

## **TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE**

Tuesday April 9th, 2024 at 6:00pm via Zoom and Town Offices

Meeting called to order at 6:02pm

Present: Mike McPhetres, Mariah Cilley, John O'Brien, Gary Mullen, Maryann Caron, Brenda Field, Jonathan Bicknell, Amy Frost, Elizabeth Brown, Sarah Heminway, Rebecca Hoyt, Darren Marcy, Liz Williams, Sue Salster, Maureen McCullough, Todd Tyson, Fred Pond, Adam Kenyon, Dave Kimball, Emily Howe

### **Road Report- Rodney Hoyt via Mike McPhetres**

Larry Wight is back to work. Jim Ware is out with Covid now and is very sick. Rodney Hoyt is also out with Covid. Have been cleaning up brush from the last storm. Thomas Hoyt was out honing some of the really bad spots. They are going to fix as many washes as they can to get ready for the four days of rain. Equipment is going well. Working on getting prices for resurfacing the road.

### **LEMP Adoption- Brenda Field**

Field gives an overview on why we fill the LEMP out every year. We need to do this to get more money from FEMA. McPhetres makes a motion to adopt the LEMP. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

### **BRIC Grant Proposal Opening**

No Grant Proposals to open. Our Grant Manager states that she sent this personally to two different engineers and neither one sent in a proposal. Amy Frost from the Planning Commission is not sure what to do. They will reach out to Lisa Colb at the state to see what they should do moving forward. Caron has a report due on April 15<sup>th</sup> and was hoping to have a proposal to report on.

### **Fund Balance Policy- Rebecca Hoyt**

A fund balance policy states that the extra amount that is in the fund should stay there as a cushion to help with flooding etc. If we have surplus over what that cushion should be then we can move it to something else. Treasurer Hoyt recommends 10-15% as a cushion. O'Brien makes a motion to adopt the Fund Balance Policy. McPhetres seconds. All aye. So moved. Hoyt asks if we are doing a full audit or a partial audit. The Selectboard asks Cilley to reach out to the company to see what they did last year, and to set up a time to move forward with an audit.

### **Legal Trails- Jonathan Bicknell**

Cilley had reached out to our attorney regarding opening the trails and if it would affect our lawsuit. Tarrant suggested as long as we went back to historical uses it would not affect our suit.

Ruddell and Hayslett walked the Orchard Trail this past weekend and Ruddell stated that there were significant trees down throughout the entire trail. Bicknell wants this to be considered first. Ruddell is concerned that the downed trees are having a negative impact on the flow of waters on the trail. Bicknell has asked Echeverria to remove the trees and he said he will not. There are a

few downed trees on the O'Brien land- John O'Brien said he will remove them. You can navigate around the trees without leaving the trail if you are walking.

Jonathan Bicknell has not been on his legal trail yet. He is not sure if Susan Salster has gone and walked her legal trail that she is a steward of.

Ruddell speaks to his walk on the Orchard Trail: restating what Bicknell said previously about the water deteriorating the trail, bigger tree's being down in the trail, and how it would be hard to navigate over the bigger trails if you were doing anything but walking. The Selectboard asks Ruddell what they should do. Ruddell states that we should wait until Memorial Day to determine. O'Brien asks about if we decide to open the trail and we cut the trees due to safety and not general maintenance would that be a different argument. Bicknell said he does not know enough about the law to determine one way or the other. Bicknell suggests that we reach back out to our attorney and ask about liability issues with the trees. Ruddell's recommendation is that we would wait until Memorial Day and depend that on weather. Having a clear date for opening will make it easier for the public as well as the stewards to know when to expect the trail to open. The Selectboard is requesting the presence of the stewards the first meeting in May (May 14<sup>th</sup>) to determine opening for the season.

Bicknell is at a loss with The Crossroad. He is unsure if it is worth it for the town to put money into it. Baptist Hill is also questionable due to trees and the condition of the trail.

Sue Salster hasn't been up Falls Hill since the last snow storm. She is questioning if there is an update on the progress with Cal Heminway property. The Selectboard states that not yet.

Todd Tyson questions if there has been discussion of usage for the Memorial Day opening. Tyson thinks we should use wood chips to cover the soft part of the trail. Ruddell states that this is still considered fill. Tyson asks if there has been any update on the Heminway trail. He believes that limiting the trail usage to walking only due to the fear of trespassing from other users of the trail is unfair. The Trails Committee is happy to help work on continuing the trail between Falls Hill and the abutting landowners.

Cilley will reach out to our attorney with further questions.

### **Certificate of Approved Location for Salvage Yard (COAL)-Blakeman's Towing**

Cilley gives overview on

Dave Kimball spoke with the attorney for the State ANR. They have done 3 inspections in the last two months. He has paid \$35,000 in fines and has had many violations that he keeps ignoring. McPhetres would like to wait and decide at the next meeting. All in favor of tabling this until next meeting vote aye.

### **Tree Warden Appointment**

McPhetres makes a motion to appoint Rodney Hoyt as the tree warden. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

**Liquor License Approval**

O'Brien makes a motion to approve the liquor license for Brocklebank Brewery at the Nano Fest on August 17<sup>th</sup> 2024. McPhetres seconds. All aye. So moved.

**Certificate of Compliance for Road and Bridge Standards**

Signed and approved.

**Other Business:**

No other business.

**Approve Warrants:**

All warrants were signed and approved.

**Approve Minutes:**

Minutes from March 12<sup>th</sup> and March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 were approved.

McPhetres makes a motion to adjourn. O'Brien seconds. Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.

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Gary Mullen, Chair

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Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

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John O'Brien, Clerk

