

**TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE  
SELECTBOARD MEETING**

**Tuesday, October 26, 2021 6:00pm, Town Offices and Via Zoom**

Meeting called to order at 6:16pm

**Present:** Mike McPhetres, Gary Mullen, John O'Brien, Mariah Cilley, Fern Strong, Mariah Lawrence, Meghan Asbury, Elizabeth Brown, Betsy Gaiser, Cecily Anderson, Johnathan Bicknell, Rebecca Hoyt, John Echiverra, George White, Michael Krauthamer, Caroline \_\_\_\_\_, Maureen McCullough, Scott Beavers, Todd Tyson, Sue Salster, Sylvia Desuteal, Daniel "Rudi" Ruddell

**VT Climate Council Letter: Cecily Anderson**

Vermont climate council to come up with a plan to reduce greenhouse gases on a quick timeline. Getting town leaders to submit a letter to encourage climate change period other surrounding towns as a selectboard have signed.

The main points of the plan are: that they are a line with the just transition principles, counts all greenhouse gas emissions accurately, establishes a 10 year mass weatherization program, develops public transportation systems, provides access to farmers who want to practice regenerative agriculture, takes renewable gas off the table, keeps and put carbon back in the ground by protecting ecosystems, creates a fair and bold funding mechanism for the people's climate action plan, advises the legislator to pass the following legislation initiatives in 2022: senator Rams environmental justice bill, appropriate funding for the climate action plan, the Vermont renews bill addressing food justice low income weatherization and green justice zones.

The climate council will need this endorsement by the end of the month because they need to finalize their plan by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Mullen states that he needs to research more on this so he can support his decision if a town member asks him why he endorsed it. John O'Brien asks if this can be boiled down as a town meeting article. Sylvie Desuteal states there is something going around with other towns for a town meeting article. Cecily Anderson states that they are asking community leaders to put pressure on the governor and asking for individual leaders and not the select board as "the town". Betsy Gaiser notes that the Conservation Commission would like to endorse. Todd Tyson thinks it's important to getting it in before the December 1st deadline as it would be more symbolic at a town meeting.

More information can be found at [350 vermont.org](http://350.vermont.org). No endorsement was given at this meeting.

**VISTA Visit: Meghan Asbury**

Megan is our Four-Town Coalition coordinator. She is focusing on climate change, youth involvement, trails meetings, housing issues, and childcare. Regarding trails meetings she knows that there are numerous projects going on and a desire to connect the town trails committees

together. Megan started a website so that all the towns will have a link on their website to link the towns coalition together. O'Brien asks do all towns work together and list their issues? Asbury answers yes, it's a four town issue but with the example of the housing issues Royalton has the ability to do something on a larger scale. Royalton also has more members involved so there has been a lot of focus there. Would love to see more Tunbridge involvement. O'Brien asks if senior housing is less important now. Asbury states that it is less of a topic than it once was. Once there is more official information there will be a meeting on it.

### **Trails Committee Chair: Johnathan Bicknell**

Bicknell sent a trails informational sheet. Rudi states that it must be an ordinance. The Trails Committee collectively recommended a policy, but an ordinance is more permanent and harder to change. If we had a policy, it would be able to be removed by a new select board. Becknell states a basic ordinance is too simple it must be complex enough to cover the issues that we are facing. The trails website has most of this information on how they came to these conclusions. O'Brien is confused by the language from VLTC stating towns have right of way, but landowners own. Are potential wetlands being mapped right now or does it only happen when we upgrade? Rudy states we are not formally being mapped. Just walked by ecologist to figure out jurisdiction. John Echiverra has hired someone which showed Class 2 and 3 wetlands on Baptist Hill and Orchard Road. O'Brien asks Bicknell and Ruddell if they suggest we do wetlands mapping prior to deciding on the policy/ordinance.

John Echiverra- he contacted jewelry several months ago and came to walk the trails he walked the trail and duplicated the survey that Jeff Parsons did. There have been wood turtle sightings and wanted to investigate them. It is considered a rare species which is of highest concern in the state of Vermont. Mullen asks what is the future of the trails committee do you have a vision? Bicknell responds yes, the group is looking forward to doing fun stuff. Said they want to apply efforts beyond the legal trails. Would love to have seven members. George White has interest. Will take lots of volunteer work. They are looking for a new charge for the trails committee.

### **Other Business:**

Laura Ginsburg sent over the language update for the Planning Commission's Town Plan. McPhetres makes a motion to accept the new wording for page 53 and page 46 as written. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

The Selectboard would like Cilley to bring a new Orange County Sheriff's contract to the next meeting for signature.

### **Road Report: Road Foreman- Rodney Hoyt**

No culvert paved on Strafford Road yet. Supposed to do that this week. Everything is running well. Met with Hoyt to discuss improvements at the town garage and town shed and storage capacity. Point to present to the town. Hoyt tried to order recoup tires from Pete's tire barn but had to get brand new tires instead. He needs to get six tires and is trying to order them but it may be an issue. If he gets those tires he will be all set for winter period new chains for the greater.

Started hauling 2 inch stone for spring. Smith hauling stone from tuckers. Chevy truck still has a shaky front end.

**Warrants:** Warrants were signed and approved.

Minutes from September 28th were approved by the board. Minutes from the October 12th meeting were sent back for edits.

O'Brien motions to adjourn. McPhetres seconds. So moved. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

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Gary Mullen, Chair

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Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

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John O'Brien, Clerk