

## **TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE SELECTBOARD MEETING**

**Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 6:00pm, Town Offices and Via Zoom**

Meeting called to order at 6:07pm

**Present:** Mike McPhetres, Gary Mullen, John O'Brien, Mariah Cilley, Tyler Cohen, Todd Tyson, Seth Heminway, John Echiverria, Elizabeth Brown, Johnathan Bicknell, Michael Sacca, Fred Pond, Sarah Wraight, Maureen McCullough, Meghan Asbury, Mick Maguire, Fern Strong, Brenda Field, Aileen Lem, Sarah Danly, Sarah Heminway, George White, Rudi Ruddell

### **Road Report via Mike McPhetres**

Black River Design suggested we pick a contractor. They believe it is best to go with a new regular steel building. Hoyt has someone coming up from White River to look at it May 24<sup>th</sup>. Most contractors are booked into next year. Mullen asks if we even really need a whole new building or just another shed?

A fuel pump needs to be replaced in the old truck. They are going to have someone come to the garage to fix it. One member of the road crew has COVID. The rest seem to be fine. Have been working on grading the roads.

### **4 Town Coalition Update- Megan Asbury and Sarah Danly**

The South Royalton Garden is ramping up. The 4 Town Coalition is discussing applying for an EIN so they can receive funding. Michael Sacca and the Coalition are working together for signage for trails in the four towns. North Tunbridge General Store is hoping to open in May. They are working with Crowd Funding via Vital Communities. They will be migrating their website to Square Space for a more official website and are working with Vital Communities to have them become the backbone of the Coalition.

Sarah Danly discusses housing in the four towns. She has been working on a Working Communities Challenge Grant which is a two part grant that is available for the 14 Town Consortium. There is a three year opportunity for our towns to think of what this community can do to make more affordable housing in our areas.

Todd Tyson- The 4 Towns are putting a concert series together and wants to know if the Coalition would be interested in working together for that. Asbury states they would love to.

### **ARPA Update- Sarah Wraight**

The Final Rule has come out and been determined. Wraight discusses this at length. We do not have to have our money obligated until the end of calendar year 2024 and expended until the end of calendar year 2026.

Wraight details how we can use the Lost Revenue category versus the Revenue Replacement category and different ideas on how to use the money to get the most flexibility. TRORC has hired someone who can come sit one-on-one with the treasurer and help go over accounting shift and how it should look.

There are five items that remain unable to use ARPA funds on: Pension Funds above and beyond normal contributions, a reserve or rainy day fund, to service debt, a project to undermine stopping COVID and for court settlements.

Tyson asks if using an engineer to consult on the Town Garage or emergency power back up at the Town Hall would be an appropriate use of ARPA funds. Wraight confirms it would.

John O'Brien asks if it would make sense to go to the Town Plan to determine how ARPA funds should be used. Wraight says each town is doing it differently but that the Selectboard has the final say.

Michael Sacca asks if the Selectboard would consider holding a public meeting for how to spend the ARPA funds? Mullen and McPhetres say that it is a very good possibility.

We should continue to reach out to Wraight and TRORC to see what other money is available to help stretch the ARPA funds.

### **Legal Trails Discussion- Todd Tyson**

Tyson thanks the Selectboard and everyone who has been working so diligently on this trails discussion. Tyson encourages the Selectboard to vote for nonmotorized use on the trails as it always has been. Encourages proper signage and encourages the Selectboard to still open and close the trails during wet seasons. Discusses/briefs on previous discussions. He is optimistic the Selectboard will keep the trails open to all nonmotorized vehicles.

George White- The Selectboard doesn't need to worry about signage because there are plenty of volunteers who would complete the signage at the wishes of the Selectboard. He is asking for permission from the Selectboard to have signs made up and place them. He believes that it only being open to pedestrians walking right now without an ordinance or a policy created is unfair and unreasonable to have the trail closed while they are deciding.

John Echeverria- Each trail is its own issue. We are trying to have discussions with everyone for a win-win for landowner and user groups. Walking only policy signs should stay in place until a conclusion is reached. Tyson asks Echeverria what happens if we do not close the trail he wants closed?

Tyson and White state that they do not believe the reroute Echeverria has presented is viable. Asks if there are others. Echeverria states that he has looked at many others and the one he is proposing would suit everyone the best. This alternative trail has less wetlands than the current trail and keeps people out of the front yard of the home. Echeverria confirms again he will pay for a study of this new route.

White- Trails are shut down to bikes and shouldn't be until something is determined. He feels slighted and like this is a rouse. He would like the policy changed and opened back up to being open for all previous uses in May until it is resolved.

Tyson- Discusses his thoughts. The Ranger has stated they will put up extra signage for the weekend stating that these trails are not for bicycle use during that time.

Mullen suggests that the Selectboard try to decide on the signage next meeting.

Michael Sacca- The Conservation Commission would take the lead on signage and would work with the Trail Committee and Forest Committee to put this signage up. He does not believe each trail is an “individual problem” as was previously suggested. The real issue is that these are town ROW’s for townspeople. He clarifies that the “Walking Only” the Selectboard has put in place is that you can walk your bicycle, horse etc. through the trail at this time.

John Echeveria- Disappointed in the pace that this is going and are also disappointed of the bikers who are done talking about things to try to meet in the middle and now just want it to be their way.

Johnathan Bicknell- He is looking to create a “Friends of the Trails” group to help maintain and do signage.

John O’Brien- The Selectboard doesn’t want to give up ROW’s and he thinks we should start with pedestrian walking and move up from there. He does not want to put the cart before the horse in regards to signage. He would like the Selectboard to set aside a time with no public input so they can hash it out themselves because they have not been able to. Tyson asks if an executive session would be permitted? Cilley will look into it.

White- Believes that at this time because a decision has not been made that everything is permitted on the trails. O’Brien states that the ATV community could say the same thing.

### **Discussion of Electronic Sign Policy**

The Selectboard discusses the parameters they would like to have set up for the Electronic Sign. Nonprofit, church, fire departments, and surrounding towns (towns that touch our borders) along with the ability to recognize the Tunbridge Little League as an example or someone who died. It will not be permitted to be moved because it was purchased with COVID funds to be used by the fire department and the town crew. The Selectboard would like it to be requested in writing and the duration of time be between 48-72 hours. Cilley will work on a draft policy.

### **Policy for Honoring Tunbridgians- John O’Brien**

O’Brien will draft info pertaining to this policy.

### **Alzheimer’s Help Info on Website**

The Selectboard would like to see a Town Nurse tab on the webpage with this information available as well as other clickable links of resources for those in town.

### **Liquor License Approval**

McPhetres makes a motion to sign the North Tunbridge General Store Liquor and Tobacco License. O’Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

McPhetres makes a motion to sign the Brocklebank Nanobrewery Festival Permit. O’Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

**Other Business:**

Cilley brings forth an increase in participatin request for The Ranger. They are currently maxed out at 500 participants, but would like to increase it to 600 as they have a 100 person wait list. They would not increase it past this amount. McPhetres makes a motion to increase The Ranger from 500 to 600 local riders from the waitlist. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

Cilley also states that she has included a rough draft of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Selectboard and Town Clerk if the position becomes appointed.

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

McPhetres motions to adjourn. O'Brien seconds. So moved. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

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Gary Mullen, Chair

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Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

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John O'Brien, Clerk