

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT  
MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2017**

**Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Barnet Town Clerk's Office.**

**Board members present:** Chair Jeremy Roberts, Gary Bunnell, and Dylan Ford.

**Others present:** Road Foreman Mark Chase, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Lisa Adler, Steven Adler, Robert Desrochers, Barry Fudim, Joseph Mangiapane, Janice Parsons, Ron Rhodes, Karen Stark, Matthew Stark, and Amy Wheeler.

**1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held May 22, 2017**

Mr. Bunnell moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held May 22, 2017. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

**2. Consideration of next actions to improve Harvey's Lake Dam and channel**

Robert Desrochers of Fairbanks Mill and Ron Rhodes of Connecticut River Conservancy appeared to discuss with the Board the next steps for dam and channel improvement, per the Board's discussion at their previous meeting. The discussion proceeded as summarized below:

- Mr. Desrochers summarized his consulting services provided to the Town in 2017, as noted in prior Board meeting minutes, and recommendations for next steps:
  - Initially the plan was for Mr. Desrochers to prepare grant applications on behalf of the Town.
  - As the year progressed, public funding from planned resources began to appear doubtful. The plan was therefore adjusted by the Board, to reallocate resources intended for grant applications for a wide-ranging funding appeal, including a booklet summarizing in layman's terms the essentials of the problems intended to be cured, and potential solutions.
  - A recent meeting at Harvey's Lake Beach resulted in another shift in focus for financing. Mr. Rhodes offered his services as a consultant through Connecticut River Conservancy. Mr. Rhodes appears to have the key to financing, and has suggested that he can raise enough financing to make the project cost-free for the Town. Mr. Desrochers has therefore pulled back from his financing project, and has commenced work on creating a summary report of his findings. He recommends that, whatever course the Board chooses, the next steps be a boundary line survey and topographical survey of the dam and channel area. He stated that he is willing to continue to provide consulting services to the Board in whatever manner is required.
- Mr. Rhodes discussed his experience, and expectations for this project:
  - Mr. Rhodes' experience has focused primarily on river and stream restoration work.
  - Mr. Rhodes' job is to raise funds for projects like this one; he would serve as a "clerk of the works" or project manager. In this role he would not charge the Town a fee because this type of project is part of Connecticut River Conservancy's mission as a non-profit.
  - This project may take three years to complete.
- The Board, Mr. Desrochers, Mr. Rhodes, and the members of the public present discussed the project further.
  - Ms. Ford indicated that she had spoken to the Town of Groton about their experience with Mr. Rhodes on a similar project. They were pleased with the process and the results, and incurred no direct expenses from the project.
  - Mr. Rhodes discussed a similar project currently underway in East Burke.

- Discussion was had about measures to maintain lake level in the absence of the current dam structure, which would be a necessary part of the project from the Town's perspective. Mr. Rhodes stated that any barrier/weir structure would be within the public waters of Harvey's Lake, and would therefore be the property and maintenance responsibility of the State of Vermont.
- Resident Janice Parsons expressed concern about maintaining the loon population in the channel. Mr. Rhodes indicated that he has worked on other projects where maintenance of wildlife was a concern; the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife will be equally concerned about this, and will require measures to ensure loon health.
- Discussion was had about determining the proper water level of the lake.
- Mr. Rhodes indicated that he has access to a grant for dam removals that he is willing to use for this project. In addition to this, the next grant application for the Ecosystem Restoration Program is July 5. Thirdly, Mr. Rhodes recommends that the Town apply for funding from the Upper Connecticut River Mitigation and Enhancement Fund.
- Mr. Rhodes suggested that the boundary survey and topographical survey recommended by Mr. Desrochers be combined in the request for proposals for the first stage of the project.
- Mr. Rhodes recommended that a Town committee serve as the face of the project to the community; he recommends that the committee host an open house to hear concerns and interests at the outset.
- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Ron Rhodes as project manager for the dam and channel improvement project and to continue to communicate regarding the project with Robert Desrochers. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote.
- Mr. Rhodes asked if the Board would like him to move forward with application for the July 5 round of the Ecosystem Restoration Program grant.
  - The Board agreed to request that Mr. Rhodes move forward with this application.
  - Mr. Rhodes indicated that he would draft the grant, send it to Ms. Ford, Mr. Desrochers, and the Lake Harvey Association, make necessary edits, and then submit. Results of the application are expected in late July.

### 3. Appearances by members of the public

- a. **Proposed Morrison Hill auction site.** Mr. Roberts indicated that he had invited Matthew and Karen Stark and Steven and Lisa Adler to this meeting to discuss concerns about a potential auction business on Morrison Hill. Discussion ensued as summarized below:
  - Ms. Stark indicated that on July 6 the Starks plan to hold an auction at the barn at their residence on Morrison Hill.
  - Steven Adler, a neighbor of the Starks on Morrison Hill, indicated that the Adlers were at this meeting to obtain information about the Starks' intentions with regard to any potential ongoing auction business.
  - Mr. and Ms. Adler, as well as neighbors Barry Fudim and Amy Wheeler, indicated that they do not have concerns about a one-time auction event, but would like more information if a regular business is in mind: such as would be available with an application for a zoning permit.
  - Mr. and Ms. Stark indicated that they are considering at least one auction beyond the scheduled one and perhaps as many as one per month during the summer season.
  - Mr. Adler stated that the Barnet zoning ordinance would require a permit for a change to "business/commercial use" if the Starks intend an ongoing business; he indicated that the ordinance does not allow auction houses as permitted or conditional uses in an agricultural district (which is the district in which the Starks' property lies).

- The Board agreed to refer this matter to Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, while also agreeing there does not seem to be any intersection between Town ordinances and the proposed July 6 auction if it were a one-time event.

**4. Appearance by Road Foreman Mark Chase regarding Highway Department matters**

**a. Water lines and Town culverts.** Mr. Chase discussed a letter sent by Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt to property owners on Harvey Mountain Road, addressing the Board’s concern about water lines in Town culverts, as discussed at the previous Board meeting. Mr. Chase indicated that during the culvert replacement process only one water line was found in a Town culvert. This particular line was brittle, but the Highway Department managed to re-install it in the new culvert without incident.

**b. Harvey Mountain Road culvert project complete.**

- Mr. Chase indicated that the culvert replacement project on Harvey Mountain Road is complete. Eleven (11) road culverts and one (1) driveway culvert were replaced.
- Mr. Chase reported that, while the hired excavator was in the area, erosion stone was applied to the ditch on Jewett Brook Road, to address an erosion problem.
- The project will be seeded and mulched on Tuesday, June 13.
- The road will then be compacted and paved at an undetermined later date.
- Mr. Chase noted the receipt of a letter from property owner John House regarding the culvert replacement project. Mr. House proposes to change the way the water flows along the western side of the road’s ditch near Stetson Lane and under the road through the culverts. Mr. Chase indicated that he had discussed this letter with Mr. Bunnell; the two agreed to retain the same culvert placement and water flow in the area referenced; the culverts in question were upgraded to 18” culverts and remain in the same locations.

**c. Pit-stripping.** Mr. Chase reported that Daryl Matthews Excavating has completed planned 2017 pit-stripping.

**d. Gravel crushing and sand screening bids.** Mr. Chase reported that he solicited bids for gravel crushing and sand screening from Chief Crushing & Excavation, Inc. and J.A. McDonald, Inc. He received a response only from Chief Crushing & Excavation, Inc. The bids were as summarized below:

Gravel crushing:

12,000 cubic yards of 1” crushed gravel: \$5.37 per yard  
 1,000 cubic yards of 3” plant: \$5.37 per yard

Sand screening:

7,500 cubic yards of ½” sand: \$2.15 per yard

Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Bunnell moved to accept the bids of Chief Crushing & Excavation, Inc. for 2017 gravel crushing and sand screening. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

**e. County Hill Road pavement concern.** Mr. Chase indicated that he had spoken to Pike Industries, Inc. about the recently paved section of County Hill, which has begun to deteriorate in one particular area. Pike Industries took samples of the pavement, and found that it was of depth equal or greater than the contracted depth. Pike Industries has nevertheless agreed to re-pave some portions of the area.

**f. Town Forest Road base project.** Mr. Chase indicated that the Highway Department has completed a project to remedy a road base problem causing deterioration of the paved surface of a section of Town Forest Road. The project included cutting trees in the area, excavating the road, and applying new base materials.

**g. Surface preparation for paving on Harvey Mountain Road and Town Forest Road.** Mr. Chase asked if the Board wishes to add gravel product to the existing surfaces of Harvey

Mountain Road and Town Forest Road prior to paving, or to leave them as they are. Discussion ensued.

- The Board instructed Mr. Chase to add some gravel material to the existing surfaces of both roads prior to paving.

**5. Correspondence from Green Mountain Power with petition for reconstruction of overhead lines on Comerford Dam Road**

The Board reviewed a letter and attached petition and map relating to the location of six (6) new poles within the highway limits of Comerford Dam Road. Discussion ensued.

- The Board signed the petition.

**6. Correspondence from Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation regarding application of Phillip and Mary Sorrentino for lake encroachment permit for project at Harvey's Lake**

The Board reviewed an email and attached issued permit for removal of a vertical concrete wall and replacement with a sloped boulder wall.

**7. Applications for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits**

The Board reviewed and approved the fleet application of Grizzly Mountain Trucking, LLC.

**8. Other business**

- a. Board contact for Harvey's Lake Dam and channel project.** Ms. Ford asked if the Board would like to formally appoint her as the designated Board contact and administrator for grant projects, and other communications with Ron Rhodes, associated with Harvey's Lake Dam and channel improvements, as discussed in item #2 above.

- The Board agreed to appoint Ms. Ford as proposed.

- b. Beaver dams in Harvey's Lake channel.** Mr. Bunnell noted that Hayden Bunnell has removed several beaver dams from the channel in recent weeks.

**9. Outstanding check warrants**

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

**10. Adjournment**

Mr. Bunnell moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

*A true copy.*

*Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Town Clerk*