

**Town of Stratton
Selectmen's Meeting
June 27, 2022**

Present: Selectmen: Al Dupell, Larry Bills, Chris Liller, Greg Marcucci and Boomer Walker; Gary Montemagni, Patrick Gaveau (Twin Homes VT, LLC) and James Saulnier – property owners; Steve Petrik and Tara Adams, SoVTA and Kent Young – Clerk.

7:30pm: The Selectmen met as warned. Orders were reviewed and signed.

Modifications – The Clerk stated that Kellie D'Elia-Laskin had asked that the Board consider providing a statement of support for Cannabis Retail at the village at Stratton Resort. The general consensus of the board was that it is not appropriate for the Board to make any sort of statement regarding this issue; therefore, this issue was not added to the agenda.

Town Forest: Property Owners, Gary Montemagni, Patrick Gaveau and James Saulnier, all of whom own property abutting the Town Forest, were present to discuss the planned placement of a parking lot within the Town Forest and near their property. They seemed to be in approval of the trail system, but they disagreed with the location of the parking lot. They were concerned with its close proximity to Mr. Gaveau's two structures and potential impacts regard its usage, including unauthorized use and how it will be policed. Discussion included consideration of other areas for the site, such as the ends of either Willis Cemetery Rd. or Pike Hollow Rd., which are at considerable distances from the site. Steve Petrik stated that the Forest Service had been approached for trails in those areas of the National Forest and that no new trails would be allowed in those locations. Additionally, they discussed the location of parking approx. a half-mile away in Dover or a previously considered location at the top of the hill. The latter site does not have a permissible access location. Discussion continued concerning the boundary of the Town Forest. When Handle Rd. was discontinued in 1990, the road went to abutting property owners. Therefore, the property line is located in the center of the old road, which is still visible. The Access should be moved as far as possible away from that line. Mr. Petrik agreed and stated that the adjustment would still be within the permitted access area designated by VTrans. In conclusion of the overall discussion, Mr. Petrik will flag the proposed parking area and access. The Select Board agreed to hold a Site Visit on Tuesday, July 5, 2022 at 6:30pm. The Clerk will post the notice. At this point, Gary Montemagni, James Saulnier and Patrick Gaveau left the meeting. The discussion continued regarding trail signage. The board reviewed examples and agreed with the proposed signage. They then continued with a discussion of logging the site. The Clerk had been in contact with the County Forester, who has agreed to create a Forestry Plan for the area below the 2500 ft elevation line. The discussion continued with the timeframe for logging and its effects on trails. At this time, Steve Petrik and Tara Adams left the meeting. The discussion on logging continued. Boomer Walker stated that he was not supportive of logging, as it would degrade the character of the forest for those using the trails. This discussion will continue at a subsequent meeting.

Road Crew Issues: **FEMA Grants:** Funding is on hold until the Town adopts a Procurement Policy. **Paving:** The section of Stratton-Arlington Rd. scheduled for paving this year has been completed. Fuller Sand and Gravel will continue next week paving the designated areas on the Stratton Mountain Access Rd.. **Discontinuance of a portion of Shepardson Rd.:** The Board reviewed and signed a Public Notice for a Site Visit and Public Hearing regarding this issue to be held on July 25, 2022 at 7:00pm. The Clerk will forward the notice to the Town Attorney and Post and Publish it accordingly. **Forrester Rd. repairs:** Chris Liller stated that work will commence in August. **Grout Pond Rd.:** WRC will work with the Road Foreman to apply for a Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant through the State for work on Grout Pond Rd. to bring it into compliance with the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) requirements. Parts of this road may need to be widened considerably to install compliant ditching. **Access Permit Application:** Larry Bills submitted an access permit application for PID 1100016.23 owned by Dore and Acerra, located beside Ball Cemetery. Chris Liller had reviewed and concurred with the location of the access. Larry Bills recused himself from the decision. The remainder of the board approved it and signed the permit.

Rec. Area: Chris Liller reported that the preparations for installation of the security system have been completed. The structures that were vandalized have been painted and the Road Crew will pressure wash the rink and get it recoated. The Selectmen will reopen the area as soon as the security system has been installed and is operational. The Treasurer had relayed a question of whether the Board will approve the use of the Rec. Area Equipment Reserve Fund to pay for the new Security System. Chris Liller so moved. Greg Marcucci seconded – all concurred.

Procurement Policy: The Selectmen reviewed a Procurement Policy for the Town. The Treasurer and Road Foreman had worked with VLCT and the State regarding said policy, in order to comply with State and FEMA requirements, as well as to resolve the lack of procedural protocol issues highlighted by the outside Auditors. Upon review, the Selectmen believed that purchasing agents could act independently on budgeted and emergency expenditures without using a bidding procedure for purchases up to \$5000.00. The Clerk made the appropriate changes. Following the changes, Larry Bills moved to adopt said policy. Greg Marcucci seconded. All concurred and all signed the policy.

2021 Grand List Stipulation: The Clerk relayed that prior to implementing said stipulation following the Selectmen's approval of June 13, 2022, it was brought to the Listers' attention that the Statutes do not allow for stipulations after December 31 of the year in question. Following a review of the Statute, the Board agreed to rescind their approval of the stipulation. Boomer Walker so moved and Chris Liller seconded – all concurred. The stipulation for an Errors and Omissions of the 2021 Grand List regarding the property at 25 Acer Rd., was rescinded and the 2021 Grand List value of \$1,336,200.00 remains effective.

Minutes: Boomer Walker moved to approve the Selectmen's minutes of June 13, 2022. Larry Bills seconded - all concurred.

Salary Review: The Board discussed town employees' and officials' salaries. Chris Liller recused himself regarding his salary consideration. During the discussion, the board noted the ongoing increased rate of inflation and agreed upon an approx.. 5% increase, rounded out as a \$1.50 / hr. increase across the board. Chris Liller, as Road Foreman, recommended an increase in pay for Tim Bills as he approaches completion of his first year of employment. The Board agreed to increase his pay by \$2.00 / hr in addition to the across the board increase of \$1.50. These increases shall be effective as of July 1, 2022. Boomer Walker so moved. Greg Marcucci seconded – all concurred. **Personal Time:** The Board also reviewed Personal Time calculations for all employees and officials who qualify for said benefit. All concurred and signed the calculation page submitted by the Treasurer.

Adjourn: Boomer Walker moved to adjourn at 9:05pm. Greg Marcucci seconded – all concurred and the meeting adjourned.

Minutes by:

David Kent Young