

**TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE
SELECTBOARD MEETING**

Tuesday, November 23, 2021 6:00pm, Town Offices and Via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm

Present: Mike McPhetres, Gary Mullen, John O'Brien, Mariah Cilley, Johnathan Bicknell, Betsy Gaiser, John Echiverra, Brenda Field, Betty Brown, Ellen Hossford, Fern Strong, Susan Salster, Maureen McCullough, Anne Leeds, Liz York, Aileen Lem, Michael Sacca, Michael Schaefer, George White, Scott Beavers, Matt Frost, Dylan Kelley, Laura Ginsburg, Todd Tyson, Fred Pond, Daniel "Rudi" Ruddell, Israel Provancha, Jena Young, Wendy Palthey, Betsy Race, Bob Childs, Winnie C., Jodi Hoyt

Road Report- Rodney Hoyt via Mike McPhetres

Hoyt got all 2 ¼ inch stone in. Winter tires are all on the trucks. Pickets -he believes-is done hauling the sand but will double check. The new Chevy truck is down to Key to get the front end fixed. They had taken it to Tenco and they fixed what he wanted. The crew has put snow poles out on culverts and are checking ditches and cutting down leaning trees. Hoyt is wondering what should happen to the flags? The selectboard says they should be taken down; Hoyt will get this done. Mullen spoke with Don Campbell who lives on Stone House Rd and Mullen also drove up to take a look for himself. Nothing was done on the steep part prior to his driveway and Mullen would like Hoyt to add a few loads of gravel. Discussion on Stratford Road line striping: wondering if there has been any update with that. Lancer chambers said it would cost about \$5000 for his damage on his truck. There has been contact with the GPI Engineer who was unhappy with L&D. Hooks got the bid for the bridge job on Belknap Brook Road.

Discussion of Town Trails Ordinance Draft #1

The Selectboard looked over the draft and opened the floor up to discussion.

George White- Surprised by the language. Not sure why we're limiting it to just walking? Wanting to open it up to all things without needing a permit.

Michael Sacca- Soccer reference is the September 22nd 2021 Tunbridge legal trail recommendation. A policy was suggested but it has jumped to an ordinance. Lots of stuff still in flux. Policy is more flexible, ordinance seems too far too fast. The partnership with land owners is important but it should not be the only deciding factor. He shared a quote by executive director of TRORC. "Support retention rights of way... walking and biking."

Johnathan Bicknell- Spoke with Emily Grube who is a Pomfret Selectboard member who discussed their ordinance with him and stated that the Pomfret trails are mixed use.

Liz York- States that the way this ordinance is worded it seems to grant special privileges to the abutters. She would like the AA to speak to Paul Gillies about when Selectmen or members of family own abutting land, should they recuse themselves.

Michael Sacca- Wonders why we are starting restrictive off the bat. Within the next year or so we could look at the trails and what needs to be done and use volunteers.

John Echiverra- Thanks the Selectboard for their hard work. Believes we should maintain an interim ordinance that is very basic while we look at the wetlands and rerouting the trail system for bicycles. He was hoping that since the ordinance references a motorized vehicle it doesn't mean that with a permit we will allow a vehicle on the trails. He doesn't believe that we should list horses on the ordinance because no one wants to ride horses on the trail. Echiverra also states that all trails are different and that each deserves distinct treatment.

Anne Leeds- Wanted to back up what Liz York says; that no policy or ordinance moves forward with out it first being checked by the attorney.

Betsy Gaiser- Wants Mullen and O'Brien to give a statement about Conflict of Interest. Mullen states he would gladly recuse himself if there is a conflict of interest.

John O'Brien- Believes a conflict of interest is more for a monetary gain than something like this.

Liz York- States that she things that home value would increase if there was a public right of way that was restricted from people using it.

Betsy Gaiser- Is unsure how this ordinance came about being so restrictive because the trails committee suggested it be open to all recreational use.

Sue Salster- States that the recommendation presented to the Selectboard wasn't a unanimous decision. That just because the Trails Committee suggested one thing doesn't mean that the Selectboard has to go that route.

Gary Mullen- The decision to make this an ordinance and not a policy is that an ordinance is more long lasting and that we are trying to start the ordinance process now so that we can have a good one by the time it is adopted.

George White- How does an ordinance process work? Cilley answers that the Selectboard needs to approve the draft for adoption. Then it needs to be placed in the newspaper 14 days prior to the meeting for adoption, along with five public posting places. Once it is adopted it doesn't take effect for 60 days. In the first 44 days if there is not a petition filed then the ordinance takes effect. If a petition is brought forth to the Selectboard within that 44 day period, signed by not less than 5% of the voters, the Selectboard then has 60 days from the date the petition was received to either call a special town meeting or add it to the town meeting agenda for the voters to vote on there.

Brenda Field- We should look at the wetlands issue early next summer to come up with how we will address that.

Todd Tyson- Thinks this ordinance is heavy handed. Pomfret doesn't include horseback riding or bicycling. Mitigation efforts can be made for the wetlands to improve the trails.

John Echiverra- Many people are open to alternative routes. The only positive outcome for both parties is if there is alternative routes made. Johnathan Bicknell and Echiverra will touch base to discuss rerouting on the Orchard Road Trail.

John O'Brien- States that Tunbridge is pro-bike, pro-horse and pro-landowner etc, but that we have to find a common ground for all.

Discussion of Transfer Station Policy Draft #2

Cilley will make the changes requested to the draft. Change and warn for approval at the next meeting. Cilley will discuss with Mitch Taylor regarding if we are losing money on recycling.

Discussion of Noise Ordinance Draft #2

Cilley will add a clause regarding excessive and continuous gun shooting.

Other Business:

Snow removal- Cilley will get the job description. Mullen will talk with Andy Bogardus who did the shoveling last year to see if he is still interested.

Mullen will talk with Kevin Rogers about the oil at the Town Hall. McPhetres will talk with Parmaley about the furnace.

Health Officer-Jodi Hoyt:

Wanted to come and let the Selectboard know about the North Tunbridge Store and where they are with that. There is a health order on the building from the state regarding the lead paint. She is going to work with the owners to see if she can help them mitigate it correctly so they can get renters. Wanted to let the Selectboard know because if they do not follow protocol, the Selectboard is the one to bring forth fines. Hoyt will do an inspection of the apartment for renting with the Fire Marshall.

Betsy Race states the auditors may ask for an audit review.

Jodi Hoyt asks if the Selectboard would be interested in having a Town Nurse. She has been hired to be the Town Nurse for Sharon. It is about 8 hours a week. Cilley will get the job description from Sharon Town Clerk.

McPhetres makes a motion to approve Cilley to purchase a Meeting Owl Pro for meetings. O'Brien seconds. So moved.

Warrants: Warrants were signed and approved.

Minutes from October 26th were approved by the board. Minutes from the November 9th meeting were sent back for edits.

O'Brien motions to adjourn. McPhetres seconds. So moved. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Gary Mullen, Chair

Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

John O'Brien, Clerk