

TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE

Tuesday September 24th, 2024 at 6:00pm via Zoom and Town Offices

Meeting called to order at 6:03pm

Present: Mike McPhetres, Mariah Cilley, John O'Brien, Gary Mullen, Rodney Hoyt, Rita Seto, Drew Gingras, Janet Wells, Ervin Yahr III, Nancy Howe, Jim Sherlock, Elaine Howe, Amy, Peter Hayden, Todd Tyson, Brenda Field, Kathy Galluzzo, Jodi Hoyt, Kirk Mayland, Emily Howe

Sidewalk Scoping Study Update- Drew Gingras & Rita Seto

Touching base with the Selectboard on where they are with the sidewalk scoping study. Initial local concerns meeting last fall. Gingras did some initial study and presented that to the Selectboard in August. Presenting on where we are with the grant and what our next steps are. Gingras presents the presentation that was presented in August. Started this project last fall and have been keeping on pace. Currently we have left a Draft Scoping Report, Selectboard Presentation/Final Public Meeting and a Final Scoping Report. It was noted that parking was needed along Route 110. Gingras notes that this is just a study, this is not a set in stone decision. Working to determine the cost and what would best alternative to suit the town. Seto states that an informal straw poll was done and Alternative 1 and No Build had equal votes. Hoping the Selectboard can make a choice on the Alternative that they are interested in choosing so that the team can go ahead and put some more detail into those alternatives and costing.

O'Brien asks how this works with the abutting landowners, municipal goals and VTrans? If we okay alternative one, are there issues where a resident in town can say they don't want a sidewalk going through their property. Gingras has stated that none of the alternatives presented go outside of the state right of way.

Tyson asks since three Planning Commission members (Wells, Field and Mullen) are here if there is any insight they had for future choices to be made. Wells states that there is alternatives up at the library and people are still making notes on that.

Gingras states that we can have a phased implementation plan where we phase in crosswalks first and then eventually put the crosswalks in next.

O'Brien asks about maintenance obligations. The state does not maintain the sidewalks. VTrans would issue a maintenance agreement and then the town would be responsible for maintaining the sidewalk. For winter maintenance we have to determine what that would look like for our town. Seto states that there are state funded grants for sidewalks as well as Federal grants.

Hoyt asks about the liability for town. Seto states that there is some level of liability but can check with other towns to see what their sidewalk policy is.

Nancy Howe is uncomfortable with the amount of money being spent on this grant with other towns having just lost a lot of infrastructure to flooding and now we are trying to build a path to nowhere. Howe believes that we need to have a town-wide vote needs to happen before we move forward.

Jim Sherlock says that the state historical preservation is concerned about the impact on the historic homes.

Road Report- Rodney Hoyt

Mullen spoke with Hank Joseph and Joseph said that Hoyt can trim the trees for the Mill Bridge. Cilley notes that someone stated the Mill Bridge had just been hit earlier today. Hoyt got a call from the people who are working on the tractor and they called and left a message and asked what we needed fixed. Hoyt states that he wants the seat fixed. Matt Loftus is doing a job on Howe Hill where they have blasted up some rock to move a hill. The rock is free is we go and get it. McPhetres says we should grab it. We have about 2800 yards of sand so far. If it gets to be much later, Hoyt is going to suggest that we help him. Hoyt has finished Angell Road and Kelsey Mountain as far as the two grants go. Getting ready to put up some winter material. Hoyt thinks we will need to bring it out of McCullough's pit. He is wanting 1500 yards of 1 ¼ and 500 yard of 2 ¼. The Selectboard says he should go ahead and do it. The piston has gotten back up to Case and there was no charge to fix it. This will get put back in the loader tomorrow. The ton truck is at Osgood's and they have ordered a new piston and when it comes in the piston will get put in. Boles is all done with the bridge on Whitney Hill.

Solar Project Update- Todd Tyson

Maryann Caron updates on the MERP Grant. The application is due 9/30. She has been working on our application and we should likely just accept the items that the report identified as the high return on investment items. There are two things we need to talk about today which are 1) weatherization items seemed like no brainers and are suggesting air source heat pumps. 2) Mayland is suggesting 5kW rooftop solar and is not suggesting the Level 1 chargers. Tyson does not see EV Charging being part of this application. Mayland thinks we should ask for a group net metering and leverage federal funding which could do 30-40% and not do it on the rooftops. Mayland is thinking a 12kW would be sufficient. McPhetres makes a motion to allow Caron to submit the MERP grant application. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

Caron states that we have finally been paid for three FEMA projects. The Strafford Road project is slowly moving forward and we have a few other projects that are getting finished up.

Recreation Department Update- Kathy Galluzzo

Galluzzo gives an update on her summer activities. A few softball tournaments are left. Rec Breakfast is happening every month. Galluzzo has found a company that also takes grant money for a new playground. She is hoping we can get a committee together to help decide on the playground. Cilley mentions Tess Mix is interested in helping with this activity. There is WiFi at the Recreation Field now. Seth Johnson will put up the ice rink in the fall.

Health Officer/Town Nurse Update- Jodi Hoyt

Hoyt is hoping to make the Town Health Officer part of her paid position and is wanting to look at the cost of her budget and how much it has increased. She is wanting to increase her pay. She is going to be hired as an independent contractor for Chelsea and is also going to need to look at how Tunbridge wants to loan out the medical equipment that Tunbridge has. Hoyt is getting very backlogged in her only 8 hours that she has per week. Discussions were had about what the

current budget is and what her hourly rate could be. The Selectboard looked at the budget and approved \$42 an hour at 12 hours per week. Her goal will be to update her hours to 15 per week. Hoyt asks how they feel about the payment of the Health Officer. She feels like it takes up a lot of time when she gets a big case, and does not get compensated for her. It makes it hard for her to take the time to do the Health Officer cases when she could be working on her paid community nursing job. Hoyt is looking to create a committee that could meet once a month and help her brainstorm for grants and fundraising. Gary Mullen signs off on the Health Officer Re-Appointment Form.

Other Business:

Betsy Gaiser- River Cleanup on October 6th on the fire road access and the Larkin Bridge river frontage. Louise Barreda wants to clean up the bank off of Dickerman Road to get the refrigerator. Gaiser is wondering if we want to become a member of the Upper Valley Trails Alliance prior to the meeting next weekend. O'Brien makes a motion to join the Upper Valley Trails Alliance. McPhetres seconds. All aye. So moved.

Three liquor licenses were signed and approved.

Approve Warrants:

McPhetres makes a motion to let Mullen sign the orders. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved. All warrants were signed and approved.

Approve Minutes:

Minutes signed and approved.

McPhetres makes a motion to adjourn. O'Brien seconds. Meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.

Gary Mullen, Chair

Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

John O'Brien, Clerk

