

Town of Stratton
Selectmen's Meeting
July 25, 2022

7:00pm: A Site Visit, was held as warned at the end of Shepardson Rd. (TH11), to consider the discontinuance of 0.15 miles at the end of said road. Chris Liller, Greg Marcucci and Boomer Walker were present – no members of the public were in attendance. Following the Site Visit, the Selectmen returned to the Town office.

Stratton Town Office:

Present: Selectmen: Al Dupell, chair, Larry Bills, Chris Liller, Greg Marcucci and Boomer Walker; Steve Petrik of SoVTA and Kent Young – Clerk.

7:30pm: Public Hearing: Al Dupell opened the Public Hearing for the proposed discontinuance of 0.15 miles at the end of Shepardson Rd. (TH11), within the GMNF, as warned. No members of the public were present to discuss said discontinuance. Larry Bills moved to adjourn said Public Hearing and continue with the scheduled Selectmen's Meeting. Chris Liller seconded. All concurred and the Public Hearing ended.

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

Modifications – The Clerk asked to add 1) consideration of a request by Big V Property Group, owners of the commercial units at the Stratton Ski Resort, for the Selectmen's approval of allowing open containers within the village area of said resort. 2) Consideration to approve a computer system upgrade project presented by Dominion Tech. Boomer Walker moved to add said issues to the agenda. Chris Liller seconded – all concurred.

Discontinuance of a Section of Shepardson Rd.: Upon conclusion of the above documented Site Visit and Public Hearing, Boomer Walker moved to discontinue 0.15 miles of the end of Shepardson Rd. (TH11), within the GMNF. Chris Liller seconded – all concurred and said section of Shepardson Rd. was discontinued. The Clerk agreed to forward documentation to the Town Attorney to finalize the process.

Town Forest: Steve Petrik was present to ask permission to enter the Town Forest to perform trail construction as previously agreed upon. He asked if he could access the property from Rt. 100. The Clerk stated that within the last week, he has been in discussion with the Town Attorney, who has reviewed documents regarding the discontinuance of Handle Rd. in 1990, which borders the southern edge of the Stratton Town Forest. The discontinuance created a 50ft right-of-way where the old road existed, as it intersects with Rt. 100. The Town Attorney said that this allows adjacent property owners (including the Town and National Forest) access along its route. Precedence has it that the discontinuance of an old road with no clear indication of the exact survey of its layout is assumed to be centered on the centerline of the visible roadway. In this instance, when the road was discontinued the new boundary between properties would be considered along the centerline of the existing pathway and the 50ft right-of-way created at that time is centered upon this same line. He did, however, recommend that the access and driveway to the proposed parking lot be moved away as far from the property line as possible, as a courtesy to the adjacent landowners. The parking lot should not be placed on the said right-of-way. Following the discussion, the Selectmen agreed that Mr. Petrik could access the site from Rt. 100, as there is also an approved Access permit from VTrans. Mr. Petrik then asked for the official name of the lot to be used on signage. The Clerk suggested that the lot has a sign on Rte. 100 and perhaps to use that same reference. At this time, Mr. Petrik left the meeting. (Later, Mr. Petrik forwarded a photo of said signage and the board agreed that "Stratton Town Forest" should be used.)

Road Crew Issues: FEMA Grants: The Road Foreman continues to answer questions from FEMA personnel regarding last year's flooding event, in hopes of finalizing payment of the grant. **Paving:** Fuller Sand and Gravel is scheduled to return mid-August to finish work on the Access Rd., at the resort. **Culvert Replacements:** Chris Liller stated that he is working to schedule the necessary blasting needed for the

replacement of a culvert on Forrester Rd.. This will require help from Bills Excavating. He also asked for their assistance with a culvert on North Rd.

2022 / 2023 Tax Rates: The Treasurer submitted the tax rates for this fiscal year. The State Educational Homestead rate is \$1.5326 and Non-Homestead is \$1.5723. The Municipal rate is \$0.1307.

Total Tax Rates are as follows: Homestead - \$1.6633 and Non-Homestead - \$1.7030. Chris Liller moved to approve said rates. Greg Marcucci seconded – all concurred and all signed the Warrant.

Rec. Area: Chris Liller reported that the security system installation is nearly complete. Low Voltage, LLC should have the last cameras available for installation on Thursday. He believes the project will be completed (with exception of the installation of a heater) by this coming weekend. The Selectmen concurred with reopening the Rec. Area, as soon as the cameras are operational.

Town Hall: Nancy Ferrucci requested use of the Town Hall on August 2, 2022 for the Democratic Party's Caucus. Larry Bills moved to approve. Boomer Walker seconded – all concurred.

Open Container Request: The Selectmen considered a request from Big V Property Group requesting permission to allow for open containers of alcoholic beverages within the resort village in the vicinity of the commercial units they own. Following a brief discussion, the Select Board agreed upon a statement that the Municipality has no laws in place that prohibit said activity.

Minutes: Greg Marcucci moved to approve the Selectmen's minutes of July 11, 2022. Larry Bills seconded - all concurred.

COVID Sick Time Policy: The Treasurer asked for clarification of the COVID Sick-time payment policy. Previously (at the May 9, 2022 Selectmen's Meeting) the Board had agreed to continue to pay employees for work hours missed due to COVID related illness without deducting from their allotted sick or personal time. Following a brief discussion, the board agreed to continue this policy until further notice. Boomer Walker so moved. Larry Bills seconded – all concurred.

Computer Systems: The Selectmen reviewed a quote from Dominion Tech regarding a Network redesign to include a VLCT insurance mandate for a cybersecurity Firewall upgrade, installation of a remote ethernet device for the Town Garage and a switch replacement for a total of \$9,049.05. Following a discussion, Boomer Walker moved to approve. Larry Bills seconded – all concurred and the upgrade was approved.

Deerfield Valley Communications Union District (DVFiber) Annual Financial Report: A copy of said report has been submitted to the Selectmen for their review.

Adjourn: Greg Marcucci moved to adjourn at 8:05pm. Larry Bills seconded – all concurred and the meeting adjourned.

Minutes by:

David Kent Young