TOWN OF CRAFTSBURY
REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024
7PM | CRAFTSBURY TOWN HALL

Present: **Alison Blaney, Jim Jones, Bruce Urie |** TOWN CLERK **Michelle Warren, Farley Brown, Rudy Chase, Kris Coville, James LaRock,** ROAD COMMISSIONER **Steve Marckres**; TOWN HIGHWAY **Steve Perkins, John Zaber**

Meeting Agenda

Jim Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

- **Action – Adjustments / Changes to Agenda**

  Add Discussion: Veterans Memorial on the Common

  Add Discussion: Orlovsky Letter

  Remove Discussion: Information Collected for the Annual Hazard Mitigation Plan Review

- **Action – Approve Select Board Regular Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2024.**

  Alison Blaney noted the correction needed in the year (should be 2024). **Alison motioned to approve the July 9, 2024, minutes with the revision discussed.** No further discussion. **Bruce seconded. All ayed. Motion passed. .**

- **Discussion – Conversation with Planning Commission | Farley Brown and Rudy Chase**

  Planning Commission Chair Farley Brown and member Rudy Chase discussed the role of Planning Commission, following questions/concerns received during the July 17 Commission meeting and subsequent conversations with longtime Craftsbury residents, e.g., “what are we doing to conserve that unique resource” (orbicular granite aka "Bullseye Granite")? how do to ensure protection of old-growth forests (not the Town or Academy but others)? what is Planning Commission planning (development oversight particularly in terms of wastewater permits)? Previously, process for wastewater permits included providing hard copies but none provided now. Biggest concern: prevent what “cannot be undone.” Residents want oversight.

- **Discussion – John Zaber (Veterans Memorial)**

  Mr. Zaber stated his dad is/was a WWII vet; part of group that maintains the Veterans Memorial: the Memorial Committee. In response to email sent by Town Clerk regarding need for meeting minutes and other adherence to Open Meeting Law: group doesn’t generally meet (basically spray wash/maintain the memorial; trim hedges in time for Memorial Day). Original group intention/purpose: to fund raise to add to the memorial. Evolved into taking care/maintaining. Alison will obtain a thorough history and update Select Board.

- **Discussion – Update Neighbor-to-Neighbor | Kris Coville**

  Mrs. Coville said the Craftsbury N2N Task Force members share areas of expertise: she represents the Food Insecurity efforts. Food Pantry is doing great work; numbers expected to increase from 148. Demographics served: primarily people over 65 and on fixed income, including homes with children. Secure in spot but still trying to resolve storage issues. Summer meeting canceled; August 12 is next meeting. Currently have seven members; would like to have nine to 11. Candidates will be

presented to the Select Board. Where does N2N fit into emergency response plan? It currently provides individual assistance. Another project: a shelter. Irasburg opened one but it went unused. Alternative methods. Alison thanked her for the update; helps to ensure that the Select Board is providing Committees and Commissions with what they need.

- **Action – Request Ash Trees Project Forum (Emerald Ash Borer)**
  Request from Ash Trees Project/Forum (Emerald Ash Borer) for $150 to mail postcards about forum. **Bruce motioned to approve the $150 allocation from the Committee Fund for the Ash Trees Project / Forum; Alison seconded. All ayed. Motion passed.**
- **Discussion – FEMA Update** | Bruce
  Four more roads in the process.
- **Action – Culvert Request on Denton Hill Road**

  From 318 Denton Hill Road. Culvert washed out in in heavy rains; property owner purchased a 30" culvert and would like Town to install/cover installation costs. If Town does, it will set a precedent. **Alison motioned to deny the request: it's out of the Town right-of-way; Bruce seconded. Contact and decision will be provided in writing.** No further discussion. **All ayed. Motion passed.**
- **(Executive Session) Schedule Job Application Interviews / Kent young Per Diem Rate (8:18 pm)**
- **Committees – Discussed Above**
- **Clerk Report**
  - P&L – incomplete
  - Tax Bills – mailed July 2
  - Monitor/TV broken
- **Road Foreman Report**
  All good. Class 4 road discussion.
- **Upcoming Projects to Keep on Agenda**
  - Gravel Pit Contract
  - Appointment Trail Committee
  - Unclaimed Parcel
  - Community Development position
  - Test Pits at Gravel Pit
  - Appreciation Certificates
  - Triggers for Opening the Emergency Shelter, Providing Assistance, Activating N2N
  - Group Process: Throw Up Class 4, TH23, Bruce Awaiting Word from VTrans
  - Electricity on the Common – will walk on the common with two electricians to assess
  - Act 172 Municipalities (Assessing Spaces and Needs)

- **Other Business & Walk-ins With Business to Come Before the Select Board**
  None
- **Decide Next Meeting Date & Adjourn**
  7pm Tuesday, August 6, at Town Hall. Executive Session ended at 9 pm; the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Victoria Hudson
Select Board Clerk