

**TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE  
SELECTBOARD MEETING**

**Tuesday, July 28th, 2020, 6:00PM  
via Zoom**

**Present: Gary Mullen, Mike McPhetres, John O'Brien, Jillian Conner, Aaron Weed, Besty Gaiser, Todd Tyson, Susan Knapp, Maureen McCullough**

**Meeting called to order at 6:12pm**

**Road Update**

The new grader arrived today. Everything else is going well; the machines are working, Thomas is grading when he can, roadside mowing is happening, etc. All of the stone for the Falls Hill Project has been hauled to town.

Mullen interjected that the Town Forest Committee met with the new principal of the Tunbridge School recently to talk about school opening. The school is hoping to utilize the town forest for teaching outside, and may need the road crew to assist with acquiring firewood and sand.

McPhetres passed on a request from a resident for speed limit signs on Tunbridge Mountain Road, between Whalen and Monarch Hill Roads. Conner asked if there is a speed ordinance set for that road. The Board answered no, and that she may need to do a speed analysis in order to pass an ordinance, and then signs can be installed.

**Transfer Station Discussion**

The Board reviewed the pricing that Bradford, VT charges at their similarly sized transfer station, and reviewed a document from resident Nicholas Jasset that proposed a number of ideas for improving the transfer station's operations. No decision was made pertaining to transfer station signage, pricing, or procedures. O'Brien will talk with Mike Barnaby, transfer station attendant, next time he sees him to glean his opinion on pricing and signage. The entire Board agreed to contemplate the dump ticket system and if it could be improved.

**Legal Trails Discussion with Conservation Commission**

Betsy Gaiser, Aaron Weed and Todd Tyson joined the meeting to discuss concerns about a logging operation that is utilizing a legal trail on Falls Hill Road in Tunbridge. Gaiser began by reciting a letter from the Conservation Commission, expressing concern about the impacts of the operation on recreation and trail safety as well as the ecological impacts. The group is also curious when the operation will cease. The Commission requested that the logger take as many steps as possible to restore the bed of the trail,

prevent erosion, keep the trail clear and accessible for recreators, and provide a timeline for when the project will be complete.

Mullen spoke with the managing forester of the property, Len Miraldi, and was confident that he and the logger were going to address the three requests in the letter, and that the project should take another three months. But because the land is enrolled in Current Use, and the owner is required to log to property when the forestry plan directs him to, Mullen feels the operation is responsible and will leave the trail in good condition.

Gaiser also took this opportunity to discuss the appointed role of Tree Warden (TW) in all municipalities. She is aware of the newly passed bill, H.673, and asked O'Brien, as a House Rep. to explain it. The bill has not passed in the Senate yet. The goal of the bill is to modernize the TW statutes that date back to about 1900. The purpose of the role is to 'speak for the trees' that have been shade or ornamental trees planted by the Town, and trees within the Town right of ways. And in general, landowners have the right to cut any trees on their property, even if they are in the Town ROW.

Gaiser expressed that she feels the TW should definitely be a resident of the town appointing them. O'Brien clarified that the bill, which allows appointments of TWs from outside of Town, isn't meant to encourage appointments of out of town TWs, but if there was a particularly knowledgeable tree expert from a neighboring town, perhaps that person would make a better TW than any potential candidates in town.

### **Little Free Library Discussion**

Susan Knapp, a citizen, joined the meeting to propose the construction of a Little Free Library (LFL). A LFL is a small, weather proof box/cabinet structure, usually located in a public place, where people can donate and take home free books. Knapp has many sources for great free books to stock in it. She'd like to install Tunbridge's first LFL in front of the Town Office.

The Board thinks the idea is great and asked Knapp to come up with a sketch or plan with dimensions, etc. and come back to the Board for approval.

### **Other Business**

Anna Dechert, citizen, wanted to check in with the Board about shifting her driveway slightly. Hoyt, Road Foreman, wanted a second opinion from the Board before giving approval. Mullen took a look at it and thought it looked okay, but asked if the other Board members could also drive by and look at it. McPhetres and O'Brien will do so before the next meeting and let Hoyt know their decision.

Maureen McCullough joined the meeting to request that the Board help control the increased, speeding ATV traffic on her road, Gifford Hill. She has horses that are ridden and drive carriages on the road. She's concerned about everyone's safety, and the fact that ATVs are not legally allowed to drive on town roads. The Board asked Conner to ask Hoyt to install some more "horse" signs on Gifford Hill, and also

asked her to call the VSP to request a patrol on the weekend. If the signs and call to the VSP doesn't help, they'll consider installing a "No ATV" sign.

O'Brien made a motion to approve the Casella contract. McPhetres seconded. All in favor. So moved.

McPhetres motioned to accept a Commercial Motor Vehicle Drug + Alcohol Policy. O'Brien seconded. All in favor. So moved.

Sample alcohol ordinances were discussed, as well as noise and dumping ordinances. The Board agreed to use Randolph's Alcohol Ordinance as their model. Conner will prepare it for the next meeting and send the draft to the town lawyer. They asked Conner to provide more examples of noise and dumping ordinances.

Mullen was informed that one of his steers, a large red one with horns, had gotten loose and was flirting with the neighbor's propane tank.

McPhetres made a motion to reschedule the next regular Selectboard meeting to August 10th, 2020 at 6pm on Zoom. O'Brien seconded. All in favor, so moved.

McPhetres made a motion to approve the orders and warrants. O'Brien seconded. All in favor. So moved.

McPhetres made a motion to approve the minutes from the 7/14 meetings with a couple edits, O'Brien. All in favor. So moved.

McPhetres motioned to enter executive session to discuss a personnel topic, at 8:06pm. O'Brien seconded. So moved. All in favor.

McPhetres motioned to exit executive session at 8:20pm. O'Brien seconded. All in favor. No decision was made.

Conner added that Eli Childs, mowing contractor for the 2020 season, sent a contract for the remainder of the season. Mullen will sign it.

McPhetres motioned to adjourn at 8:25pm. O'Brien seconded. All in favor. So moved.

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Gary Mullen

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Michael McPhetres

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John O'Brien