

**GRAND ISLE SELECTBOARD
MINUTES
Monday August 19, 2019
Town Office Community Room
9 Hyde Road, Grand Isle, VT**

I. CALL TO ORDER: AnnaMarie DeMars called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Board Members Present: AnnaMarie DeMars - Chair, Eric Godin - Vice Chair, Jeff Parizo, Diane Cota and Rachael Griggs

Community Members Present: Diane Hebda, Jerry Hebda, Denise Abbott Douglass, Sullivan Crady, Ron Bushway, Donna LeClair, William LeClair, David Leake, Bill Maksym, Elaine Chasse, Emily Clark, Alan Christensen, Gary West, June Golato, Kevin Rock, Sue Lawrence, Robert Laud, William Laud and Melissa Boutin

Amend Agenda For Matters Not Listed: Discuss when items can be added and when they should be moved to the next meeting: Rachael Griggs said she wanted to mention again that any items added to the agenda must be discussed at the next meeting.

Under New Business: AnnaMarie wanted to mention the Governor is coming tomorrow AnnaMarie also mentioned that the AT&T Cell Tower discussion below is not a public hearing, it's just a discussion.

II. GUESTS:

- **Elaine Chasse: Floor replacement:** Elaine Chasse, Learning Adventure owner wanted to inform the Selectboard that the floor replacement is an idea and not something that is going to happen relatively quickly. She also wanted to talk about the lease agreement. Jeff said this is something that should be discussed during the meetings of the FY-20 Budgets this fall. Elaine was thanked for coming.

- **Recreation Department re: - State land:** Moved to next Selectboard meeting on September 16, 2019

- **Emily Clark and Neighbors re: AT&T Cell Tower at 41 Lovers Lane:**
Emily Clark came to the meeting to talk about the proposed AT&T cell tower at Mark and Evan Cobb's property at 41 Lovers Lane. The document sent to abutting landowners and Mutual Aid Society Chiefs was emailed on the 15th of August. The Town Clerks Office received the hard copy via mail on August 19. They have already scheduled the balloon test for August 22 from 9am to 1pm. Grand Isle Zoning By-laws parameters say a balloon test must advertised the time and dates seven days in advance in the newspaper. This was not done.

Emily passed out a paper with the following headlines:

1. AT&T is back on Lovers Lane again, proposing to site a major infrastructure project in the midst of an established, year-round, residential neighborhood, using ACT 248a to circumvent our Selectboard, Planning Commission, and Development Review Board. The critical 60-day clock is ticking as of 8/15/19.

2. A 140' Cell Tower will project approximately 70' above average elevation of the tree line, which is prohibited by GI Zoning Bylaw (2), limiting the height to 20' above average tree line "unless reasonably necessary to provide adequate wireless telecomm capacity." Other sites options do exist.
3. Property values of neighbors on Lover's Lane will be negatively impacted 20% to 40% by this 140' Cell Tower in the midst of this established, year-round, residential neighborhood
4. There are serious potential health issues in living close to the 140' Cell Tower, particularly for the 5 properties within a 500' radius and the 10+ properties within a 1000' radius in this residential zone
5. Proposed Cell Tower compound will require a second driveway/curb-cut on Mark Cobb's residential property, in order to place the tower as far from their house as possible

Discussions:

- Town has a right to invite AT&T to attend a public meeting
- Landowners have to come to the Town for an additional curb cut.
- Dr. Laud said there are alternatives to the high cell towers that AT&T has not brought up. He also talked about the server issues with Eminent Domain, which means they can do whatever they want to do once it goes into effect. If they want more land they can take it and any property on the Island, which are reasons towns reject cell towers.
- Property value deduction is approximately 20% to 40%. Why should one property owner benefit while others suffer?
- There is plenty of property around Town such as the Transfer Station on Hanson Lane or the Industrial Park off US Route 2
- Health issues are a huge concern
- Dr. Laud suggested bringing in experts to look at the issues. It is not unusual for a town to bring experts in.
- Emily stated that the DRM document, exhibit a) which, gives us rights and opportunities points out that Municipal Legislative Bodies and Municipal Planning Commissions may, at the commencement of the 60 day process request that the departments, at the petitioners (AT&T) expense, retain experts, which may include lawyers and other personal, to provide information essential to full consideration of the petition. Jeff said we should contact the town attorney.

Jeff Parizo motions that we hold a public hearing on September 26 at 7:00 at the Grand Isle school to go over the proposed AT&T wireless communication facility at 41 Lovers Lane, Grand Isle. Eric Godin seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

- III. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES: August 5, 2019** – Jeff Parizo motions to approve the August 5, 2019 minutes of. Diane Cota seconds the motion. No further discussion, Eric Godin abstains, four in favor and the motion passes.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- **Highway Department Building Mailing:** AnnaMarie said we are planning to send out a postcard mailing to residents about the public meeting for the new Town Garage building on September 16, 6:30pm at the Town Garage. We will then go to the Town Office for the regular Selectboard meeting. The bond vote will be held at the Town Office on September 24, 2019 from 7:00am-7:00pm. AnnaMarie and Rachael will work on the postcard and mailing next week. We will also work on getting the information on Face Book, FPF, and in the Islander.
- **VLCT delegate for Annual Meeting and VLCT Town Fair:** Sue Lawrence and AnnaMarie will attend.
- **Set FY-20 Tax Rate:** Melissa Boutin, Town Clerk and Treasurer said the municipal tax rate for FY-20 will be .2943. Last years rate was .2533. The education rate for residential and non-residential went down 2¢ cents. She was told it was going down 5¢ to 7¢ but instead it went down 2¢. As much as we want to do level funding we just can't. We need to make improvements to our Town. Overall it's going to go up less than a penny per \$1000.

Jeff Parizo motions we accept the municipal tax rate for FY-2019-2020 at .2943. Diane Cota seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes

- **Governor Scott's Visit:** AnnaMarie wanted to announce that the Governor will be in town tomorrow. They have a list of places they are going visit. In Grand Isle they are having a lunch at the Emergency Shelter at the Sheriff's office. The list of places he plans to visit is in the Islander.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

- **Special Events Permit Discussion:** AnnaMarie is going to be calling the town of Burk for information on the ordinance for bikers and special events they have. Jeff said what we have is a copy of a special events ordinance for Stowe events permits. A discussion followed as to how to handle bike tours and special events in the future. We will continue to discuss these issues during the countywide meeting early next year.
- **Road Ordinance Discussion:** Jeff said this is about how to figure out how we are not going to take over private roads. The Town attorney said the ordinance was done in 2005. This would not affect the bylaws. The attorney also said we should repeal this ordinance rather than amend it. A properly warned meeting would have to follow the repeal rules. Jeff would like this added to the next meeting.
- **Road and Bridge Standards:** The form sent by the State was not correctly written and we need to fill out and sign a new one.

Eric motioned to authorize AnnaMarie DeMars to correct the Town Road and Bridge Document for the Town of Grand Isle as indicated. Jeff Parizo seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes. The Selectboard members signed the corrected form after the meeting.

Highway Department Update:

- **Update on State owned turnoff on Donaldson Road:** Eric said he spoke to with VT Parks Department and they are willing to move the Jersey Barriers closer to the road. Discussion continued about dumping on sides of the roads.
- **Sign at Griswold Rd. and Rt. 2:** Rachael suggested billing to the State for the cost of replacing damaged the sign on Route 2 and Griswold Road since it's quite obvious it was hit by one of the big pieces of equipment used to replace the drawbridge. Jeff said he thinks we should not pay for all the Route 2 our Highway Department did so people could drive onto Route 2 safely.
- **Transfer station Site to be used as Ash wood storage site:** Ron Bushway, Road Commissioner said at the meeting of the Emerald Ash Borer last week each Town should be having a site to store ash trees. Trees must be stored for at least two years. For any trees that are in the Town right of way the landowner will be asked if they want the wood. If not it would be stored at the Transfer Station. He said residents should be able to store trees they have cut there as well. The Town would not be responsible for anything that is not in the Towns right of way. A line item should be in the budget to help pay for this.
- Roadside mowing is on going.
- Emailed Jim Cota about the site distance on Griswold Road, Hyde Road, north, Donaldson Road, south and the culvert on 314
- Culvert on Moccasin Road may start in September. Jeff said should be some communication to let people know the road would be closed for a few days.

Jeff Parizo makes a motion that we set up the Transfer Station to be used as an Ash wood storage site. Diane Cota seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

Buildings Facilities Manager Update:

- Knox Box is installed at the Annex
- Alan Landry will install one at the Town Office as he will be doing work here. Ron had the keys made the boxes for the Library, Town Office and the Annex.
- AnnaMarie has contacted Ben to get the AED's installed.

VI. REVIEW AND SIGN WARRANTS: Eric Godin motions to have AnnaMarie DeMars sign the warrants for the week. Jeff Parizo seconds the motion. AnnaMarie questioned the replacement trees for the Fire Department. Melissa said the amount the Town is going to pay is \$300. No further motion, all in favor and the motion passes.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: AnnaMarie DeMars motions to adjourn at 8:49pm. Jeff Parizo seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachael Griggs, Selectboard Clerk

AnnaMarie DeMars, Selectboard Chair

Date: _____

Date: _____

08-19-19