

Select Board Meeting May 28, 2015

Attendance: John Ogden, Greg Eckhardt (by phone), Jeremiah Evarts, Selectmen. Priscilla Grayson, Conservation Commission. Andrea Ogden, Treasurer and Chrystal Cleary, Clerk. Steve Hall, Roads Commissioner, Jeff Cleary, Education Director
Meeting called to order at 6:06pm.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Priscilla Grayson of the Conservation Commission registered her thoughts with regard to the expenditure of funds from the sale of public lands. She would like to see it go toward a capital public investment such as fixing Leurich Field, acquiring land for storage of town road equipment, and adding a riparian buffer to the water's edge at Leurich. The Board added that they agree that funds coming from the sale of public land would be earmarked for a public project and not rolled into the General Fund. Building a Town Equipment Barn is a priority, but no land available for sale fulfills the Town's requirements.

Town Forests- Paperwork for Tree Farm certification was signed for Evarts Forest. At the recent walkthrough, the bench was sited, and next steps will be marking of specific trees for firewood harvest.

Bobby Usher's tree is cracking and may fall into the road. The Board has decided that since it is currently not in the Town's Right of Way, the Town cannot do anything to it. If it falls into the road, the Town will remove the fallen section.

Road Commissioner Steve Hall was commended for quick action clearing the tree down on Cody Road.

Andrea Ogden was also commended for sourcing the nice new insulated shades for the Hall, replacing the old broken ones. The room feels really nice!

A summer contract (vs hourly pay) for road maintenance was discussed with Steve. Greg recommended increased written accountability in the form of a log for hours and work completed, Steve will email the time chart he has given Jay in the past. Jerry will call Jay to discuss contract possibilities. Terms will be refined via email

Steve asked for direction concerning guardrail repairs, the Selectboard decided to move that work to next summer.

Jeremiah moved the article to accept the recent offer from the Morfits to purchase Comfort Forest. This motion was approved by all.

Zoning- Claudia Harris has experienced frustration with the lack of accessibility of zoning forms on the Town website, and the lack of clarity regarding policy for photographs required for projects in the Utley Flats Scenic Overlay District. Part of the problem is that the forms need updating (for one thing, no vantage photos are required anymore, despite what the form says.) The Zoning Board will need to create a corrected form to be uploaded to the website. (Who is contacting Mary English on this? I didn't catch it...)

Jeff Cleary reported on the new Education Law which is moving districts to consolidate toward groups of 900 or more pupils. This could cause the District to have to add a couple of towns (such as Dorset, Danby), and the loss of our School Town Meeting and it's floor vote (other districts use Australian Ballot.)

Meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.