

Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board
July 6th, 2020
28 North Main Street

Present: C. Viens, M. Bard, K. Martin, M. Frier and N. Fish, Select Board; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; and C. Lawrence, Town Clerk. The meeting was held via videoconference.

Public: Susan Bulmer, ORCA Media, Theresa Wood, Amy Yavitz, Jeremy Hill, Lisa Scagliotti, Rob Sprague, Alison Scleppe, Mish Boreanaz, MK Monley, Don Schneider, Noah Fishman, Naomi Alfini, Walter Opuszynski, Allan Thompson, Life LeGeros, Scott Seward, Maroni Minter, Chad Ummel, Alaina Kunkle and Marlena Tucker Fishman.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

APPROVE AGENDA

M. Frier asked to add a discussion about a mask mandate in Waterbury. C. Viens asked for a brief conversation on Maple Street and Guptil Road, and for an update on the coronavirus pandemic. M. Bard made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

M. Frier made a motion to approve the consent agenda items including the minutes of the June 15th meeting and an Outside Consumption Permit for Smuggler's Notch Distillery. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC

There was no public comment.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS

Blush Hill Road Boat Access

W. Shepeluk explained that there has been discussion of the heavy traffic at the Blush Hill Boat access. At a previous meeting the ordinance was amended to allow parking on one side of the road, but is not yet in effect. W. Shepeluk stated that no parking signs are up, and that he has placed fliers on cars periodically. W. Shepeluk has gone up to the site within the last couple of days and people are parking appropriately.

W. Shepeluk stated that some people feel there should be a limitation on the size of boats that can put in at the Blush Hill access. S. Bulmer responded that some of the larger boats use the ramp at the Waterbury Center access. C. Ummel stated that traffic is better since other State Parks have opened; however the Reservoir is at peak usage. He believes there is still adequate space for the users. S. Bulmer stated that more people are using the State Parks over the past couple of decades. C. Viens asked about the capability for additional parking. S. Bulmer stated that the State has recognized parking capacity may be an issue with the improvements in the access and that upper management is concerned. W. Shepeluk stated that creating more parking would add more traffic and invite more usage, so careful planning needs to be considered. W. Shepeluk believes the current restricted parking is working well. Discussion continued.

Little River Road Speed

W. Shepeluk stated that the Town has had a number of emails and calls expressing concern about the speed on Little River Road. It is a perennial issue when Little River State Park is open. R. Sprague stated that traffic has increased significantly since the COVID-19 crisis hit. He stated that there are more people jogging, biking and walking on the road than ever before. R. Sprague stated that the State Police have placed a speed control sign on the road but there is still speeding and he suggested the use of seasonal speed bumps. W. Shepeluk stated that there may be no safe way to place a speed

bump on a gravel road. He suggested placing some Jersey barriers to narrow the road whereby pedestrians can walk, jog, bike on the backside of the barrier. C. Viens suggested increasing the speeding fines high enough that it would deter speeding. W. Shepeluk stated that the Board could try to raise the fines for speeding on that road. The fines would have to be reasonable and enforcement might be an issue. Little River Road residents weighed in on the issues. A. Yavitz suggested permanent flashing signage. M. Bard suggested more State Police presence. S. Bulmer suggested that the Town allow the State to place additional signage to slow down. The Rangers can also remind users to drive with caution. Various types of signage were discussed including signs that would take pictures of license plates.

Mask Mandate

M. Frier had a couple of residents ask that Waterbury consider a mask ordinance in light of more tourists coming into Waterbury and an increase in business re-openings. Discussion followed. W. Shepeluk explained that the Board discussed this issue a couple of meetings ago and took no action as there would be difficulties with enforcement. M. Frier stated that Stowe has a resolution requiring that people wear masks and the businesses there can ask that mask be worn. T. Wood stated it is unfortunate that there is not a State wide mandate, and supports the idea of a resolution. Implementing a mask mandate would level the playing field for businesses, as they should not have to make public health decisions. T. Wood suggested getting the opinion of the Town Health Officer. M. Frier read the resolution approved by the Town of Stowe. M. Frier offered to talk with K. Nevin at Revitalizing Waterbury to determine if the business community would support a resolution. After some more discussion, M. Frier made a motion that the Town of Waterbury adopt the following resolution:

Waterbury Select Board Resolution Regarding Face Coverings

WHEREAS, Governor Scott and the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development have issued the following instructions in conjunction with the Governor's executive orders regarding COVID-19:

"Employees must wear face coverings when in the presence of others. In the case of retail cashiers, a translucent shield or sneeze guard is acceptable in lieu of a mask. Businesses and non-profit and government entities may require customers or clients to wear mask while on their premises," and

WHEREAS, the CDC has advised "Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children younger than 2 years of age, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance," and

WHEREAS, the Waterbury Select Board desires to add its voice encouraging the community to follow the Governor's executive orders regarding COVID-19; to recognize best practices for social distancing and to promote community acceptance of wearing face coverings to help protect the public health and welfare,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that employees are required and people entering municipal buildings are required to wear a face-coverings or an acceptable substitute when in the presence of others except if it is not recommended by the CDC, or while eating and drinking. Other businesses and all places in the Town of Waterbury that accommodate the public are required to do the same.

While it is recognized that compliance is mandatory for employees, it is also recognized that there is no means to enforce a requirement for residents or visitors to wear a face covering. The intent is to set the example and to encourage voluntary cooperation, not confrontation.

K. Martin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Appoint Select Board Representative for Energy Plan Committee

M. Bard made a motion to appoint M. Fryer to the Energy Plan Committee as the Select Board representative, Curtis Ostler and Daniel Beideck as the public members, and to appoint Duncan McDougall as the Energy Plan Committee Chair. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

Use of Banner Poles for Art Against Racism

The group that discussed Art Against Racism at the last meeting has asked about the use of the banner poles for their display. Revitalizing Waterbury and the Rotary Club are involved in the discussion as well. D. Schneider explained that the sign would support 'Black Lives Matter' and explained what the sign would look like. There would be a variety of banners throughout the year that would stay up more than the two-week limit. The group is still interested in pursuing a mural on the train overpass but would like some signage to go up sooner. A discussion followed as to the meaning of the phrase 'Black Lives Matter'. M. Frier made a motion to allow Art Against Racism to display banners on the poles and to allow the banners to be up for an indefinite period of time. The motion was seconded by M. Bard. K. Martin expressed a desire to see the sign before it goes on the poles. The group was able to display the design. The motion passed with K. Martin abstaining.

MANAGER'S ITEMS

Budget Report

W. Shepeluk distributed the budget information earlier in the day. The Town is through half the year and things look good. He then gave a general review of the budget. W. Shepeluk stated that D. Sweet has requested an extension with the State to file the Grand List. It is unclear when the tax rate will be set.

C. Viens asked about the grant for Maple Street. W. Shepeluk stated that the Town would most likely not receive the grant. The pending work on the road was discussed. C. Viens explained two sections of Guptil Road that are in rough shape and asked if they could be repaired. W. Shepeluk has spoken with the Public Works Director and they are hopeful they can do at least one of the sections if not both.

There being no further Select Board business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: July 20, 2020