked Bill Lippert to bring it up in the legislature to extend  
131 the voting option from last year.

132 Dennis feels it is important and does not want to risk only 75 or 100 people deciding on the budget.  
133 Phil pointed out it usually is only 150 or less that show up for Town Meeting.

134 Mike agrees with Phil's comment and does not want to make it feel like we are trying to push it through.

135 Merrily summarized that from the discussion it seems the Board is looking to have a regular Town  
136 Meeting as they don't want to force a vote on the Australian Ballot question, so no action is necessary.  
137 If they do want to have the budget voted by Australian Ballot and the legislature does not allow an

138 exception, action is required. A vote would need to be warned between 11/15 and 11/19 with the vote  
139 to take place between 12/14 and 12/21.

140 Dennis pointed out even with Australian Ballot there would still be a Town Meeting where people can go  
141 to discuss items.

142 The Board will make a decision at the Nov 3 meeting and is encouraging residents to contact the Board  
143 with their opinions.

144 Todd reviewed the process of voting on a Capital Budget and said he is separating this in the budget to  
145 familiarize people with the way the budget looks in anticipation of voting to adopt a Capital Tax Rate.

146 Discussed budget meetings. Possibility of Saturday meetings to avoid late night meetings.

147 Town Manager's Update

- 148 • Richmond Rd intersection study – there was a question regarding installation of the 4 way stop  
149 sign. A separate engineering study was done, recommending the 4 way stop sign.
- 150 • Crosswalk at Annett's Pre-school – the crosswalk at the church has been repainted and new  
151 signs installed.
- 152 • There were no bids received for sidewalk repairs.
- 153 • Richmond Rescue has been on call since 10/1 with an average response time of 16:16.
- 154 • The two FT HFD employees began on 10/4, unfortunately one has left. The open position has  
155 been posted.

156 Joy reported on activity of the landfill water issue. Two more tests had come back negative and they are  
157 waiting on another. The POET system is being installed at the Turner residence on Monday. There is no  
158 date for installation of the system at the Town Garage yet.

159 She has been working on the diversity and equity inclusion. After talking with more people Joy feels it is  
160 best to go back to a workgroup rather than formation of a committee.

161 Consider Approving Warrants

162 Maggie moved to approve the warrants signed by herself and Merrily, including payroll, as submitted by  
163 the Town Treasurer. Seconded by Phil and approved with 5 yes votes.

164 Adjourn

165 Maggie moved to adjourn at 9:45 p.m., seconded by Phil and approved with 5 yes votes.

166 Respectfully submitted,

167 Valerie Spadaccini, clerk of the Board

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