

Bristol Town Administrator

From: Bristol Town Administrator
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 3:35 PM
To: Brett LaRose; Bruce Nason; Eric Cota ; Jen Myers - Town of Bristol ; Kris Perlee; Meridith McFarland ; Sharon Lucia - Bristol Town Clerk; Taylor Welch; Lister; Bristol Recreation; Peter Ryan; Gail James
Cc: Jill Marsano; Cyrus Marsano
Subject: Update from Monday's Selectboard meeting

Hi All,

Below is an update from Monday's Selectboard meeting:

- Three items were added to the agenda to be taken up under Other Business: new street name for Greg West's Lower Notch development and two resignations.
- Brett updated the Board on the status of Engine 1 (not good). He will bring options for providing service without this vehicle to the August 23 Selectboard meeting.
- Bruce announced the Community Conversation on Policing scheduled for this coming Saturday, 1:00pm, at Holley Hall and Zoom.
- Eric provided updates on Truck 2, ditching, culverts, and other dept. activities.
- The Selectboard accepted the Auditor proposal from RHR Smith and Company out of Buxton, Maine for conducting the FY2021, FY2022, and FY2023 audits.
- 802 Excavating's bid was accepted for Upper Notch Road ditching at \$7,252.50.
- Michele Gilbert from RiseVT met with the Board to discuss traffic calming options for the area of West Street near the Creeme Stand. She will meet with Jessica Teets, Ian, and others also working on other traffic calming measures for the village.
- The Briggs Hill Road curb cut application was approved.
- The Liberty Street curb cut application was approved.
- A substantially reorganized and [revised draft Bristol Water Use Ordinance](#) was received only that afternoon and was briefly reviewed. Folks will take time to go through it and it will likely be on the next agenda for continued discussion. Kevin Brown made a number of substantive adjustments, such as:
 - He separated and reorganized things in various places and found redlining got way too cumbersome. He said to follow the section titles.
 - He saw many drafting issues, redundancies, and ambiguities that needed to be addressed. There were a few illegalities as well and provisions which the Town has no authority to regulate (e.g. what a court can and cannot do). In other areas, the Town was binding itself in ill-advised or unnecessary ways.
 - He said some changes were minor, but important. For example, the ordinance defines "shall" as mandatory, but then hardly ever used "shall." Instead, he saw "will" throughout when the intent was to create an obligation or requirement.
 - He used the terms service line and service connection (see definitions) for brevity and clarity.
 - He added the authority to issue a Stop Work Order in the enforcement section which could be very important to halt improper work from continuing. He said it is better to do that than have the work proceed to completion while a municipal ticket is pending or waiting to be issued. The enforcement section is also now clear that the Town can enforce against an installer.
 - He also specifically required dig-in-the-street permits for work in the public highway ROW.
- The June 14, 2021 minutes were approved.

- Warrant was approved. The Hogback Mountain Brewing special event permit was approved, as amended to run to 8:00pm.
- Selectboard roundtable:
 - Ian thanked Eric for putting up the Pedestrian No Turn on Red signs downtown. Eric said he didn't do it. :)
 - Ian reported that 6 of the new benches have been assembled and placed on Main Street. Next is to assemble the picnic tables to be placed in the Town Green.
 - Joel asked about the status of the Memorial Park bridge replacement planning. I reported that Porter had been working with Green Mountain Engineering through a grant to come up with an installation plan for the new bridge. I believe they encountered a snag, but don't know (or remember) more beyond that.
 - Joel expressed concern about the basketball hoops that encroach into the street and interfere with vehicles. He asked if Bruce could stop and chat with the people using the hoops, if they're out when he's passing by, to remind them to move them off the road when they're done. The suggestion was also made to put a reminder on Front Porch Forum.
 - Joel asked about the status of the East Street sidewalk and was reminded of the decision to reject the one bid and rebid it in January. Ian noted the Bristol Elementary School sidewalk is coming along nicely.
- Town Admin Report: I reiterated some of the stuff in the written TA report. I noted that the DPW gate is being closed through the summer and fall because of unauthorized dumping but will be opened in the winter. I also noted the solar panels for landfill project will be arriving on site soon and stored in a designated staging area. It was noted that GMP will need a permit to work in the Pine Street right-of-way to upgrade the power poles to extend 3-phase power to the site. (I sent the application form to GMP yesterday.)
- Other Business:
 - Forest Ridge Drive was accepted for the Greg West's development off Lower Notch Road. Eric noted that the curb cut is not compliance with the permit conditions. It was suggested that a certificate of compliance not be issued for any of the lots to be sold until it is completed correctly.
 - Lister Dave Cobb's resignation was accepted with regret.
 - Firefighter Raluca Cristea's resignation was accepted with regret.
 - Michelle expressed concern about the circumstances behind Dave Cobb's resignation in general and that a non-permitted, supposedly temporary structure, should be included in a Lister's assessment if, in fact, it is adding value to the property.
- Following the executive session, the Selectboard voted to accept the settlement agreement pertaining to former Police Officer Jori Fairbanks. The Town will pay her \$4,500 and the matter is settled.

Let me know if I missed (or misstated) something or if you have any other input or questions.

Thanks!

--Valerie

Valerie Capels, Town Administrator
 Town of Bristol
 1 South Street
 P.O. Box 249
 Bristol, VT 05443
 P: (802) 453-2410
 E: townadmin@bristolvt.org
 W: www.bristolvt.org

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/bristolvt/>

Tw: @BristolTownAdm

Please note this email message, along with any response or reply, may be considered a public record subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Law (1 V.S.A. §§ 315-320).