

**Fayston Select Board
Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2020**

Select Board (SB) Members: Jared Cadwell (Jared), Chuck Martel (Chuck), and Mike Jordan (Mike)

Select Board Assistant: Patti Lewis (Patti)

Minutes Recorder: Lisa Koitzsch (Lisa)

Attendees Present: Vinny Yasi, MRVTV; Danielle Howes; Cynthia Seckler; Karen Winhold; Richard Davis

Attendees Present via Teleconference: Lisa Loomis, The Valley Reporter

Jared called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. Chuck made a motion to approve the minutes of 6/23/2020, and Budget Meeting Minutes of 6/8/20 and 6/18/20. Mike seconded, there was no further discussion, all in favor, the motion was approved.
2. PC Recommendation to fill Karl Klein's Seat – Jenn Hammond
Jared said he was comfortable appointing Jennifer Hammond to the Planning Commission (PC) on the condition that she attend the next SB meeting to meet everyone. Jared made a motion to approve Jenn Hammond to fill Karl Klein's seat on the PC and invited her to attend the next SB meeting. Mike seconded, there was no further discussion, all in favor, the motion was approved.
3. WEC Permit to Construct Electric Line for Paul Quinlan Residence (1203 Center Fayston Rd)
SB looked through documentation regarding the Washington Electric Company's permit application to construct an electric line to Paul Quinlan's residence on Center Fayston Road. Jared asked if there would be any impact on the Town Road and Patti said no. All three SB members signed the permit as required.
4. Boyce Hill Town Forest Update
 - Lisa provided a brief overview of the two phases of the long-term management planning process for the Boyce Hill Town Forest (BHTF). The first phase, 2020, has been a learning year as FCC members discover the resources (natural and cultural), assess some of the issues, and help organize the infrastructure (road, parking, signs) for the Town Forest. The second phase, 2021, will be focused on public outreach, forums, and comments from Fayston landowners, various trail user groups, and abutting landowners. This information will be synthesized to develop a Long-Term Management Plan.
 - Sugarbush offered the use of a flail mower in exchange for the Town's side arm mower and will be mowing the road to the top of BHTF and the area towards the pond tomorrow morning. Lisa and Corrie Miller will talk to the SB before their July 28th meeting about additional mowing specifications.
 - Lisa explained the decision by the FCC and the SB not to allow horses (as well as several other uses) on the BHTF during the Interim Management Period. The FCC needed more time to explore the impact horses would have on existing trails, to figure out how to balance multiple trail users and how they would affect horses, and to determine insurance liability issues. Lisa stated that horses would be part of the Long-Term Management Plan with careful planning and consideration of these issues.
 - Karen Winhold (Karen), Owner of the Vermont Icelandic Horse Farm, expressed her frustration at not being allowed to bring her customers to ride on the BHTF, a privilege that was granted to her by previous landowners. She asked the SB to give her special permission to use the property

twice a week from June to Mid-October. She told the SB she had a special permit from the State to ride in Phen Basin and has always listed landowners as additional insured parties on her insurance.

- Danielle Howes (Danielle), Cynthia Seckler (Cynthia), and Richard Davis (Richard) appeared at the SB Meeting to support Karen's request. Danielle told the SB she hikes and bikes on the BHTF and has never once run into horses. She commented that trail damage by horses is minimal and there are many negative myths about horses using trails that she would like to dispel. Danielle said she would like to see consideration for uses that were allowed on the property before the Town took ownership. Richard concurred and asked the SB to allow Karen to use the BHTF as she has done in the past. He commented signage is an issue and the Town should remove the "No Horses" notice. He added the Town would be less liable if the land is kept open to the public to ride. Both Richard and Danielle said they would not have a problem if the Town granted permission to Karen for her commercial business but did not allow private riders on the BHTF during this Interim Period.
- In response to a question from Chuck who asked if she could quantify the economic impact that not using BHTF will have on her business, Karen said she could take her riders other places but that Boyce Hill is a beautiful spot for her clients to see.
- Mike said the SB can revise the Interim Management Plan, with the approval of the Vermont Land Trust (VLT). In the VLT Conservation Easement, there is no commercial activity allowed on the property; however, there is an option of issuing a special use permit for some commercial activities.
- Jared thanked the attendees and said the SB needs to communicate with the BHTF Steering Committee (BHTF SC) and consider a possible change of the Interim Management Plan to include horse use.
- Chuck said he would like the BHTF SC to consider the Interim Management Plan and perhaps issue a single use permit to the Icelandic Horse Farm and not wait for the issue to be reviewed in the Long-Term Management Plan.

5. Select Board Meeting 8/11/20 – Rescheduling Question

The State Primary Election is on August 11th and conflicts with the SB meeting that same night. The SB agreed to meet on Monday, August 10th at 5:00 pm.

6. Confirm Office Computer Purchases

Butternut Systems submitted a proposal to the Town for the purchase of a new office laptop (for everyone's use) and to upgrade the Lister computer to Windows 10. Since the proposed cost was less than the \$3,000 that was budgeted, the SB agreed to also purchase speakers for some of the existing office computers. The Zoning Office computer will be replaced with a new one next year and the existing one will be moved up to the Town Garage.

7. COVID Mask Advisory in Fayston

Jared presented a "Face Coverings Now Required" Ordinance and said that as a public body, the SB has an obligation to keep people's attention on the pandemic as it is not going away soon. He commented that this Ordinance is a joint cross-town effort to heighten people's awareness of COVID.

Chuck said the framework for the document came from VLCT and is similar to the Ordinance Warren recently approved. He added there is a need for consistency in the Valley for something like this as there are no borders when it comes to COVID. This policy will make it easier for Fayston businesses to require masks.

Mike stated he supports the Ordinance and noted that this measure would not be Valley-wide as Waitsfield failed to pass a Face Coverings Order.

Chuck made a motion to approve the Ordinance as written. Mike seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, the motion was approved.

8. Road/Culvert Update

- The Road Crew had good success with the two-month excavator rental and completed work on Boyce, Airport and Carey Strong Roads. They are currently working on Barton Road to fix some historic damage and Mike Quenneville (Mike Q.) will be back on the grader tomorrow.
- Stuart would like to order a full load of 24 culverts and there is enough money in the culvert reserve fund to cover the cost.
- McCullough Crushing will be working on putting up winter sand in the gravel pit at the beginning of August.
- Tony and Josh will be scheduling vacation time soon to take advantage of Mike Q's help.
- Jared reviewed the recently revised overtime policy with the Crew.

9. Excess Weight Permits

Excess weight permits were signed for Blue Flame Gas and Essex Rental and Sales.

10. Read Mail and Sign Warrant

The SB read mail and signed the warrant.

11. Other Business:

- The Current Use Income has increased slightly from last year.
- The tax rate will likely be set at the next SB meeting.
- The SB applauded the Listers for their good work during the grievance process.

At 6:05 p.m. Chuck made a motion to adjourn the SB meeting. Mike seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.

The next SB meeting is **July 28, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa O. Koitzsch

Approved: Jared Cadwell