

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

October 9, 2017

Members of the Selectboard present: Richard Wilcox, Geoff Wells, Scott Bradley

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator, Bill Ellis, Road Commissioner

Residents and Visitors present: Ann Singiser, Mendon Old Town Hall Committee, Stephen Taylor, Deerleap Communications

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM at the Town Office.

Additions/deletions to the Agenda: Motion by G. Wells to approve the agenda with the addition of the Rutland City Logging Operation, Highway projects, Personnel Evaluation to the agenda. Seconded by R. Wilcox. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders approved and signed.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Motion by G. Wells to approve the minutes of 9/25/17. Motion seconded by R. Wilcox. The motion passed.

Business:

Rolston Rest The Selectboard approved a letter to Senator Brian Callamore, Senator Peg Flory, Senator Kevin Mullin and Representative Jim Harrison to discuss the Rolston Rest Project and the difficulties the town is experiencing when trying to balance emergency planning and conservation. The town has requested emergency access across an existing road owned by the State of Vermont which the Rolston Rest Plan would make part of the Green Mountain National Forest. Negotiations of a Contingent Easement between the town, the Trust for Public Land, the Green Mountain Club and the Green Mountain National Forest are at a stand still. The Selectboard of Mendon wishes to secure the legal right to access the road in the event of public emergency or disaster in order to protect public health, life and property of our community.

GMP Easement Meadowlake Drive Tenney Cemetery Stephen Taylor, Right of Way Liaison, Deerleap Communications on behalf of Green Mountain Power Inc. presented a pole relocation plan for Meadowlake Drive at the Tenney Cemetery. The Selectboard reviewed and easement for a pole to be relocated on the corner of the western side of the cemetery near the Singiser's property line. Motion by G. Wells to approve the easement for the pole relocation by Green Mountain Power at the Tenney Cemetery on Meadowlake Drive. Motion seconded by S. Bradley. The motion passed unanimously.

Rutland City Logging Project Scott Bradley reported that the Rutland City Logging Project in the Rutland City Forest off Wheelerville Road and Woodard Road will start in a few weeks. The project will take two to three months to complete. There will be loading of trucks and transportation of logs at night. There will be heavy truck traffic on Wheelerville Road and entering and existing Route 4. The Selectboard approved sending an information letter as a courtesy to the property owners of Wheelerville Road, Woodward Road, Deer Run and Black Bear Path. S. Tully will also post a notice on the town website. Motion by R. Wilcox to authorize S. Bradley to address any issues that arise regarding the Rutland City Logging Project in order to protect the town's interest. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The motion passed.

Economic Development Committee R. Wilcox reported that commercial property owners were invited to attend a meeting on October 5th to discuss economic development in Mendon. There was interest by all who attended to form an Economic Development Committee. The committee will promote economic development, problem solve, and coordinate activities and goals with adjacent communities and organizations. Anyone interested in officially serving on the committee or providing information and ideas to the committee, please contact Sara Tully at the Town Office. Motion by R. Wilcox to form the Mendon Economic Development Committee and to appoint the following members for a term that will expire in March 2018:

Richard Wilcox, Selectboard

Brittany Charles, Mendon Mountain Orchards

Mark Latzky, Virtual Solutions

Patrick Kitchin, Cortina Inn,

Bob Stedman, Casella Construction & Casella Associates

Joe Casella, Casella Construction & Casella Associates

John Casella II, Casella Construction & Casella Associates

Motion seconded by S. Bradley. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

The Selectboard is looking for additional community members to serve on this committee as well as representation from the Mendon Planning Commission. The initial meeting of the Mendon Economic Development Committee will be on October 24, 2017 at 6 PM at the Mendon Town Office.

Old Town Hall Subcommittee Final Report The Selectboard reviewed the final report submitted by the Old Town Hall Subcommittee. The report outlined the work completed to determine a use for the building as a town hall annex to be used for storage. Cost estimate for repairs were determined to be \$180,000. Demolition of the building was estimated at \$20,000. A survey was sent to the taxpayers and overwhelmingly the responses received preferred the lesser cost option of \$20,000. Due to the historic elements of the building the committee recommends the town consider an alternative final utilization of the building and offer it for sale for anyone wishing to relocate the building or salvage its historic elements. Ann Singiser, a subcommittee member and the President of the Mendon Historical Society expressed her disappointment that we were not able to get the community's support to save the building. Ann thanked R. Wilcox for chairing the subcommittee. A. Singiser and S. Tully will draft a Request for Proposal for removal of the building. This will be presented to the Selectboard at the next meeting. The Selectboard thanked Ann Singiser for her hard work and dedication to the building and the Mendon Historical Society's financial support evaluating the condition of the building. The Selectboard would also like to thank all the Old Town Hall Subcommittee Members: Ann Singiser, Steve Singiser, Fred Bagley, Jennifer Bagley, Phil Douglas, Mike Barone, and Richard Wilcox for the time and effort spent evaluating the condition of the building and options for the town.

Town Garage Improvement Project: cement floors The Town is researching various options to resurface the cement floors. Issue tabled until further information has been obtained.

Budget Timeline 2018-2019 S. Tully presented a budget timeline to the Selectboard. She will request department head input to start the budget process and the budget will be discussed until December 18th. The final draft of the budget will be adopted January 22nd for inclusion in the Town Report.

Personnel 90 day Review The Selectboard reviewed and approved Chad Galiano's 90 day review submitted by B. Ellis and S. Tully.

Highway Projects S. Tully and B. Ellis submitted a list of highway projects the Road Crew will be

working on before winter.

There being no further business, R. Wilcox moved to adjourn the Selectboard Meeting at 7:05 PM. Motion seconded by S. Bradley. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Date approved _____

Richard Wilcox

Sara Tully, Selectboard Clerk

Geoff Wells

Scott Bradley