

Mount Holly Special Select Board Meeting
April 22, 2020
Minutes

Zoom Meeting: 790 3885 1829

Present: Select Board: Jeff Chase, Jennifer Matthews, Mark Turco
Town Officials: David Johnson, Jim Seward, Clinton Woolley
Members of the Public: none in attendance

1. **Call to Order** by Mark Turco at 6:30 pm.
2. All recited the **Pledge of Allegiance**.
3. **Changes and/or additions to the agenda** – None were necessary.
4. **Tree Removals (6) - Belmont** –All three Select Board members had looked at the six trees in question (two on Belmont Road at the Herbst property, one by cemetery, a large ash and two dead maples on Maple Hill Road) and all agreed the trees did need to be removed. Mr. Wooley had spoken with G.M. Tree Tech, as had Ms. Matthews; G.M. Tree Tech will try to remove these six trees and the four dying maples at Old Mechanicsville Cemetery at the same time. Mr. Turco made a motion to accept G.M. Tree Tech’s \$1600 proposal to remove the six Belmont trees, seconded by Mr. Chase, unanimously approved.
5. **Local Emergency Management Plan – approve** – Mr. Chase stated he had updated the NIMS list and some of the contact information. He also added the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) Mutual Aid agreement information to the plan. Steffanie Bourque from RRPC reviewed the plan and was very pleased with it. Ms. Matthews complimented Mr. Chase on the updated plan and a job well done. Ms. Matthews made a motion to approve and adopt the LEMP, seconded by Mr. Turco, unanimously approved. Russ Garrow and Mr. Chase will sign the document.
6. **EID Grant Update** – Mr. Chase stated he had continued to research the grant guidelines and past projects. The grant is competitive with a strong focus on projects addressing housing, tourism, education and public works. Culvert replacement projects have not been done in the past, so the previously discussed projects here in town are not a good fit for this grant. Mr. Chase stated the community composting project could be a possibility. He had spoken with Casella Organics and he learned a community composting project is a viable option and not a complex undertaking. Discussion ensued about the design of the operation and the minimal cost involved. Ms. Matthews stated it could be a win-win; a town composting operation could be further incentive to pull food scraps out of the waste stream thereby avoiding the rising costs for food scrap disposal at the Gleason Road facility plus the end result of having compost available for residents’ gardens. Mr. Turco stated it was a viable project offering a cost savings. Mr. Chase stated fence improvements at the transfer station could be incorporated into the grant and a compost training course was readily available. As the grant deadline has been pushed out to June first, he will continue to investigate the community composting options and he will give an update at the May meeting.
7. **Act 250 Notice – Green Mountain Power – Improvements** – Mr. Chase had reviewed the maps associated with this \$400,000 project to move poles and wires from residents’ backyards to run along the road. Mr. Turco stated GMP was working to pull back country service lines back to the road so as to incur less tree damage to wires and power outages and for easier repairs. Ms. Matthews noted the project is along Frost Hill, Belmont and Gates Roads. She knew several abutters who looked forward to having the poles moved. No response to the Act 250 notice is necessary unless there are concerns or permits needed, and there are neither. Mr. Turco declared this a good project.

8. Permissible Road Crew Activities – Ms. Matthews explained there were changes to permissible activities from week-to-week as Governor Scott issued new Addenda to his Executive Order. She had emailed an updated list from the Agency of Transportation, which is very comprehensive. As long as the current safety guidelines (social distancing, disinfecting equipment, hand washing, etc.) are being practiced, current road crew activities are permitted. Mr. Turco asked if there were social distancing signs posted in the garage. He and Mr. Chase will supply Mr. Woolley with signs to post.

9. Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) – personnel –Ms. Matthews made a motion to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter at 6:58 pm, seconded by Mr. Turco, unanimously approved. Motion to exit executive session at 7:07 pm was made by Ms. Matthews, seconded by Mr. Chase, unanimously approved. No actions were taken.

Respectfully submitted: Jennifer Matthews

Minutes Approved: 5.12.2020