

Town of Bristol, Vermont
Selectboard Meeting Minutes of
Monday November 9, 2020

Selectboard Members present: Chair Michelle Perlee, Ian Albinson, Joel Bouvier, and Darla Senecal.

Staff present: Board Clerk Tasha Bouvier, Town Administrator Valerie Capels, Public Works Director Eric Cota, Fire Chief Brett LaRose, and Police Chief Bruce Nason.

Others present: Lynn Dike, Kevin Hanson, Filming for NeatTV Shawn Kimball, Porter Knight, Andrew L'Roe (ACRPC), Marie Miller, Jim Pulver (Breadloaf), Jim Quaglino, Katie Raycroft-Meyers, Steve Rooney, Jessica Teets, and Tom Wallace.

I. Call to Order.

1. Chair Michelle Perlee called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Review agenda for addition, removal, or adjustment of any items per 1 V.S.A. §312(d)(3)(A). There were no additions, removals, or adjustments.

2. Overview of Zoom meeting operation and procedures: rules for participation, mute microphone, recognition by Chair, etc.

II. Public Forum. None.

III. Public Hearing: Proposed Bristol Town Plan Update.

Valerie Capels explained that the Planning Commission has done a lot work, with support from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, to produce this updated Town Plan.

Andrew L'Roe explained the plan includes a number of updated sections, data, goals, policies, and implementation strategies. Katie Raycroft-Reilly outlined components of the new enhanced energy plan. Darla Senecal commended the efforts on the housing section and data provided.

There was considerable discussion about the enhanced energy plan, energy efficiency, renewable energy, battery recycling, natural gas, and power rates. Kevin Hanson provided information about energy matters. The Town Plan would be voted on in March of 2021. This is the first public hearing. The second public hearing will be scheduled for December 14, 2020. The transmittal memo and report that the Planning Commission sent on October 8, 2020 was referenced.

IV. Regular Business.

1. Continued discussion of Public Works and Police Department site and analysis with the Bread Loaf design team. Valerie Capels explained this is a continuation from the November 2 meeting. Steve Rooney provided an overview of three options for moving forward with subsurface investigation of key parts of the site. Joel Bouvier moved to go with option #2, which involves using an excavator to dig test pits with representatives from Bread Loaf and a geotechnical engineer on site. Darla Senecal seconded. So voted. Bread Loaf would hire the geotechnical engineer as a subconsultant.

2. Request by MAUSD Athletic Director & Activities Coordinator Devin Wendel to allow a cross-country trail around the landfill. Public Works Foreman Eric Cota had no concerns but

noted that if the loop goes on any of the road, it may get plowed and sanded if the crew needs to get their stockpiles in that area. Nils Behn with Aegis Renewable Energy and part of the AES3 team noted that the only area that may need to be accommodated is the section of the trail that goes around the eastern corner of the array where it is possible there may be above ground conduit that would need to be bridged if the trail is going to cross it. The height would be not more than 24 inches. Joel Bouvier suggested that the trees proposed to be cut be marked and stakes installed to show the trail location. Michell Perlee will get in touch with Devin Wendel.

3. Review of draft Winter Road and Sidewalk Maintenance Policies. Joel Bouvier said he would like to discuss at next meeting as he did not get a chance to read it. Valerie Capels suggested that Main Street sidewalk plowing and accumulated snow removal be discussed. Ian Albinson said he would like to see the sidewalk plow be adjusted to enable more of the sidewalk to be cleared. Main Street businesses said they prefer salt rather than sand being used however salt would not be good for the new sidewalks. He suggested certain sections of the sidewalk and intersections be cleared by an independent contractor. He believes it should be the Town's responsibility to keep the sidewalk clear. Eric Cota said you cannot snow blow the Main Street sidewalks. He also noted that the new all-angle plow they looked into last year would tear up the lawns on along the 4-foot wide sections of sidewalk elsewhere in the village. The suggestion that the Town provide barrels of salt was briefly discussed. Salt should not be used on the new sidewalk for this first year. Joel noted that the National Bank of Middlebury staff are directed to shovel the sidewalks and the Town of Middlebury lets the snow accumulate. Eric explained that sidewalk plowing begins between around 5:00am in the morning and is done by the time school starts. For large storms, the sidewalks get plowed again around 1:00pm in time for when school lets out. It takes about 2 ½ hours for one round with the plow and up 5 to 6 hours if the sidewalks need to be snow blowed. The new plow would cost about \$6,000. Joel suggested having the sidewalks plowed again around 10:00am for large storms. There was a consensus of the Selectboard to have the person who is hired to shovel the sidewalks at Holley Hall also clear the corners at the intersection.

Brett LaRose asked whose responsibility is it to clear the fire hydrants. It was agreed that it is VTUMS' responsibility. Eric will check with Cyrus Marsano about what policy they use to determine how often they are cleared. There are 85 hydrants. The suggestion was made to try to encourage residents to take more responsibility for clearing nearby hydrants.

The proposed policy for removal of accumulated snow was discussed. It was agreed that it remain a broad statement but add removal as time and resources allow.

4. March Town Meeting planning in the age of COVID-19: in-person, Zoom, combination, or other. Selectboard finds it difficult to have a zoom town meeting and more than likely will need to have everything by Australian ballot.

Whether signatures will be required for appropriation petitions was discussed. Selectboard members were reluctant to not require the petition for new or increased requests. Concerns were expressed about the risk of COVID-19 exposure and whether people would be willing to sign petitions.

5. Consider selection of contractor for EWP 5038-019 Lewis Creek Streambank Repair. *May include deliberation in executive session regarding contract negotiations.* Valerie Capels said there were 8 businesses that bid on this project. Marie Miller said she would love to see Josh Masterson get the bid since she has known him forever and he has done work for her in the past and has done an excellent job. The Selectboard will discuss this in Executive Session.

6. Coronavirus COVID-19 update: preparations, response, and impacts to municipal operations. No new updates.

7. Paving and sidewalk projects updates. Valerie Capels and Ian Albinson reported that we are closing in on the completion on the Main Street project. A number of East Street property owners have been disappointed with the green space area and would prefer stone. There was a consensus of the Selectboard to allow residents to add stone along their driveways without a right-of-way permit but that stone would not be allowed in the green space.

8. Approval of the October 26 and November 2, 2020 meeting minutes. These will both be moved to next meeting.

9. Authorize accounts payable warrant and any liquor licenses. Accounts Payable warrant \$1,906,185.17.

10. Selectboard roundtable.

a. Joel Bouvier said Briggs Hill is beginning to slide and Eric Cota is working on getting a price to fix it. The 300 feet of slide could cost more than \$300,000 to fix. They are working with ECI to get a price for purchasing sheet pilings from the Middlebury project. Joel Bouvier said Eric Cota is also getting a price for 100 more concrete blocks for the Upper Notch land slide issue.

b. Darla Senecal had said some work was being done by Public Works on her road and some neighbors complained saying they were not wearing masks. Eric Cota said they were more than 6 feet apart when he saw them.

11. Town Administrator's report.

Valerie Capels reported that the VTrans grant application for Basin Street did not get funded. Feedback they gave was the volume of applications far exceeded the funds. The status of the Monkton Road paving grant is a little unclear but appears to be on hold.

Joel Bouvier expressed concerns about the new automated phone system Valerie noted she has been getting many calls since she is option #1 on the menu. Selectboard members suggested that option #1 be for general inquiries. Ian said the greeting takes too long to go through and the options should be reorganized. Valerie will follow up with Jen Myers.

V. Other Business.

1. Correspondence, reports, correspondence received. The Selectboard acknowledged the ACRPC grant for the Lincoln Road intersection was funded.

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 contract negotiations per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(A). Ian Albinson seconded. So voted.

The Selectboard met in executive session from 10:33pm to 11:00pm. Upon returning to open session, Ian Albinson moved to accept Parent Construction's bid for the Lewis Creek streambank repair project. Darla Senecal seconded. So voted.

VII. Adjourn:

At 11:00 p.m. Ian Albinson moved to adjourn the meeting. Darla Senecal seconded. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Tasha Bouvier
Board Clerk

Valerie Capels,
Town Administrator