

Town of Bristol, Vermont
Selectboard Meeting Minutes of
Monday October 7, 2019

Selectboard members present: Chair Joel Bouvier, Peter Coffey, Peeker Heffernan, and Michelle Perlee.

Staff present: Board Clerk Tasha Bouvier, Town Administrator Valerie Capels, and Chief of Police Bruce Nason.

Others present: Ian Albinson, Sally Burrell, Eric Carter, Annie Denny, Kevin Hanson, Megan Harris, Gary Kessler, Shawn Kimball (NEATv), Jason Lathrop, Jodi Lathrop, Ted Lylis, Bill Mount, Slim Pickens, Jim Quaglino, and Carol Wells.

I. Call to Order.

1. Chair Joel Bouvier called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There are no additions, removals, or adjustments to the agenda per 1 V.S.A. §312(d)(3)(A).

II. Public Forum.

Jim Quaglino announced that he is withdrawing his name from Selectboard candidates. He also handed out resignation letters to the Selectboard for himself and all members of the Police Advisory Committee.

III. Public Forum.

1. Jodi Lathrop: Green Mountain Stage Race concerns. Jodi Lathrop works at the Lathrop Mill on South Street and has properties on Brown Road and Notch Road. She is tired of having the race. She is not completely against the race but would like to see the route changed. There were cement blocks put onto her property on Notch Road and it's dangerous. If the race is confirmed for next year, she will contact a lawyer and make sure that the Stage Race has the proper insurance, make sure the Stage Race adds her property and her family to the insurance, and that she is not liable if someone gets hurt on her property. Jodi Lathrop said an ambulance was parked in her driveway. At her business on South Street there were several bicyclists that were rude to her.

Gary Kessler, race organizer, said next year will be the 20th anniversary. He said the bicyclists come through between 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. He was not sure why the ambulance was there, but they may have been taking care of a medical situation. He said he would be happy to get Jodi Lathrop a binder of information and she can be included on the insurance just like the Town of Bristol is. Gary said he would be happy to look at changing the route to go on Hewitt Road.

2. Request to close School Street and change traffic flow on Park Place on October 31, 2019 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., for Truck or Treat event off the Town Green. Megan Harris, an American Legion Auxiliary member in Bristol, and Ted Lylis a Sons of the American Legion member in Bristol, explained the details of the proposed event. They are planning on getting better lighting from the Bristol Fire Department. No parking would start at 3 p.m. and be done around 8:00 p.m. Peeker Heffernan moved to allow the Trunk or Treat event by the American Legion to close Park Place and School Street from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Peter Coffey seconded. So

voted. Megan Harris said they will notify businesses around the park of the street closing. Ian Albinson said Bristol Core has some lighting that they could borrow as well.

3. Selectboard vacancy candidate interviews. Jim Quaglino and David Cobb removed their names from being considered for appointment to the Selectboard vacancy. The remaining candidates are as follows: Ian Albinson, Eric Carter, Annie Denny, Brian Fox, Kevin Hanson, and Bill Mount. Following brief discussion, there was agreement that members would leave the room while each individual candidate was interviewed, up to fifteen minutes would be allocated for each interview, and names would be drawn to determine the order. A list of questions had been provided to candidates prior to the meeting and some provided written responses. The candidates were interviewed in the following order: Bill Mount, Annie Denny, Ian Albinson, Eric Carter, Kevin Hanson, and Brian Fox.

Deliberation continued in executive session.

IV. Regular Business.

1. Main Street Sidewalk and Lighting Project: budget updates, final plan details, VTrans finance and maintenance agreement. Valerie Capels reported that the documents were received late Friday and today. The final design plans appear to reflect the details discussed. The finance and maintenance agreement is largely boiler plate and also appears to reflect provisions discussed. Peeker Heffernan moved to approve and authorize Town Administrator to sign the Finance and Maintenance Agreement between State of Vermont and Town of Bristol for Bristol STP PC 20(2) contract number FM0364. Peter Coffey seconded. So voted. Valerie noted the costs increased due to more current bid data. These are all estimates and until the bids come in, we will not have final numbers. The figures are still lower than the original project. There is \$142,000 in grant funding and the remaining balance would be roughly \$235,000.

2. Police Department grant summary request: Governor's Safety Highway Program. Chief of Police Bruce Nason explained this coming year Vergennes is going to be the host agency again and Bristol is looking to be a sub-agency. Up to \$5,000 will be allotted for equipment and a proposal must be written up for it. Chief Nason said he is looking at a possible solar-powered portable speed radar sign. Peter Coffey moved to approve grant summary request for the Police Department for the Governor's Safety Highway Program. Michelle Perlee seconded. So voted.

3. New street name request: Hillside Drive. New street name request: Jackman Drive. Michelle Perlee moved to approve the new street names Hillside Drive and Jackman Drive. The Hillside Drive is the Scott and Mary Purrinton property off Purrinton Road and Jackman Drive is off Pine Street. Peter Coffey seconded. So voted.

4. Consider appointment to fill vacant Selectboard seat. Moved to Executive Session.

5. Approval of September 16, 2019 meeting minutes. Peter Coffey moved to approve September 16, 2019 meeting minutes with Michelle Perlee's corrections. Peeker Heffernan seconded. So voted.

6. Authorize accounts payable warrant and any liquor licenses. Accounts payable warrant: \$97,391.02.

7. Selectboard concerns.

Peter Coffey went to the VLCT annual meeting and they discussed their 2020 legislative session issues. One priority is letting towns and cities make decisions at the local level. The state must approve the change. For example, Stowe has bike path which does not allow E-bikes on it, but the state says they are allowed. There was a warning about regionalizing the clean water act. It's in the early stages. Regarding Emergency Medical Services, there are two agencies that went out of business in the last year and VLCT is trying to find support for training and recruitment. VLCT will continue to oppose unfunded mandates. Peter reported he got an email from a citizen that there is an opportunity to get a free electric charger from GMP for a local business. Ian Albinson said the Energy Committee was contacted as well.

Michelle Perlee said there are three lights out on Main Street and was wondering if they were going to be replaced. Valerie Capels will look into it. Michelle noted that the Memorial Park the stairs have been removed and the bridge is blocked off. You can only enter from the back side.

Joel Bouvier noted that he asked for the Main Street lighting project to have 4 circuits instead of 2. Joel said at Eagle Park there is a big tree that is coming into the fishing platform and asked if Eric Cota can reach down remove it with a chain. The Christmas tree on the Town Green Park has some dead branches that will be trimmed. The Rene Carpenter paving has not started. Joel reported that he, Valerie Capels, Alan Huizenga, and Jamie Simpson met and there is a \$2 million grant program for water systems that have lead joints in their pipes. The \$2 million is split between different towns in Vermont. This will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

Peeker Heffernan reported that they finally found the leaking water line that goes over to Plank Road from Pine Street and it is shut off.

8. Town Administrator's report. Valerie Capels reported the National Bank of Middlebury does not support the Pop-up park project at this time. There is a significant roof leak in Holley Hall. Meredith McFarland has been dealing with it and will be able to provide an update at the next meeting. Final figures for new grader have been received and it is moving forward. We received word that the Town did receive \$500,000 the grant through the Northern Border Regional Commission for the infrastructure at the new Stoney Hill business park. We also were awarded \$20,000 through the ACRPC Transportation Advisory Committee for a feasibility study for a sidewalk from Lovers Lane to Airport Drive.

V. Other Business.

1. Correspondence, reports, correspondence received.

Valerie Capels noted that additional policies for the Bristol Police Department are provided and that the Selectboard would no longer be taking action to adopt them.

VI. Executive Session.

Michelle Perlee moved to enter executive session finding that premature general knowledge would clearly place the Selectboard or other parties at a substantial disadvantage regarding personnel matters per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). Peter Coffey seconded. So voted. Bruce Nason was invited to join part of the executive session.

The Selectboard met in executive session from 9:14pm to 10:08pm. Upon returning to open session Michelle Perlee made the motion to set a hearing before the Board on October 29, 2019, 6:00pm, pursuant to 24 VSA 1932, by which the Board shall determine whether Town of Bristol Police Officer George Crowe is guilty of negligence, dereliction of duty, or conduct unbecoming an officer, and if so, determine appropriate discipline, and to authorize the Chair or his/her designee in consultation with the Chief of Police, to provide Officer Crowe with the requisite notice as to said hearing pursuant to 24 VSA 1932; and a motion to suspend Town of Bristol Police Officer George Crowe from duty/employment, with pay, effectively immediately, and at least until the hearing now set for October 29, 2019 with regard to his employment. Peeker Heffernan seconded. The motion passed 3-1 with Joel Bouvier voting no.

Peter Coffey made a motion that because there were so many quality candidates to fill the Selectboard member vacancy to schedule a public vote for Tuesday, December 3, 2019. Petitions would be due by October 28 and whoever is elected will fill the remainder of the term to 2022. Peeker Heffernan seconded. So voted.

Peeker Heffernan made a motion to accept Firefighter Merle Knight's resignation effective October 2, 2019 with regret. Peter Coffey seconded. So voted.

VII. Adjourn.

Michelle Perlee made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Peter Coffey. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tasha Bouvier
Board Clerk

Valerie Capels
Town Administrator