

**TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE
SELECTBOARD MEETING**

Tuesday, December 14, 2021 6:00pm, Town Hall and Via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 6:34pm.

Present: Mike McPhetres, Gary Mullen, John O'Brien, Mariah Cilley, Dylan Kelley, Brenda Field, Rudi Ruddell, John Echeverria, Todd Tyson, Betsy Gaiser, Aileen Lem, Betsy Race, Kevin Geiger, Laura Ginsburg, Liz York, Anita Abbot, Meghan Asbury, Janet Zug, Michael Sacca, Nancy Chapman, Johnathan Bicknell, Charles Emmons, P2 Environmental, Kim's iPad, Matthew Lerch, Ellen Hosford, Maureen McCullough, Fern Strong, Patricia Rogers, Jodi Hoyt, Sarah Wraight, Heather Jenkins

Vote To Approve Town Plan- moved to the top of the agenda

McPhetres makes a motion to approve the Town Plan as written. O'Brien seconds. Discussion follows.

Janet Zug- what was changed from the December 2020 draft to now? Ginsburg explains the changes.

Betsy Gaiser- questions what the motivation for changing the language was.

John Echeverria- hopes that we can all work together to find alternative routes that appease everyone.

Brenda Field- The new language is not vague. The Wetlands are important. It gives the Town the time it needs to make the right choice.

John O'Brien- You can have a Town Plan with the complete opposite view of what the Selectboard or the Planning Commission wants, it is a working document that can be changed.

Todd Tyson- Many of the people on these committees but in hours of work to make suggestions and they aren't being taken into consideration.

Mike McPhetres- This is just a Town Plan, it is not a policy or an ordinance. It can all be changed it any time. If we accept it today doesn't mean that tomorrow the Selectboard can't make changes tomorrow.

Betsy Gaiser- It has a chilling effect to those that volunteer that they do all this work and the Selectboard doesn't take the recommendations.

Laura Ginsburg- The point of the Planning Commission and the Trails Committee is to make informed considerations of the policies and plans, but ultimately they are just considerations.

Gary Mullen- This is all fluid and we can always change it. If we approve this tonight it doesn't mean that it's set in stone.

John O'Brien- We need to look at how we can work with two landowners so neighborhoods are connected.

All aye. So moved. Town Plan is approved.

Four Town Coalition Update-Meghan Asbury

Asbury was having technical difficulties calling in. She will email her report to the Board.

Town Hall Lighting-Janet Zug and Matthew Lerch

There are thirteen lights in the downstairs of the Town Hall that need upgrading. We can make half of the lights a cool white light that are dimmable and the other half could be color changing for events. If we upgrade the wifi we could offer the ability to change the colors of the lights electronically. The cost is estimated around \$2200. Upgrading the lights in the kitchen would be an additional cost estimated around \$500. \$3000 total for the lighting project. The Selectboard will look at including that in the budget or check with the treasurer to see if there is money already.

ARPA Grant Helpful Info- Sarah Wraight

Wraight presents the Selectboard with a guidelines and boundaries document which outlines what we can and cannot spend ARPA money on. She is able to help with community meetings. The money is delivered in two chunks. We have the first amount deposited in August 2021 and the second will be August of 2022. The Selectboard has the say over the use of the money. It is important to have public input, but ultimately since it is not tax payer dollars the Selectboard can choose what they do with it. If we decided we wanted to do something with drinking water updates that goes through the State of Vermont so we can call them for eligibility options. We need to get an ordering system put in place to make sure that we are documenting all of the expenditures related to this grant in case of an audit.

Health Officer Report of 92 Gilley Road- Jodi Hoyt

Hoyt gives the board photos that were taken Monday/Tuesday of this week. There are two RV's parked on the lot. The first RV will be referred to as Unit 1 and the second RV up the road is considered Unit 2. There are 4 tenants in total, 2 in each camper. Anthony Winters (co-owner) has a trailer on the property. He has since vacated the property and moved. They all live there with no power, water or septic. Hoyt received a call on 10/19/21 of trash in the road. She went up to look and take photos and the trash had since been moved, but she felt very intimidated by the tenants in Unit 1 so she left because there was no immediate public health risk.

She received an anonymous report from a neighbor about the concerns. There are aggressive dogs and neighbors that are disruptive to the community. Hoyt called the state three times in regards to their ongoing septic investigation. Finally she received a call back from Dan Mason who states that he didn't enforce the septic at the time because he was unable to prove how often they really live there. Under 100 days per year and a septic is not needed.

There are many delinquent taxes on the property. Anna and Charles Emmons (co-owners) do not want the property. Hoyt reached out to Jeff Lewis and he took a look at the property information and found that it is up for tax sale in about two months. We could wait for a tax sale or the bank will most likely foreclose before then.

The Emmons would like to sell but the tenants make it difficult. We need to get the tenants off the property and then the family could sell. Winters is now in agreeance with wanting to sell the property.

Hoyt would like to enact Emergency Health Orders to each RV. This will require the tenants to remove themselves within 30 days. The couple in Unit 2 have been great to work with and Hoyt gave them resources to find other places to live. The couple in Unit 1 have not been great to work with. Hoyt noted to the couple in Unit 2 that they also need to move their RV with them, or else they risk the chance of it becoming the new owners with a sale or foreclosure. Our Fire Warden has also been notified in regards to the Health Officer Violations and failure. Hoyt has also made a report to DCF for Unit 1 as they have children's toys, diapers and other children's items there and it was told to her that a child comes every other weekend. A report has also been made to the State Police Animal Control Officer in regards to the dogs.

Dan Mason states that if the Selectboard likes the State can go ahead and fine the owners for no septic. Hoyt also notes that we can fine them for no driveway permit.

Matthew Lerch- If the town doesn't fine them for a permit and an accident happens at his house and the ambulance or fire department can't get up there, then he hopes the Town gets sued.

McPhetres makes a motion to authorize Jodi Hoyt Health Officer to carry out two Emergency Health orders at 92 Gilley Road and to allow Hoyt to consult Tavian Mayer for legal issues. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

McPhetres makes a motion to fine the property owners for no driveway permit. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

Road Report: Rodney Hoyt via Mike McPhetres

The town crew has been filling ruts. The proposed \$15,000 budget increase Rodney has put forth accounts for diesel prices and a maintenance budget for the grader. Hoyt just purchased new cutting edges, oil and an oil filter for the grader and it cost \$4000. Thomas's truck is in Lebanon getting fixed- it had no heat. The fan control needs replacing to the tune of \$4000.

Budget FY 22/23

Moved to a Special Selectboard Meeting Tuesday December 21, 2021 at 7pm in the Town Offices.

Other Business:

None.

Warrants: Warrants were signed and approved.

Minutes from the November 9th meeting were approved, and the November 23rd meeting were sent back for edits.

McPhetres motions to adjourn. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved. Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Gary Mullen, Chair

Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

John O'Brien, Clerk