



Town of Montgomery - P.O. Box 356
Montgomery Center, VT 05471
802-326-4719
www.montgomeryvt.us

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SELECTBOARD & WATER COMMISSION

Monday, September 18th 2023

6:30pm

Town Office Conference Room (86 Mountain Road)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/BMu1HEE7VNw4OAoHG50gegGp3ePuttPH6WheZHtMBdU1lxSanJ9wgVntG01H5Ebn.nuo5QK91VZJx1Rpb>

Passcode: HRSiM@d1

In Attendance: Suzanne Dollios, Charlie Hancock, Emily Kimball, Mark Brouillette, Leanne Barnard
On Zoom: Kip Porter, Larry Letourneau, Merle VanGiesen, Josh Howard, Gabby Lumbra, Amy Godfrey

1. Review and make any changes to the agenda
 - a. No Changes
2. Review/approve minutes of the 9/4 meeting minutes
 - a. Mark motioned to approve the minutes, Leanne seconded, motion passed 5-0-0.
3. Public Works - Updates (*discussion*)
 - a. VTrans Grant Agreement #GA0365 Amendment (*board action*)
 - i. FY 23 agreement was amended which needs to be signed for reimbursement for the Hill West project. The project has been completed and this paperwork is to get the reimbursement for the town.
 1. Mark motioned to adopt the amendment, Suzanne seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0. Charlie will sign this and return it.
 - b. Longley Bridge Road/Trout River work update (*discussion*)
 - i. Project is coming along well, there will be more material needed as more of the riverbank has been lost in the last few months. The scope of work is the same as what was previously approved. The timeline seems to be on track, as material has been acquired as needed.
 - ii. The equipment was moved in and following this, fuel was stolen out of the machines, approximately 70 gallons. At this point some of the equipment has been located at the town garage when not in use.
 - c. Mark reports that there are a few road signs that have also been stolen around town, Hazen's Notch Road and Dreamers Rd have been stolen. Gibou Road was knocked down but recovered.
 - d. Hill West Extension – Deep Gibou Class IV Road/Bridge Status (*discussion*)

- i. The land owner reports that ATV traffic has not heeded signs that ATV traffic is not allowed on the property. The ATV traffic has gone around concrete barriers that were put at the property line, through stream beds and causing deterioration of newly built roads and trails. At this point the landowner has removed the decking panels on the bridge as the ATVs continue to access the property.
- ii. Is public access guaranteed in the conservation easement (pedestrian access). Mark reports that the work that has been done looks good. Suzanne notes that the landowner has stipulated pedestrian access is allowed and so an allowance of pedestrian access over the bridge is what the landowner should be responsible for.
- iii. Larry reports that the current state of the bridge would allow for pedestrian access. Railings could be needed to ensure safety.
- iv. Josh Howard questions that the landowner is required to replace the bridge decking as access is required.
- v. Charlie reports that while they are legal class 4 roads, the town does not maintain them. The previous decking was unsafe, and was not maintained.
 1. Charlie will look into state statute as to what is required as far as maintenance of structures (bridges and culverts)
- vi. Gabby is asking if the property is still accessible for pedestrian access, and wishes that there was a bit more access for pedestrian access.
- vii. Suzanne notes that the landowner has granted pedestrian access to the property only, therefore replacing the decking to a status where pedestrians could access the property and not ATVs as that is how it is posted could be a solution
- viii. Amy reports that she and her family maintained the road in the Deep Gibou and that everyone else is able to use the road, public access on the class four road cannot be limited, and questions why other access can be limited
- ix. The question at the end of the discussion is what are the state statutes that the town must require landowner to bring the bridge up to?
- x. Josh would like to note that if there are people recreating on that property that there should be ambulance access, Charlie responded that there are thousands of acres of accessible land in town that does not have an access road that an ambulance could use.
- xi. Larry states that the class four road ends at the bridge, that it is not completely public access to the waterfalls and that since he began visiting that property in 1996 that the bridge has not been maintained.
- xii. This will be discussed at the next meeting based on what Charlie finds in state statute. Step two will be to revisit class four road policy in general to determine if changes are needed.
- xiii. Amy reports that there is a class 4 road in town that is posted. Charlie recalls that the town was unable to determine exactly where the road crosses the meadow. Charlie will look at this.

4. Visitors (scheduled for 7pm)

- a. Merle is asking about the draft of the streetscape project-Charlie reports that it will hopefully be posted online this week. Merle would also like his number listed on the website as a lister.

- b. Kip is asking about dates scheduled for the wastewater project. There is not yet a scheduled date.
- 5. Old Business
 - a. Snedikor/Eberle DRB Appeal (*potential board action*)
 - i. The attorneys have been working on a settlement and Charlie will bring back feedback on the Stipulated Proposed Order to the attorneys to add specificity
 - b. Streetscape Project update (*discussion*)
 - i. No actions are needed on our end at this point, there is a meeting scheduled for public feedback
 - c. Wastewater Project update (*discussion*)
 - i. Trying to get indirect discharge permits prior to purchasing properties as the town cannot afford to purchase properties and then have permitting denied
 - ii. Charlie is continuing to work on one property purchase
 - iii. Waiting on determination of how \$2.7 million from State ARPA funding can be applied and to what cost centers. This information should be forthcoming this week .
 - d. Mark has talked to Liz about the energy audits and the town is at the top of the list for those to be conducted (within the next month). Following these audits there will be decisions that need to be made especially with regard to 98 Main Street. Mark notes that there is some mold in the basement again, sump pumps and dehumidifiers have been running all summer. The building continues to cost the town money.
 - i. Charlie contacted TD Bank and relayed to them that the ATM works infrequently and that this needs to be fixed or the lease will be terminated.
- 6. New Business
 - a. Liquor/Tobacco Licenses (*board action*)
 - b. Fleet Permits (*board action*)
- 7. Open Mail / Sign Orders / Administrative Matters
- 8. Review Action Items for Board Members
- 9. Adjourn
 - a. Mark made a motion to adjourn, Suzanne seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:39pm.