

**Town of Bristol, VT
Selectboard
Minutes of Meeting
Monday, August 12, 2024**

Members Present: Ian Albinson, Joel Bouvier (Chair), Peeker Heffernan, Michelle Perlee (Vice-Chair)

Staff Present: Mark Bouvier (Lister); Sally Burrell (Energy Committee); Richard Butz (Energy Committee); Valerie Capels (Town Administrator); Eric Cota (Public Works); David Flaschenriem (Energy Committee); Sharon Lucia (Town Clerk); Meridith McFarland (Recreation Director); Bruce Nason (Police Chief); Kris Perlee (Assistant Treasurer and Town Clerk); Madison Shropshire (ACRPC); Taylor Welch (Hub Teen Center)

I. Call to Order. Joel Bouvier called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

1. Review agenda for addition, removal, or adjustment of any items per 1 VSA 312(d)(3)(A).

No changes were made to the agenda.

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

II. Public Forum.

Nobody requested time to address the Board.

III. Department Head Roundtable.

Eric Cota (Public Works):

- Storm recovery continues, with roads mostly open
- Pine Street drainage work started today, road closures will be needed later in the week
- A narrow section along Lincoln Road will also need closing when that work takes place – Valerie explained that there will be a meeting to determine the best logistics to follow when grinding and paving this area, as well as the integration with the riverbank restoration work. It was agreed that full rather than partial closure is safer and will allow for faster completion of the work.

Bruce Nason (Police Chief):

- Pocock rocks is Saturday, Main Street will be closed
- Bruce thanked Sargent Andrew Graham for his recent work with an individual with a cognitive disability, and his efforts to resolve the situation and get this person the assistance needed.

Mark Bouvier (Listers):

- The Grand List has been lodged
- An RFP for a town-wide reappraisal has been published, with responses due on September 19; it will likely be several years before this work begins and is completed
- There has been no major change in the Grand List numbers; most recent development has been for smaller projects such as additions and outbuildings

Sharon Lucia (Town Clerk):

- Primary election is the focus this week

Meridith McFarland (Recreation Director):

- Zak has moved on; Taylor and volunteers are helping to run programs
- Last summer camps are this week
- Some new programs have been added for fall: soccer, field hockey, tai kwon do, a theater group
- Pocock Rocks is coming up; followed by the Harvest Fest
- Recruitment – some interviews have been lined up

Kris Perlee (Assistant Treasurer and Town Clerk):

- The Zoning Administrator transition is going well, AZ has been using Kris as a resource
- Valerie noted that Kris and Sharon have been working on the accounts as well as the water rate review

Taylor Welch (Hub Teen Center):

- The Hub has been open this summer
- Received close to \$5000 from Martin's
- Running camps are popular
- Skate park planning ongoing

IV. Consent Agenda

- Approve driveway access permit application #2024-02DA for Carl and Ed Shepard at 125 North Street for 25-foot wide driveway per Public Works Foreman's recommended conditions.
- Approve Community Celebration event on the Town Green hosted by Addison Housing Works, Friday, Sept. 13, 4:00pm – 8:00pm.
- Approve the proposed Jackman's Pre-Buy fuel contracts for Holley Hall, the Fire Station, Town Garage, Pottery Kiln, Pottery Meter, Pump House, and Hub Teen Center.
- Approve issuance of a letter of support for Tandem's grant application to the Regional Economic Development Grant Program for improvements to their space on Main Street.

MOTION: Pecker made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Ian.

Michelle posed some questions regarding the items included, asking if the pre-buy plan saves money – it was explained that the Town gets refunded and verified that there is not eligibility for the fuel exemption tax; if the Town needs to administer the Tandem grant – Valerie indicated this is not the case; wondering if the food truck and alcohol serving area logistics for the Community Celebration are adequate – Michelle Caniyo of Addison Housing Works indicated that volunteers will be assisting with keeping alcohol in the designated area and that West Street was suggested as the best location for food trucks; and asking if the 25' driveway width is standard, which it was confirmed is the case.

VOTE: The motion to approve the Consent Agenda passed unanimously.

V. Regular Business

1. Public Hearing (~7:00pm): Bristol Capital Improvement Plan: FY2025-FY2030.

Valerie provided an overview of the updates she had made to the document, noting the progress made on the narrative section of the Plan, including descriptions of the level of effort spent over the past few

years as well as a synopsis of each project and recommendations for moving forward. These updates had been completed for the Police Station, the Public Works Facility, and other projects.

She noted that she has also been working on the spreadsheet information included, providing expense information for projects as well as expenses for capital work covered through the General Fund. Further details were provided regarding the Capital Roads Fund, which even with anticipated reimbursements has a projected negative balance. Valerie included some suggestions on ways to address this, including the use of ARPA funds, undesignated fund balances, and initializing a Local Options Tax (LOT).

She indicated that feedback on the draft Plan may be provided directly to her via email or phone.

2. Update of the Hub Teen Center Skate Park Project and request for an additional \$60,000 allocation of ARPA funds.

Taylor provided an update of funds allocated and what has been spent to date, noting that some grant receipts have also covered some of the expenses. She explained that asphalt and wood skate parks are no longer suitable, and that concrete is the format of current, newer parks, as it needs fewer repairs and has a much longer life span. She is working with others on developing a design for a new park, and anticipates that the project will cost approximately \$660K. Taylor indicated that potential grants are being explored, and that the goal is to support the new park through grant and fundraising efforts, rather than requesting taxpayer funds, so no request for additional ARPA funds is being made at this time.

3. Energy Committee Presentation of the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) Level II assessments for Holley Hall, Lawrence Library, and Howden Hall (Richard Butz).

Richard Butz, David Flaschenriem, and Madison Shropshire reviewed the contents of the reports, first providing an overview of the MERP program and its purpose of providing energy resilience assessments of municipal buildings. Following the report phase of the program, grants are made available for the work required to reduce the energy burden/footprint of those buildings. The recommendations in the MERP reports were reviewed, with the presenters offering their suggestions on which solutions should be explored further. Madison outlined that the RPC has the ability to support this work, and is able to assist in putting together strong grant applications in time to meet upcoming deadlines. She explained that there is up to \$500K available, and that a project's priority level is part of the scoring mechanism used in grant application evaluation.

David went through the report details for each building; after which the Board requested that more detailed cost estimates be provided for some of the work in order to better evaluate which projects to prioritize and move ahead on. Ian noted that some costs may be impacted by historical building considerations; and it was agreed that some of the projects requiring a change to a building's primary heating system will need additional consideration.

4. Consider Energy Committee proposed mission statement and by-laws.

Richard reviewed the proposed bylaw revisions, explaining they are a result of Energy Committee discussions regarding the types of efforts they are comfortable pursuing. He noted that Middlebury's

documents were used as a template, and that related discussions had been held with the RPC's energy committee. In general, the consensus is that the Committee should be promoting energy savings and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Richard noted that the MERC work fits in well with this mission. He also explained that certain targets will need to be met over the coming years, and that the Town's transportation emissions and weatherization efforts are not in compliance with those targets, although the number of heat pumps in town has hit target levels.

Board members expressed their willingness to follow through on efforts that will make a real difference, but caution regarding undertaking projects just for the sake of doing something.

Michelle provided some specific feedback on the language included in the bylaws document, and offered to provide her notes to Richard for review. Jessica asked for clarification regarding to whom the Committee serves as an advisory group – the Selectboard or the town/residents in general. She also provided some input regarding energy workshops and tabling efforts at the upcoming Harvest Festival. Sally Burrell also provided some input regarding the Committee's work in facilitating connections between residents and appropriate parties for energy reduction, and other suggestions were offered for revisions to the language.

It was agreed that the draft will be updated and brought back to the Selectboard for further review.

5. Review of meeting minutes.

MOTION: Michelle made a motion to approve the minutes of June 3, June 29, and June 30, 2024. The motion was seconded by Ian, and passed unanimously.

6. Authorize accounts payable warrant and any liquor or tobacco licenses.

The warrant was for the amount of \$71,889.69

No review of license applications was necessary.

7. Selectboard roundtable.

Ian reported that he is waiting for further information regarding the installation of EV charging stations. He also provided some updates on bus shelters, noting that the asphalt has been put down at the Shaw's location (which will allow for driver logistics to be adjusted as intended), and that a few changes are needed at the Firehouse drive shelter.

Michelle thanked Eric and road crew for their clean up efforts. Eric outlined some recently completed tree work, and reported that he is working to obtain quotes on tree canopy and sidewalk trim work. It was discussed that there should be announcements regarding this work in advance, using social media and postings in public places.

8. Town Administrator's report.

Valerie provided some updates to her written report, including her upcoming schedule and LHMP

update work, which is under some time constraints in order to hold a public meeting and have the draft submitted to Vermont Emergency Management.

Upcoming meeting agenda items were reviewed, including scheduling a public hearing for the upcoming vote on the changes to the UDRs. It was agreed to begin meetings at 6:30 on a regular basis.

VI. Other Business.

1. Correspondence/reports received were reviewed.

VII. Executive Session

A MOTION to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters per 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(3) passed unanimously.

The meeting entered Executive Session at 8:34 pm and returned to open session at **xxx** pm.

VIII. Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at **xxx** pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Chamberlin, Recording Secretary