

Town of Huntington Selectboard

Tuesday, July 5, 2016
7:00 pm – Town Office (downstairs)



APPROVED MINUTES

RECEIVED
DATE July 5, 2016

<p>Agenda</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moody Road Realignment ○ Camels Hump Road: Bridge 30; Speeding Hikers ○ Projects, Work Schedule & General Updates: Grant Updates; PACIF WorkStrong Program; Work Schedule; General Updates • Public Comment • Administration & Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Administration: Minutes of 6/20, Warrants, Unregistered Dogs ○ Committees, Boards, Commissions: HR Committee Qualified Handyperson List ○ Correspondence & Communications ○ General Updates & Other/New Business
<p>SB Members present:</p> <p>Staff / Officials Present:</p> <p>Present for Camels Hump Road Discussion:</p> <p>Others Present:</p>	<p>Dori Barton (Chair), Andrew Hendrickson, Roman Livak, Chris Norris, Nancy Stoddard (Vice-Chair)</p> <p>Barbara Elliott (Town Administrator), Heidi Racht (Town Clerk)</p> <p>Laura Cameron, Diane Fitzgerald, Pat Fitzgerald, Bill Hegman, Lianne Hegman, Keri Hess, Tessa Izenour, Helen Keith, Shelly McSweeney, Eric Palola</p> <p>Lucinda Hill (Town Auditor), Marilyn Hindsdale (Town Auditor), Duncan Keir, Bruce LaBounty, Cara LaBounty</p>
<p>Call to Order</p>	<p>Barton called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.</p>
<p>Highway</p>	<p><u>Residents' Concerns: Camels Hump Road (CHR)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 residents attended the meeting to express concern regarding an increasing problem with speeding on the road. These issues were highlighted to Elliott last week and over the holiday weekend. • In response to concerns that were raised, Road Foreman Alger and Elliott discussed building 2 speed humps on CHR. Alger ordered the necessary warning signs on 6/30. Some residents asked to have input on the speed hump locations. Barton indicated that at this point, it will be up to Alger to determine where the humps will be installed. • Pat Fitzgerald & Elliott noted that Jason Nerenberg, stewardship forester with the Agency of Forests, Parks & Recreation, has been very responsive to the concerns raised in the past week, and has agreed for the State to pay for four speed hump warning signs. • Bill Menning (who was unable to attend the meeting) emailed a listing (with distance measured from Main Road) of all the signs on CHR – both going uphill and going downhill, and provided some recommendations which are included in the summary prepared by Elliott below). • Elliott presented the following written summary of the concerns that had been raised in the past week, and ideas that have been shared: <u>Summary – Camels Hump Road (CHR) Concerns – 7/5/2016</u>

Problems / concerns expressed by residents

Speeding

- Pets are not safe: kitty hit just last week.
- People are not safe: adult residents are afraid to walk, bicycle, run, walk their dogs, be out with baby carriages, walk on the road with their kids
- Drivers do not obey the 25 mph speed limit – they drive at reckless and aggressive speeds
- Washboarding on steeper sections (evidence of speeding)

Retaliation

- Concern that there will be backlash from the speeders (damage to property, etc.)

Parking

- Cars parked along the side of the road

Drug sales

- The parking lot seems to be being used as a drug rendezvous / sales point based on quick 10-minute trips up to the parking lot at dusk & at dark

Sanitation

- People dumping garbage, trash, tires, bags of kitty litter along the road & down banks
- People using the roadside as a bathroom

Winter use

- Out-of-control vehicles

State Responsibility

- The State has an obligation to the people who live on the state park road & to the town
- Would like to meet with the State Park folks & the Vermont State Police

Selectboard & Staff

- Would like SB & Staff to travel the road up to the parking lot in order to get the context of all areas of concern

What doesn't work according to residents

- Yelling at drivers
- Signaling drivers to slow down with hand signals

Suggestions from residents

- Cameras in the parking lot & along the road
- A gate at the parking lot
- Speed cameras with remote ticketing
- More speed signage
- Creative signage (wording & artwork) – Tess has offered to make artful signs (as she did for Rocky Dale Nursery)
- Speed tables & humps at strategic places
- Road Crew to make dips and swales – or allow more potholes to accumulate
- Have a shuttle bus from BPMS when the parking lot is full
- Have cost-free tickets by lottery to permit hiking on the most popular trails
- Convex mirrors at curves

Additional concerns shared at the meeting included:

- The number of hikers has increased. It was noted that 30,000 people signed in at the Burrows Trail last year. *[Editor's Note: Nerenberg confirmed that last year 15,907 people signed in at Burrows Trail and 1,392 at Forest City – but that the Burrows Trail 15,907 number is an increase of 3,000 people over the course of the past couple of years.]*
- Speeding occurs when cars are heading both uphill and downhill.

<p><i>Follow-up required by Elliott</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>School zone laws</i> • <i>Truck breaking ordinances</i> • <i>Convex mirror regulations</i> • <i>Solutions implemented by other towns</i> • <i>CHR distribution list</i> • <i>Community Forum</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hikers are driving and parking on peoples lawns. • Thefts for cars parked at the parking lot and along the side of the road have become more frequent (smash & grab). • Dust from speeding cars driven by both hikers and local residents is a significant problem on lower CHR. • Parking on both sides of the road impedes emergency vehicle access to residences and for providing assistance to hikers (there have been a number of hiker injuries already this year). • The use of engine breaks – particularly near the Main Road/CHR intersection – is a significant problem. <p>Additional suggestions for mitigating the problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divide CHR into “zones” and have regulations created for the various zones, including a school zone, and lower the speed limit for some zones to 15 mph • Increase enforcement (it was noted that Richmond is looking at becoming a regional police force) • Pursue state resources for solving the CHR problems • Add additional ‘no parking’ signs, speed humps, speed bumps, and physical barriers <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Selectboard will hold a separate public forum with representatives from the Vermont State Police and the State Parks & Rec Agency to discuss issues and possible solutions. • Tess Izenour has volunteered to make signs. • Elliott will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ research State laws regarding ‘school zones’ ○ research truck breaking ordinances for village districts ○ research any regulations regarding installation of convex mirrors ○ contact Underhill (Underhill State Park), Duxbury (Camels Hump Access), Waterbury (Little River State Park) and Bolton (Bolton Ski Area access) to find out if any steps they have taken have been successful in controlling speeding ○ create a distribution list of CHR residents who attended the meeting or have contacted us with concerns ○ organize a Camels Hump Road Community Forum for a Monday night – to be attended by the Selectboard, Nerenberg (and any other appropriate State officials), our Vermont State Police liaison(s), and CHR Residents. <p>Barton thanked the CHR residents for attending the meeting and highlighting these concerns.</p>
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p><u>Main Road/East Street Intersection Concerns – Duncan Keir</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keir shared concern about Main Road / East Street intersection safety, having had a very near collision heading north at 25 MPH or less into the intersection. Through no fault of the driver who stopped in the northbound lane when he was able to see Keir’s car, Keir narrowly missed a head-on collision. Visibility at that curve has gotten worse from WCVT’s vegetation shielding their equipment, saplings in GMP’s

<p><i>Follow-up required by Elliott:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Contact WCVT</i> • <i>Contact GMP</i> • <i>Work with Road Crew</i> 	<p>right-of-way, and brush in the Town right-of-way. Southbound drivers can't see oncoming traffic until they are in the northbound lane.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elliott will contact WCVT (to trim the cedars), GMP (to cut the saplings) and the Road Crew. • Keir expressed hope that traffic calming tests for intersection reconfiguration and traffic calming device installation would happen soon, as it won't be long before the school buses start running again. <p><u>Kudos to the Road Crew – Duncan Keir</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keir noted that Gillett Pond Road looks great – and wanted the Selectboard to extend his compliments to the Road Crew. <p><u>House Elevation / Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Cara LaBounty</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having seen "Grant Updates" on the agenda, Labounty attended for a HMGP grant update and expressed concern with progress delay. She questioned whether CCRPC has the bandwidth to move the project forward in a timely manner. Stoddard last heard from CCRPC's Lee Krohn on 6/17 and will request a status update and that LaBounty be copied on correspondence related to the project.
<p>Highway (continued)</p>	<p><u>Moody Road Realignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Selectboard received a request from property owner Ryan Gadhue for compensation in the amount of \$10,000 for the 0.0296th of an acre of his property that would be impacted by the proposed realignment. • Selectboard members expressed that, especially in terms of the precedent this sets, any compensation needs to be tied to specific criteria or that it somehow be formula based. • If the Town decides to develop an alternate plan that does not impact Gadhue's property, the cost of a new survey would be less than \$2,000. • The Selectboard would like to have further conversation with Alger regarding the possibility of realigning the roadway so that it does not impact the Gadhue property. • A final decision on the roadway realignment is scheduled for August. <p><u>Grant Updates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following grant applications have been approved for the Town by the VTrans Better Roads Program: Road Erosion Inventory (\$8,000); Salvas Road Erosion Control (\$20,000); and Texas Hill Circle Culvert Replacement (\$40,000). • Alger worked with the river engineers for revised hydraulic study culvert sizing, which will reduce costs some \$50,000 to \$70,000. <p><u>PACIF WorkStrong</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VLCT will be conducting a program for staff and Town Office officials on July 26 on wellness & safety—factors that impact the Town's 'experience modification' used in calculating our insurance rates.
<p>Administration & Planning</p> <p>MOTION - MINUTES</p>	<p>Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>MOTION - MINUTES:</u> Livak moved and Norris seconded to approve the Selectboard Meeting minutes of June 20, 2016 as presented. Passed

unanimously with 5 members present and voting.

Warrants Approval

- 4 warrants were approved and signed as presented.

Unregistered Dogs

- Racht shared a letter that had been sent to owners of unregistered dogs from the Selectboard, Pam Alexander (Animal Control Officer) and Heidi Racht (Town Clerk) back in 2013.
- Elliott shared copies of letters sent by Jericho and research from Starksboro, Underhill, Richmond Jericho, South Burlington, Brattleboro, Benson, and Randolph.
- Further discussion will be delayed until the Animal Control Officer can attend a Selectboard meeting.
- Selectboard noted that it would be good to look at what it would cost to implement online dog registrations.

Follow-up: Elliott to contact ACO

Qualified Handyperson List

- The Selectboard reviewed recommendations from the HR Subcommittee. Elliott will respond back to all applicants.

Follow-up: Elliott to contact applicants

Correspondence & Communications

New Fire Engine

- Fire Chief Tate Jeffrey submitted an email and quote requesting approval to proceed with the purchase of the new fire truck.
- **MOTION – NEW FIRE TRUCK:** Livak moved and Norris seconded that the Huntington Selectboard approve the purchase, as presented by Fire Chief Tate Jeffrey, of a Freightliner M2-106 E-One Commercial Pumper for \$333,126 minus a \$6,750 pre-payment discount (a total cost that will be further reduced by the trade-in of the old fire engine). Passed unanimously with 5 members present and voting.

MOTION – FIRE TRUCK PURCHASE APPROVAL

CCRPC (Chittenden County Regional Planning)

- The public hearing for 'FY2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program' is July 20, 2016 @ 6pm at the CCRPC office in Winooski.
- Elliott has been elected to serve on the Executive Committee of the CCRPC Board of Commissioners representing Chittenden County towns with populations of 5,000 or less.

Notice of Violation

- Zoning Administrative Officer Ed Hanson submitted a copy of his notice to Gerald Bilodeau of serious discrepancies in the zoning status of his property at 80 East Street. No action is required by the Selectboard.

Property Taxes

Notice of the Education Tax Rate was received:

- \$1.5342 Non-residential tax rate

<p>MOTION – RIPRAP LINED WATERWAY @ TAFT FARM</p> <p><i>Follow-up: Elliott to contact Alger & Jeffrey</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,4880 Homestead tax rate <p>Racht is working with the Listers on preparation of the tax bills. Envelope stuffing of the tax bills is scheduled for 1pm Monday, July 11. The Selectboard appreciates the work Racht and others do on this project, which technically falls under the responsibility of the Selectboard.</p> <p>Taft Farm Waterway Riprap</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCRS Civil Engineer Tate Jeffry submitted a request to the Selectboard for approval to install a riprap lined waterway within the Town road right-of-way. • Concern was expressed with the plan to use geotextile under the channel since our experience doing that on Economou Road showed that it doesn't work well. • Concern was also expressed that the riprap will create a shoot, thereby increasing the flow of water. • <u>MOTION – RIPRAP LINED WATERWAY</u> – Livak moved and Hendrickson seconded to grant approval for the planned Taft Farm riprap lined waterway within the Town road right-of-way contingent upon the review and approval from Road Foreman Yogi Alger. Passed unanimously with 5 members present and voting. • Elliott will contact Alger after he returns from vacation to determine whether he supports approval after he has reviewed the plans and then forward a final decision to Jeffrey.
<p>MOTION: ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p><u>MOTION:</u> Livak moved and Stoddard seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 pm. Passed unanimously with 5 members present and voting.</p>
	<p>07/05/16 – Meeting date 07/07/16 – Draft/unapproved minutes distributed and posted on website. 07/18/16 – Final/approved minutes approved 07/19/16 – Approved minutes to Town Clerk for recording & web posting</p>