

**Town of Bristol, Vermont**  
**Selectboard Meeting Minutes of**  
**Monday, June 21, 2021**

Selectboard Members Present: Chair Peeker Heffernan, Ian Albinson, Joel Bouvier, Michelle Perlee, Darla Senecal.

Staff Present: Town Administrator Valerie Capels, Public Works Foreman Eric Cota, and DPW employees Christopher Bapp, Anthony Goodrich, Joshua Martell.

Others Present: Bet-Cha Transit driver.

**I. Call to Order.** Peeker Heffernan called the meeting to order at 6:10pm aboard a Bet-Cha Transit bus.

**II. Regular Business.**

1. Road Trip with Public Works Foreman Eric Cota. The following locations were visited and matters discussed:

- Dumas Road right-of-way. The Town plows what is essentially a private driveway. The question was asked why the Town owns the 27 acres of forestland that the right-of-way was intended to provide access for. Eric noted the roadway will need to be touched up for plowing before it freezes.
- Lincoln Road was last paved in 1998. It is the next to be paved this fall. Minimal ditching will be needed. The shoulder washouts were observed. The Eagle Park universal fishing platform was visited. From West Lincoln, Atkins Road was followed to Briggs Hill. Eric pointed out the steep slide that threatens to undermine the road. ECI estimated it would cost \$500,000 to stabilize the road and slope with pylons. Stone is required on slopes greater than 8 degrees; slopes less than 8 degrees can be stabilized with grass seed.
- Meehan Road: trees were cut and left in the drainage ditch by Green Mountain Power. GMP also put stakes in the ditches, presumably where new poles were planned to go. 70% of the FEMA funds from the Halloween 2019 storm were used on this stretch of road. George Davis' driveway was observed.
- Upper Meehan Road: new stone ditching was observed. When the stone ditching fills up with silt, they just need to dig down to the top of the stone. Eric pointed out a 30" to 36" culvert he would like to replace with a 5-foot culvert. Would need to raise the road to accommodate it. May also need to do an H & H study.
- Copper pipe: Joel presented a piece of 50 year old copper water pipe that had recently been excavated, noting the good shape it was in, and questioned why the Town of Bristol is allowing plastic pipe to be installed.
- Meehan Road to Ireland Road: Rene Carpenter's gravel extraction operation was observed. The Lewis Creek streambank restoration and a small washout at 455 Ireland Road was observed.
- Drake Smith Road: There was agreement that the DPW folks would shape it up in the fall and give the residents a year to make other arrangements for future plowing and maintenance.

- Gardiner Lane: Eric noted that the property owners are not complying with the terms of the agreement.
  - Mountain Street to Meadow Lane: the tree was observed that Mary Dearborn expressed concerns about. There was agreement that if McCullough has time during their 4-day tree removal plan to go ahead and take this one down and leave a 4-foot stump until the next paving could be scheduled. The edge of the new paving was observed. Joel recommended that Eric feel authorized to go ahead and do the extra paving if it makes sense, rather than leaving a small stretch undone.
  - Monkton Road: looked at the new paving to the Town line. It was noted the road was raised about a foot when it was rebuilt years ago.
  - Hardscrabble Road and Varney Cemetery: There was agreement to replace just the front of the fence with the new fencing from Middlebury.
  - Lower Hardscrabble Road to Sawyer Road.
  - Lovers Lane to Cold Springs Road. It was noted that Cold Springs Road, which is a dead end, is a Class 3 road. It provides access to the Town-owned land along the river over to West Street.
  - Upper Notch Road: the mud slide slope was observed and options discussed for stabilizing it. Laying it back to create more of a flat spot was discussed. There seemed to be agreement that this be treated as a maintenance item. Locations of culverts were reviewed and stoned ditches observed. The road needs more investment in guardrails; the annual guardrail budget is not adequate. Perhaps through a grant?
  - Baslow Road: This Class 3 road should be reclassified to Class 4.
  - Notch Road: the work-in-progress ditching was observed. Eric explained that they plan to pull back the bank to open it up for stone.
  - Harvey Road: Eric explained the bridge is being undermined and the riverbank needs to be repaired because the channel changed course. Dirt needs to be moved to open up and redirect the channel. If put against the riverbank, it will need to be lined with stone to keep it in place. There was agreement it should be hired out to allow for a larger excavator.
  - Carlstrom Road: Eric pointed out three culverts he intends to replace. There was discussion about putting the Police Dept. speed cart there.
2. Consider purchase of Ford F-350 one-ton pickup truck from G. Stone. Joel said there is a 2017 Ford F-350 at G. Stone for \$38,000. Eric explained he would prefer an extended 4-door cab, flatbed, with a drop-in sander. Peeker suggested he go and drive it before deciding.

**III. Executive Session:** re attorney-client communications per 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1)(F) and personnel matters per 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(3). 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) and attorney-client communications per 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1)(F). Ian Albinson seconded. So voted.

The Selectboard met in executive session at Holley Hall from 9:10pm to 10:30pm. Upon returning to open session, the following actions were taken:

Ian Albinson moved to approve the employee bonuses as discussed. Darla Senecal seconded. So voted 4-1, with Joel Bouvier voting against.

Ian Albinson moved to authorize the Recreation Department staff proposal as presented. Joel Bouvier seconded. So voted.

**IV. Adjourn.**

At 10:35pm Michelle Perlee moved to adjourn the meeting. Darla Senecal seconded. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Capels, Town Administrator