

# Town of Mendon

## Selectboard

November 25, 2019

Members of Selectboard present: Richard Wilcox, Geoff Wells

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator, Phil Douglas, Planning Commission, Teri Corsones, Planning Commission, Fred Bagley, Planning Commission

Visitors present: Paul Costello, Vermont Council on Rural Development

The Selectboard Meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM at the Town Office.

Agenda: R. Wilcox moved to accept the agenda. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

### Administrative Matters

*Selectmen's Orders* were reviewed and signed.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Motion by G. Wells to approve the minutes of October 28, 2019. Motion seconded by R. Wilcox. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

### Business

*VT Counsel Rural Development* Paul Costello attended the Selectboard Meeting to discuss the Community Visit Program and how the VT Counsel Rural Development can facilitate a program in Mendon. The purpose would be to get interested townspeople to a meeting to identify one or two areas of interest for Mendon and to meet with specialists or developers to accomplish the goal. Subjects could be redevelopment of Route 4, a Village or Downtown Designation, a Community Center or increasing recreation opportunities in Mendon. The point is the townspeople would decide what they would like to have happen in Mendon. The Planning Commission and Selectboard support this program and will plan an event for April 2020.

*Budget 2020-2021* S. Tully presented changes in the budget and areas of the budget left to research and change. The budget will be finalized in December.

*Dry Hydrant Cortina Update & Bid Review* S. Tully presented the 4 bids received at the bid opening today to install a dry hydrant and vehicle turnout. The low bidder was Mendon Trucking and Excavation at \$28,000. Motion by R. Wilcox to accept Mendon Trucking's bid at \$28,000. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The Selectboard passed the motion.

*Elbow Road Tree Removal* A. Johnson requested to remove ash trees along Elbow Road. The Selectboard authorized B. Ellis to determine how many trees can be removed while protecting the road and its rural nature.

*Old Stockbridge Path Water Issue* The Town has not received any notification from Terry Purcell, Stormwater Program, to confirm the properties along Old Stockbridge Path are in compliance with the States Stormwater Program.

*Proposed Hemp Growing Regulation* In response to a complaint by a Mendon resident against growing hemp and constructing commercial buildings in a residential neighborhood, the town reached out to Rep. Jim Harrison for clarification on current hemp growing regulations. Rep. Jim Harrison response provided statutory information regarding acceptable agriculture practices and small lot exemptions. The town has little to no regulatory authority over agricultural practices even on small lots under 4 acres if the farm is producing more than \$2,000 annually even if it is in a residential zoning district. The Selectboard will prepare recommended legislative changes for Rep. Jim Harrison to consider taking to Montpelier.

*Disaster Declaration DR4445 – Medway, Culvert 07-32 & Culvert 07-42* S. Tully provided an update in the FEMA project worksheet process for all three projects.

*Journeys End Speed* Constable Douglas reported that he has conducted multiple radar patrols on Journeys End and there doesn't appear to be an issue with excessive speed over 35 mph. The Selectboard continues to be concerned about the traffic on the road with more children residing on the roadway. The Selectboard and Constable Douglas will create an informational campaign for residents and visitors to maintain a safe speed and zero tolerance will be enforced. The Town will increase patrols of the neighborhood.

There being no further business, R. Wilcox moved to adjourn at 7:35 PM. Motion seconded by G. Wells. Motion carried.

Date Approved \_\_\_\_\_

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Richard Wilcox

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Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

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Geoff Wells