

GRAND ISLE SELECTBOARD MINUTES
For Monday April 5, 2021 at 6:00 PM - via Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER: Jeff Parizo, Chair opened the meeting at 6:02PM

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

Community Members Present: Charles Hollon, Rachael Griggs, Lucille Campbell, Todd Boutin, Joe Longo, Mary Parizo, Mitchell Richardson, Melissa Boutin, Emily Clark, Doug DiSabito, Ron Bushway, Tonya Poutry-The Islander, Mike Donoghue- The Islander, Shannon Bundy, Linda Effel, Randy Gover, Mike Kemsley, Bill Stone, Kristina Botala, and Brett and Joan Sylvester

Amend Agenda for Matters Not Listed: New Business – Green-up Day, Hazardous Waste Day and Free Metal Day: Hours and Construction Project @ Draw Bridge:

Under Highway Dept. Update: Town Excavator:

Under Old Business: Town Signs: Island Circle Lawsuit:

II. GUESTS: Brett and Joan Sylvester-Subdivision: Brett Sylvester said they are here to request a letter from the Selectboard regarding what the DRB wants as of proof of evidence of approval needed stating that Passage View Lane is a private road and not part of Simms Point Road. It isn't clear what is needed. After clarification from the DRB is received including what the original conditions are, the Selectboard will have this added to the April 19th agenda.

Mike Donoghue said he wanted to have on the record what really happened as he had requested public records regarding the BCA meeting held to review the voter checklist. He had an objection to the Letter of Interest letter submitted by Diane Cota.

III. Selectboard Scribe Letters of Interest & Discussion: Jeff said they have received two letters of interest for the Selectboard Scribe position. Rachael Griggs, current Selectboard Scribe said when she applied for this position six years ago she and the other applicant were asked to write up minutes from a meeting and provide this writing sample and Adam had requested this to happen again. Diane asked Jeff for his permission to record this meeting. Eric said it's an open meeting and anyone could record these meetings. Jeff said he is recording it and will send it to Diane and Eric.

Shannon Bundy expressed concern that Selectboard members get paid for this position. Rachael explained it is a separate salaried position and there is a lot of work involved. There were only two letters of interest and both are members of the Selectboard.

Highway Department Update: Ron Bushway, Road Commissioner reported they are trimming and cutting trees on East Shore South. He said there seems to be Emerald Ash Borer in the ash trees as they seem dead and hollow at the tops and shatter when they fall. Also, a culvert on Reynolds was plugged by a muskrat and Brad cleared it.

Town Excavator: Ron Bushway said he has allowed the Town's excavator to be kept at his house to save wear and tear on the tires since they are working close to his house on East Shore Road.

Buildings Facilities Manager Update: Ron Bushway, BFM said he, Brad Sheridan and Andrew Densmore have gone through a training at the new garage last week. They went through the whole building and tested with the builder, Dave Pratt and plumbing and heating owner Bernie Gage. The boilers will be checked and cleaned the same time each year as the fire station.

I.T. Update: Charles Hollon, Grand Isle's IT person gave updates on what he has been doing with the Town's website as well as the Town's computers and laptops. He has worked with installing back-ups and cyber security on the computers in the town offices and are now up to date. He talked about getting more training with employees.

Joe Longo asked if Microsoft Office Suite could be installed on all the new laptops the Town Board members have received. Charles said Office Suite is quite expensive but would be invaluable, especially for Melissa

Boutin, Town Clerk/Treasurer. Melissa said with more money being allocated by the Federal Government this may be something to use this money for. Charles was thanked for the work he is doing and Joe thanks Melissa for acquiring the grants to get laptops and equipment.

After more discussion Charles was asked to find out the cost for Office Suite for the Town's computers and will bring this to the April 19th meeting. Adam asked about getting a professional email address for the town as well.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES - March 18, 2021: Eric Godin motioned to approve the March 18, 2021 Selectboard minutes. AnnaMarie DeMars seconds the motion. No further discussion. All vote in favor and the motion passes.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

Ellison Estate Vineyard Liquor License: Adam White motions to approve the first-class liquor license for Ellison Estate Vineyard, LLC (for one year). Eric Godin seconds the motion. No further discussion. All vote in favor and the motion passes.

SB approval for using Stitzel, Page & Fletcher for notifying/proceeding with delinquent taxpayers: Diane Cota motions to accept Stitzel, Page and Fletcher for (notifying delinquent/proceeding with delinquent taxes). Adam White seconds the motion. No further discussion, all vote in favor and the motion passes.

Road and Bridge Standards: Adam White motions to approve the 2021 Road and Bridge Standards and financial document. AnnaMarie DeMars seconds the motion. No further discussion, all vote in favor and the motion passes.

American Flags on Route 2: Jeff said the American flags on Route 2 can't stand the winds and they took a beating. He is looking for suggestions. Melissa suggested putting flags on Route 314, or Hyde Road. After discussing the flags Adam was asked to put something on Front Porch Forum asking for suggestions as alternatives to flags being on Rt.2.

Open Meeting Law Training: Adam said it's been four or five years since the Town of Grand Isle has had a training and we should look into having another one. He said Vermont League of Cities and Towns, VT Secretary of State's Office and Northwest Regional Planning Commission have held these trainings. Adam will look into this and see if there are is other information out there. Rachael said North Hero has a training policy and Michael Donoghue noted that Northwest Regional Planning holds one for them each year and did it for free.

Application for permit, laying pipes & wires - Brianna Goodrich & Matt Seaman 89 Adams School Road:

Jeff read the conditions on this application written by Brad Sheridan, Road Foreman.

AnnaMarie DeMars motions to pass the application from for laying pipes and wires from Brianna Goodrich and Matt Seaman, 89 Adams School Road (with conditions as written by Brad Sheridan, Road Foreman). Eric Godin seconds the motion. No further discussion. All vote in favor and the motion passes.

Green-up Day, Hazardous Waste Day and Free Metal Day: Joe Longo said he wasn't sure if the Town was picking up the bags on green-up day. He did say they will accept green-up bags at the Transfer Station on May 15, 2021, 8:00AM-2:00PM at no charge.

Ron said it would be good if people would bring the green-up bags they collect to the Transfer Station. There are green-up bags available at the Town Office and the Transfer Station and there will be ads on the town website, Facebook and Front Porch Forum as well as in The Islander

Joe Longo said there also will be a Hazardous Waste Day on May 8 between 8:00AM-2:00PM and free metal day on May 15 from 8:00AM-2:00PM.

Hours and Construction Project @ Draw Bridge: Emily Clark said she received a courtesy email that construction on the drawbridge will commence with 24 hours a day for 6 days a week for the summer season without asking any questions. This wasn't part of the scope of the original project. Melissa Boutin, Town Clerk said she has not received any information in a very long time. Eric Godin agreed to contact State Senator Mazza for information. Doug DiSabito suggested he reach out to Joe Flynn, Secretary of Transportation as well. Emily will send the email she received to Rachael who will forward to the Selectboard members.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

New Garage Update:

- **Including Millbrook Estimate #7232 and Donation Policy:** Jeff Parizo read why he donated the money to put roofs over the back doors. He said he made the decision to why he and his wife decided to pay the \$4500 for the roof, a safety issue.

Adam asked when they were put up and Jeff said after the last meeting. Adam said at the last Selectboard meeting the decision was to wait and look into this first and the options available since the winter season is gone and the Town has some time to look into all options.. Todd asked if they were still going to move forward and put snow and ice guards up because snow and ice could take out those roofs and Jeff said they will wait in see. Rachael wanted to mention in the Donations Policy that was approved by three members, Jeff and Anna declined, that it states all donations must go through the Selectboard first and all donations go through the proper channels.

Eric said he appreciates that Jeff and his wife donated the money but it does set a bad precedence to go forward with something that the Board has previously said no. There is potential abuse for doing things that way. Diane said we had the same issue back in December. Vermont law gives authority to Selectboards, not to individual Selectboard members.

Eric said he appreciates Jeff's donation but the objection he had was procedurally aspect of it and it's time to move on. Joe said he feels we got the wrong information. After further discussion Jeff said to move along.

Monitoring of the Fire Alarm System: Eric Godin motions to have Jeff sign the document for the monitoring of the fire alarm system (at \$267/year) at the new town garage. Diane seconds the motion. No further discussion. All vote in favor and the motion passes.

Old Fire Station Removal Update:

- **Asbestos and Lead Testing Estimate for Old Fire Station and Old Garage:** Jeff said this is from Tyler Billingsley of East Engineering. Before anyone will bid on the removal of the old fire station they want to be sure there is no asbestos. The test would be completed in three weeks.

Adam White motions to approve the asbestos inspection and TCLP lead testing through KAS Environmental Science Engineering Company for the service to be conducted at the old fire station and the old town garage with an approximate estimated cost to be \$1,426. Diane Cota seconds the motion. No further discussion. All vote in favor and the motion passes

East Engineering Permits: Jeff said we talked about this at the last meeting but never authorized him to sign the papers. This is nothing extra, it is so they can be submitted to the State. Adam said since we had already paid for them we will calm down for a while on the new Town Office and Library.

Adam White motions to for the Selectboard to approve for Jeff Parizo to sign on behalf of the Selectboard the waste water system and potable water supply permit application for the Grand Isle Library/Town Office Building. Eric Godin seconds the motion. No further discussion, all vote in person and the motion passes.

American Rescue Plan - \$210,000: Jeff said he heard there is going to be \$626,000 but not sure if this is to be shared with the school and the county. Not much information is given. Adam said he attended a workshop on this and VLCT is going to hire a coordinator. Around June 9th funds should be into municipal bank accounts and said the money should be put in a special account and not go into the general fund. More information is to come.

Howard DeMars – Northwest Regional Planning Commissioner: Jeff Parizo read a letter of interest from Howard DeMars to serve for another year on the NRPC.

Adam White motions to appoint Howard DeMars as representative on the NRPC for a term of one year. Eric Godin seconds the motion. No further discussion. Jeff Parizo, Diane Cota, Adam White and Eric Godin vote in favor. AnnaMarie DeMars recused herself and the motion passes.

Lawn Care RFP: The Selectboard received two bids for lawn care of the Town buildings. One from Gillette Land Works and one from Platinum Property Management. No one knew of Gillette Land Works After discussing the work Platinum did the last two years and that they are a local company a motion was made.

Eric Godin motions to approve Platinum Property (Management and Construction) for the municipal mowing for the 2021 and 2022 spring, summer and fall seasons at a cost of \$8,790 for 2021 and \$7,905 for 2022. Diane Cota seconds the motion. No further discussion. All vote in favor and the motion passes.

Transfer Station Recertification: Ron Bushway began by thanking Diane for starting the paperwork and explained the long process to fill out the paperwork. He said we are set for another ten years and we have a very well-run operation. Diane said she agrees but said her concern was it wasn't getting taken care of and is glad it has been sent in. She said we do need plan for the Selectboard and someone to take care of it as starting from scratch was not easy and doesn't want anyone to have to go through this again. Jeff said copies were made and one is in the Town vault, at the Highway Department and he has a copy.

Mike Kemsley said someone from the Town needs to act as a liaison (representative) between the Town's Transfer Station and the NSWSD and the Selectboard. Mike said he is resigning from this position as of tonight. He also said that it should be a person with knowledge of how Grand Isle runs the G.I. Transfer Station to take on this role. Mike was thanked for all he has done. Diane said that John Leddy asked that once we decide on the Town's contact person (could be different from our NWSWD representative) we need to let NWSWD know. Jeff said this will be on the April 19th meeting. Mitchell Richardson asked if the Transfer Station makes enough money to appoint someone to handle this. Joe Longo said he believes we are not allowed to make a profit but can make enough to make it work without asking for taxpayers to pay for this cost. Ron said it's called tipping fees.

Selectboard members bring agenda items to work on for the year: Jeff said he is asking for this. Adam asked if Rachael would be willing to put items on a list and send to the rest of the Board. Diane said she has sent a list a while ago and was thanked for doing so. Rachael agreed to do this.

Town Signs: Joe Longo asked if there is an update on upgrading the town welcome signs. After a brief discussion this will be added to the next meeting agenda.

Island Circle Law Suit: Diane spoke of this and said there is going to be a hearing on the Supreme Court on April 24th and is open to the public on You-Tube. Joe asked how much has been spent on this so far. Melissa said we have spent \$57,000 and change in the category of municipal legal fees and she doesn't have it broken down but can research it.

Jeff wanted to go back to the town welcome sign and hopes we keep the same logo. It's been the same for years.

VII. REVIEW AND SIGN WARRANTS: Adam White motions for Jeff Parizo to approve and sign the warrants. Eric Godin seconds the motion. No further discussion. All vote in favor and the motion passes.

Diane said at the beginning of the meeting Mike Donoghue made a lot of comments about her statements regarding his reporting on requests made by him to the town clerk. She wanted to say she was going by what she was told and that was what happened and a lot of material has been sent. Mike Donoghue said he wished she had come to him instead of blasting him at a public meeting. Diane said he could call her as she doesn't want to say all she has to say at this meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: AnnaMarie DeMars motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:21PM. Eric Godin seconds the motion. No further discussion, all vote in favor and the motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachael Griggs, Selectboard Scribe

Jeff Parizo, Selectboard Chair

Date: _____

Date: _____

Please note this meeting can be viewed by accessing LCATV's website.

04-05-2021