

Town of Royalton
Selectboard Meeting Minutes FINAL
3/22/2022 6:30 pm
Virtual/In-person Meeting

Royalton Selectboard: David Barker, Chris Noble, John Dumville, Tim Murphy, Jerry Barcelow

Town Staff & Committee Members: Victoria Paquin (Town Administrator), Stuart Levasseur (Planning Commission), Rita Hull (Treasurer), Loretta Stalnaker (Police Chief), Brad Salzmann (Emergency Management Director), Todd Ballentine (Constable)

Public: Jo Levasseur, Ian MacKenzie, Kelly Cook, Pamela Vesilind, Susan Cain, Hoyt Bingham, Kathy Hassey

Meeting called to order @ 6:30 PM

Approve the Agenda: Jerry moves to approve the agenda. John seconds and the motion carries.

Public Comment: Members of the public were asked to introduce themselves. No substantive public comments received.

Introduction – Todd Ballentine: Newly elected Constable Todd Ballentine introduced himself. Todd is excited for the role and wants to discuss further with the board what duties he should be undertaking. There was discussion regarding what the position will look like.

Road Maintenance Concern: Discussion regarding Gilman Rd. conditions as well as other current road conditions. This mud season has been particularly difficult. The board notes that various community members have pitched in to assist the road crew in making the roads passable. David notes that we have two trucks that are inoperable, and the grader is still in the shop receiving maintenance. The grader was sent for repairs back in January and was expected to be returned within a few weeks' time but was delayed by supply chain issues. Tim notes that he has spoken with our emergency service crews and they have mutual aid agreements in place as well as stretched equipped ATV's if needed. A burn ban is currently in place to reduce the risk of fire.

VLS – Animal Law Society: Kelly Cook was present to request the board allow dogs on the town green for Animal Law Society's Paws for Cause event. The event will take place on April 23rd. David moves to allow dogs on the green for this event. John seconds. Discussion regarding insuring that all dogs are kept leashed, are up to date on vaccinations, and that all waste is cleared after the event. The motion carries.

Highway Department:

Vehicle Quotes – for next meeting

Street Sweeping – Victoria asks if street sweeping should be scheduled. The board affirms.

Horse Riding Signs – Victoria reports that a request was received to place horse riding advisory signs on Gilman Rd. Discussion regarding whether signage adds liability. Additional information required.

Next Steps ATV ordinance: *Ian MacKenzie asks if there are known conflicts of interest with the Selectboard on the ATV issue. Ian noted that any such conflict would need to be disclosed according to the Town's conflict of interest policy. Ian then made a formal complaint that Selectboard member John Dumville who published his opinion on Article VII and perpetuated false information during that action. John stated that as a resident he has a right to share his opinion regardless of his position as a member of the Selectboard. John's interpretation of Barnard's policy was not deemed false or inaccurate. Pamela Vesilind (VLS Professor) in attendance, noted that John does have a first amendment right to speech. The Selectboard received a written statement from Ian regarding his complaint. (AMENDED 4-26-2023)*

David moves to create an advisory committee of six interested persons to draft an ATV Ordinance. Tim seconds. Kathy Hassey asks each board member to describe why they are interested in an creating an ordinance. Discussion continued regarding why an ordinance is being drafted. The vote was called and carried unanimously.

Office Masking Policy: Tim asks Brad for his opinion regarding whether masks should continue to be required in the Town Office. Brad notes that the Covid case numbers seem to be improving. Chris moves to make mask wearing optional in the town office. Jerry seconds. Some discussion regarding committee meetings and the continued use of zoom. The motion carries.

Warrants: The warrants were approved as presented.

Minutes: Jerry moves to approve the minutes of the last meeting as presented. David seconds and the motion carries.

Other Business:

John moves to approve the liquor permit for Crossroads. David seconds and the motion carries.

John presents a request to purchase blue and yellow lights and banners to display in town in support of Ukraine. Jerry moves to allow \$300 to be spent from the community betterment fund for this purpose. Tim seconds and the motion carries.

Transfer Station / Interlocal Agreement: Tim moves to approve hazardous waste collection on April 16th. Jerry seconds and the motion carries.

David moves to enter executive session at 8:09PM for the purpose of discussing a contract. Jerry seconds and the motion carries.

Executive session concluded at 8:41 PM.

Chris moves to accept in principle the negotiations completed by the appointed representatives and move forward with detail planning. John seconds and the motion carries.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Victoria Paquin

DRAFT