

Mount Holly Select Board Meeting
May 10, 2022 Minutes
In-Person with Zoom Meeting: 898 6126 5487

Present:

Select Board: Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Mark Turco (Chair)

Town Officials: Caitlin Boyle, Carol Garrow-Woolley, David Johnson, Jon McCann, Christine Pratt, James Seward, Clinton Woolley

Members of the Public: In Person: Paul Barton, Zena Gates, Stephen Michel, Amy Turco. Via Zoom: Francis and Carol DeVine, Chad Farrar, Sue Starr-Adams

1. **Call to Order by Mark Turco at 6:30 pm.**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** All stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda:** Jeff Chase made one addition re: Mutual Aid Agreement for Rutland County for Public Works
4. **Approval of April 12, 15th, 28th Minutes:** Diana Garrow made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Jeff Chase, unanimously approved.
5. **Reports**
 - a. **Highways & Transfer Station Update - Clinton Woolley**
 - i. Green Up: Green Up pickups were completed on May 9; there were 60 bags, four tires and some scrap metal. About a normal year.
 - ii. Food Scraps Composting Containers: Permits for discounted composting containers can be purchased by citizens of Mount Holly from Rutland County Solid Waste. When Rutland County Solid Waste puts in another order, we can join them to purchase a few containers to sell at the same discounted price directly to townspeople.
 - iii. Grading is almost done; a few touch-ups to come.
 - iv. Paving: The Town did not get a paving grant this year. Mr. Woolley proposed coming up with a Plan B for repaving Hortonville Road.
 - a. **Treasurer - David Johnson - Monthly Income & Expense Report**
 - i. Fire Dept Vehicle Replacement Funds were moved to the community bank account.
 - ii. Taxes receivable as of 3/31/22 were ~\$12,000; there is about \$45,000 left to collect. Fourteen properties are potential tax sales; the Town's attorney will be sending a letter to those property owners.

- iii. Solid waste label sales to 4/26 are in line with budget.
- iv. The Casella line-item is on track to be under budget.
- v. The Town has a small income on zero-sort recycling.
- vi. Vehicle repair line item is under half the budget.
- vii. Funds remain in summer roads and winter roads budgets.

b. Mount Holly Planning Commission Update - Jon McCann

- i. The Planning Commission is still working on Town Plan, and encountering some problems finding data on housing for the Housing Plan. The Housing Plan portion of the Town Plan could entail a description of the kind of housing the Town wants, for example a goal to encourage primary residents over second-home owners, or a goal to keep Town housing affordable.
- ii. Porter subdivision is reported and recorded.
- iii. Citizen concerns about Bolalek subdivision have been addressed; there is a plan for a six-bedroom house on the lot; neighbors were expecting only four. The new owner is seeking an amendment to the wastewater permit from the state; should he receive it, he will have all the permits he needs for the six-bedroom house.
- iv. Jared Wilcox is vegetation planner for Green Mountain Power; any ash trees on the line side of the street will come down; this represents a savings for the Town on inventory and removal. His recommendation is for the Town to budget for this for the coming years.

c. Mount Holly Conservation Commission (MHCC) Update -- Fra Devine

- i. Shade Tree Plan: Will likely ask for time in next Selectboard Meeting to present a Shade Tree Plan to Selectboard.
- ii. Star Lake: The MHCC's Request to Agency of Natural Resources (DEC) for a bottom barrier for Star Lake is currently in the comment period of the grant process. Citizens are encouraged to offer comments in support of a permit to put down two plastic bottom barriers to control and/or eliminate vegetation in the swimming area.
- iii. The MHCC will establish a central depository of all inventories, for review by Planning Commission and Selectboard.
- iv. Recommend that Town does regular coliform testing of Star Lake, weekly, to test for e-coli in lake. Cost is \$15/week; request is that the Health Officer of the Town be tasked with this testing, to make Townspeople comfortable to swim.
- v. iNaturalist Initiative: The MHCC encourages citizens to use iNaturalist smartphone app to track species found within Town borders. Thus far, 925 animals have been sighted and identified within Town through iNaturalist.
 - 1. Paul Barton noted that Star Lake was historically a swamp and then a working mill pond that was periodically drained. He believes it may be an "industrial septic tank" and raised

concerns that the MHCC may not be scientifically equipped to adequately assess the lake's safety. Fra Devine noted his agreement, and that the MHCC's efforts are to save all or a portion of the lake for safe recreation.

6. New Business

a. Two Rivers Supervisory Union -- Request for Public Input on Recovery Funds -- Anne Gardner

- i. Anne is the Recovery Coordinator for the Supervisory Union; the SU has received three pools of recovery (ARP ESSER) funds from the Federal Government. The first pool of funding was given early in the pandemic for safety spending (i.e. personal protective equipment, air quality, etc.). The second pool was to rebuild educational standards and student learning losses after the initial period of school closures during the Covid-19 pandemic. The third pool of funding is forthcoming, and is a \$3M pool that can be spent on either 1) social-emotional learning; 2) student engagement (i.e. supporting students outside of the building in the community); or 3) academic growth, (e.g. summer programs to support learning). The pool of funding cannot be spent on infrastructure or capital improvements.
- ii. The public is encouraged to submit comment and feedback on how this third pool of funding should be spent. To provide comment and feedback, email Anne Gardner at anne.gardner@trsu or call at 802-875-6437.
 1. Paul Barton noted that there used to be a scholarship fund called the Chilino-Barton Scholarship, approximately 20 years ago; he asked Anne to provide an update; she agreed.

b. Dog License Registration for Unregistered Dogs

- i. Diana Garrow reported that the VT Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Association recommends that towns adopt a policy that as of May 30th, a list of unlicensed dogs should be provided to the Selectboard, with a warning sent to dog owners of unlicensed dogs that their dogs will be destroyed unless licensed. The VMCT also advises that towns may adopt an ordinance imposing a fine for owners of unregistered dogs, on top of the higher licensing fee for licenses issued after April 1.
 1. Carol Garrow-Woolley noted that to date, 168 dogs were registered in Town. There are approximately 160 previously licensed dogs that are not currently licensed this year. The VMCT recommends that the Town's Animal Control Officer or First Constable reconciles the list of registered and unregistered dogs.
 2. Mark Turco recommended that a post reminding owners to register their dogs be added to the Chit Chat and Mt. Holly NewsFlash as a first step.

c. Bids Received for FY23 Winter Sand

- i. Two bids were received for the provision of winter sand in the 2023 fiscal year. The Pike Industries bid came in at \$7.90/ton; the Wallingford Crushed Stone bid came in at \$10.25/ton with a delivery price of \$8/ton. The current price for FY22 is \$7.50/ton.
- ii. Clinton proposed purchasing from Pike Industries as the primary vendor.
- iii. Jeff Chase made a motion to establish Pike Industries as primary vendor for FY23 Winter Sand and Wallingford Crushed Stone as the secondary vendor. Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.

d. Mutual Aid Agreement for Rutland County for Public Works

- i. Jeff Chase made a motion to adopt the MRPC Mutual Aid Agreement for Public Works for FY23; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.

7. Ongoing Business

a. Adopt Revised Town Personnel Policy

- i. Diana Garrow made a motion to adopt the revised town Personnel Policy; Jeff Chase seconded; unanimously approved.

b. Highway Opening Filled.

- i. Clinton Woolley noted that he is very pleased with the new hire, Robert F. Knight, Jr.

c. Class 4 Road Policy and Highway Access Policy

- i. Jeff Chase noted that in January there was a draft considered of the Town's Class 4 Road Policy; there needs to be a new Highway Access Policy to replace the Highway Access Permit. Jeff Chase will post a copy of the proposed Highway Access Policy on the Town website and in the Town Office.

d. Junk Ordinance Enforcement Updates

- i. A new letter was received from Virginia Ward by Selectboard re: two properties. The first property is on Belmont Road, adjacent to the Mount Holly Post Office. The second is at 137 Shunpike Road.
- ii. The Selectboard will send a letter to each of the property owners, with a copy of the Town Junk Ordinance and a request to comply.
- iii. Jim Seward noted that the property owner at Belmont Road and another property owner at 1559 Route 103 have been sent warnings from the state environmental authorities for failing to comply with burn regulations.
- iv. The Selectboard will reach out to the town attorney to seek guidance on how to proceed with 1559 Route 103. David Johnson noted the property owner has unpaid taxes.

- v. Notice will also be sent to the property owners at the Blue Spruce Inn on Route 155; David Johnson noted that property also has unpaid taxes.

e. Board of Adjustment Openings Posted -- Due May 31, 2022

- i. The Selectboard has received one letter of interest for the BOA to date. The town seeks three BOA members with two alternates. A description of the post and request for letters of inquiry can be found at mounthollyvt.org.
- ii. Jeff Chase made a motion to adopt a BOA with three members and two alternates. Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.
- iii. The Selectboard will make the appointments at the next regular Selectboard meeting in June.
- iv. Terms for the appointments will be set at the time of the appointments.

f. Municipal Planning Grant Update

- i. One consultant has submitted an application to advise the Town's Municipal Planning Grant Update. She is very qualified, but is not an engineer.
- ii. Jeff Chase recommended hiring her to get going on a plan; her bid came in under the grant amount.

8. Citizen Comments

- i. Removal of the TH-15 Scampsville Road from the Town Highway Map -- Dennis Devereux.
 - 1. Paul Barton asked who owns the land adjoining the road. Jeff Chase confirmed it is owned by the US National Forest, and adjoining properties are owned by private property owners.
 - 2. The Selectboard noted that the Scampsville Road sign is a state-owned sign and cannot be removed by the Town.
- ii. Paul Barton thanked Jeff Chase for facilitating the donation of U.S. flags to Mount Holly School.

9. Announcements/Other Business

- a. Grievance Hearings Begin May 20

10. Review & Sign Orders

11. Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3)

- a. No session needed.

12. Adjourn

- g. Meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm