

Town of Royalton
Selectboard Meeting Minutes DRAFT
4/26/2022 6:30 pm
Virtual/In-person Meeting

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

Town Staff & Committee Members: Victoria Paquin (Town Administrator), Rita Hull (Treasurer), Loretta Stalnaker (Police Chief), Brad Salzmann (Emergency Management Director), Karmen Bascom (Town Clerk), Amanda Di Dio (VLS Liaison), Meghan Asbury (4-Town Coalition), Sarah Danly (Vital Communities)

Public: Jo Levasseur, Pamela Vesilind, Sandy Conrad, Brad Sick, Phoebe Preston, David Lewis, Bob Clavelle, Gidget Lyman, Peter Anderson, Dan Roda

Meeting called to order @ 6:30 PM

Approve the Agenda: Jerry moves to approve the agenda with the addition of discussing a sign for the water plant project and communication received regarding the railroad accident. John seconded and the motion carried.

Public Comment: Pamela Vesilind noted a town facebook post regarding train track safety and asked if there was any update or further action to be taken regarding the recent accident in town that took the life of Thomas Fennell. Chris Noble noted that this was an important topic and should be placed on an agenda in the future.

David Lewis suggested that the town should look into getting a road commissioner.

Health Officer: Marc Preston was unable to make the meeting. Victoria will reschedule.

4-Town Committee Update: Meghan Asbury gave an update on the happenings with the 4-Town collaborative. The South Royalton Garden is preparing for the season and the farm and food resilience group is working on combining the data they received from the small producer meetings they recently held.

Work is continuing on informational trail kiosks and the North Tunbridge Store is hoping to open in mid-May. Meghan reminded everyone that the 4-town group has a listserv. They are still investigating the options for how the organization will be structured for the future.

Sarah Danly reports that Vital Communities is underway on a project to increase affordable housing in the upper valley region. This is a three year project with the aim to have a program that is adaptable for all the communities in the region. Be on the lookout for workshops for individual towns soon.

Alcohol Permit: Daniel Roda has requested permission for alcohol to be served on the green on June 10th from 6:00 to 9:00 pm in conjunction with his band's performance. David moved to allow Upper Pass Beer to serve alcohol at the event. John seconded and the motion carried.

ATV Ordinance Committee: Tim introduced the objective of the ATV ordinance committee which is to work together to deliver an ordinance based off VLCT's draft ordinance to the Selectboard by June 30th for consideration and adoption by the board in July. The individuals present who were interested in serving on the committee were invited to give a brief introduction and describe why they wanted to be on the committee. David moved to accept the individuals who had expressed interest in being on the committee to serve. Tim seconded and the motion carried. The committee consists of Sandy Conrad, Bob Clavelle, David Lewis, Pamela Vesilind, Brad Sick, Gidget Lyman, Ian Mackenzie, Peter Anderson, Rick Schumann and Tim Parker. Victoria provided packets to the members consisting of VLCT's model ordinance and Vermont's open meeting laws.

Highway Department:

Tim and Loretta will visit an area of Rix Rd. where the road has been narrowed due to encroachment. David suggested that GMP might be asked to consider relocating the power pole.

Town Administrator:

Victoria presented additional quotes to the board to redesign the town's website. Revize is the least expensive option and Victoria feels that they will meet the needs of the town. David moved to accept Revize's proposal for redesigning and hosting the town's website. Jerry seconded and the motion carried.

Victoria notified the board that the Town green has been in demand, with many organizations planning events. Asks that all town entities remember to check with her regarding scheduling before planning large maintenance or events on the green.

Warrants: The warrants were approved as presented.

Approve Minutes: Tim made an amendment to the March 22nd meeting minutes to clarify that John did not violate any rules by making a statement regarding his personal opinion on the ATV question and that the board did not find that John had shared false information. Jerry moved to accept the minutes as amended. Tim seconded. There was continued discussion that noted that John has a right to state his opinion and was not untruthful. John also noted that he has faced considerable criticism over the events and that the way that some individuals have treated him over the situation has been hurtful. The motion to accept the minutes as amended carried.

Jerry moved to accept the minutes of April 12th. Tim seconded and the motion carried.

Other Business:

Victoria asked the board if it was okay for the Royalton Fire District to include the town insignia on the water plant project signboard. The board acknowledged that it was acceptable to do so.

There was brief discussion regarding ARPA funding. A special meeting will be scheduled to discuss potential projects to expend ARPA funds. Chris noted that a request may soon come from the rescue squad regarding building a new facility.

Tim notes that the RFP for repair of the transfer station is being written tomorrow.

Amanda Di Dio asked the board to ensure that the discussion regarding the train accident and train safety does not fall through the cracks. The board noted that this discussion will happen, but that we need to be mindful of any pending legal actions.

Tim moved for an executive session to discuss a legal matter. Jerry seconded and the motion carried.

Executive session began at 7:53 PM, Victoria and Loretta were invited to stay.

Executive Session concluded at 8:18 PM

Victoria will contact VLCT regarding a legal issue with permission to contact additional council if needed.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:18 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Victoria Paquin