

TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE

Tuesday October 22nd, 2024 at 6:00pm via Zoom and Town Offices

Meeting called to order at 6:04pm

Present: Mike McPhetres, Mariah Cilley, John O'Brien, Gary Mullen, Rodney Hoyt, Rudi Ruddell, Elizabeth Brown, Susan Salster, John Echeverria, Peter Hayden, Betsy Gaiser, Tom Wells, Matt Frost, Todd Tyson, Maureen McCullough, Darren Marcy

Road Report- Rodney Hoyt

Tractor is still waiting for parts so it won't be going together for a while. We are using Thomas Hoyt's tractor to blow leaves currently. Hoyt is trying to hear from Pike about paving on the Strafford Road Bridge. Hoyt told Pickett that when they are done working on a few things around town, then everyone will come over in their trucks to finish moving sand for the winter. We have around 2000 yards left to move. We are closing in on being almost finished for winter material. Hoyt is still going to get 200 yards of stone from McCullough's for early winter. Hoyt moved some Hemlock on Moody Road today, but they are giant blocks and Hoyt is not sure what to do with them. Hoyt is wanting to put them in the woods and let them rot down. O'Brien asks if the wood was good for milling down and Hoyt states it wasn't worth anything and was all punky.

Tom Wells comes to discuss working on Goodwin Hill Road. He states he has not cut anywhere near twenty five trees down. Wells had asked permission from the Selectboard back in 2020 to widen and update the road for building materials to be able to come in. He presents a photo of how wide he has made the road for equipment to get through. And also states that he has not moved a stone wall. Wells is done with the work, and he just wanted to let the Selectboard hear it from him. Hoyt states that he went up after the Selectboard had asked him to last meeting and to Hoyt's opinion the work is done to his satisfaction and he could not see any signs of stone walls being removed or trees being cut down except for a few that was well within the Right-of-Way.

Dumping Off County Road- Peter Hayden

For many years people have been dumping at the turn around at the town line on County Road and ¼ towards town on the steep embankment. Hayden has pulled out diapers, tires, a mattress screen doors, refrigerators etc. Some of this stuff has been there for years and some of this stuff is newly arrived. Hayden has been removing the items and disposing them. There are three barrels with oil (?) in them and he is asking for help to get them out and exposed of. Hoyt will pick up the barrels and determine what is in them. Hoyt will order "No Dumping Signs".

Trails Maintenance Update- Rudi Ruddell

Ruddell discusses the reports from each of the trail stewards. Bicknell maintains a position of keeping the Cross Road Legal Trail closed. He states that the Cross Road is a prime example of what happens when a trail is not maintained. Ruddell states that Baptist Hill remains extremely wet and has been all year. There is a large gully at the beginning of it. The lower section is a particular concern to Ruddell. Ruddell visited the Orchard Road trail during the driest portions of the summer and the road was still somewhat wet. Salster gave a report regarding the Falls Hill Trail. The water bars are intact, trail signs are still up and the trail is dry and in good condition

for walking. McPhetres makes a motion to open the Falls Hill Trail for non-motorized vehicles. O'Brien seconds following that Salster will monitor trail conditions. All aye. So moved. Sean Ogle from UVTA went up this weekend and took a quick look at the trail. He felt that the first drainage coming from the O'Brien side could be crossed with a 16 to 20 foot bridge. This does not require permitting because it does not change the trail. This would be placed to the side so this would allow tractors to use the trail. The second wetland area could be spanned by a bridge but there is another section of the trail where the water runs down the trail for 50 to 100 feet and he suggests substantial drainage to be put in place. Ruddell maintains his position that the trail should be only open to walkers until the further water mitigation can be completed. Ruddell is concerned that this portion of the trail is a seep. Ruddell believes Ogle would be able to get us on the track to permitting and water mitigation plan. The next steps are that Ogle will write up a report for us including his recommendations. Mullen asks Ruddell to request a proposal from him for what we would need to do to get to the end product. Hayden asks about the other trails and if we will upgrade them. Ruddell states that a culvert could go back in on Baptist Hill. Mullen would like to hire Ogle to look at all the trails and give an analysis of the trails and what the minimum would be to make them useable.

Tour Group Policy

Cilley presents the Selectboard with a Tour Group Policy. McPhetres makes a motion to adopt the Tour Group Policy starting January 1st, 2025. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

Other Business:

Gaiser states that there was a river cleanup on October 6th and 44 tires were picked between 110 Bridge to Baxters.

CVSWMD reached out to Cilley to see if they could move the Hazardous Waste Day to the Town Garage. The Selectboard is fine with this.

Cilley presents the Selectboard with the updated 2025/2026 hourly rate.

Cilley presents an estimate for removing a fallen maple limb at Dickerman Road Cemetery from Vermont Tree Company.

Tunbridge General Store Liquor License Application is approved.

Approve Warrants:

All warrants were signed and approved.

Approve Minutes:

Minutes signed and approved.

McPhetres makes a motion to adjourn. O'Brien seconds. Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Gary Mullen, Chair

Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

John O'Brien, Clerk