

Minutes of the Select Board  
Monday July 15, 2024  
28 North Main Street and via zoom

**Attendance:** Tom Leitz, Kane Sweeney, Alyssa Johnson, Mike Bard, Roger Clapp, Karen Petrovic, Bill Woodruff

**Public Attendance:** Lisa Scagliotti – Waterbury Roundabout, Sandy Sabin, Chris Viens, Billy Vigdor, Ryan Dinneen, Liz Schlegel, Nora Miller, Evan Hoffman, Gary Dillon

**ZOOM:** Ian Shea – Select Board; Heather Slayton, Rick Boyle, Tessa Yip, Sharon's iPhone, ORCA Media, Anne Imhoff, Sabrina iPad, Tyler Stratton, Scott Geba, Sarah Drinkwater

R. Clapp called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

**Approve Agenda: K. Sweeney moved to approve the agenda as written. M. Bard seconded the motion; a vote was held and passed unanimously.**

**Consent Agenda: M. Bard moved to approve the consent agenda as written. K. Sweeney seconded the motion; a vote was held and passed unanimously.**

**Public:** C. Viens spoke to the Board about brush and trees hanging over in the road as he operated a dump truck to haul material.

H. Slayton from Washington County Mental Health Services SOS Vermont Counseling Services is available completely free. Help is available using this hotline: 802-229-0591

**Flood Recovery Response:** T. Leitz stated Blush Hill is pending repair.

Stowe Street is in the range of \$40,000

Gregg Hill is \$150,000 repair

Laurel Lane Bridge is \$80,000

Shaw Mansion is pending – staff is still considering suspending the repair altogether. M. Bard is seeing evidence the Road Closure sign is being ignored and wondered if something more stable and permanent should be considered.

Estimates are close to \$300,000 in damages. A possible upgrade to Gregg Hill should be considered. The road will remain closed for a long while.

AOT District 6 was in town today and road with B. Woodruff stating the area exceeds the threshold for FEMA consideration.

Recreation camp is back at Wesley Church already!

Henry Hough was partially restored today with ongoing needs.

B. Woodruff asked the Board about their expectation of FEMA relief money; specifically, how would the Board like the Public Works Department to proceed? If there are more heavy rains, Stowe Street could be further damaged. The culvert in Shaw Mansion could be reused but the Gregg Hill culver cannot. B. Woodruff would like to outsource the large projects while keeping the highway department on other smaller tasks that do not require renting equipment.

K. Sweeney stated to focus on the roads that require repairs for public safety and not the two roads that can be accessed from alternative routes.

CRew – L. Schlegel thanked Arther for his efforts to keep the Community Room clean! Report that all the same homes as last summer (July 2023) as well as approximately 40 other homes suffered flood damage. Efforts are being made to move as fast as possible through the cleanup process. Thank you to B. Woodruff and T. Leitz for getting a vactor truck so quickly. Volunteer efforts continue while also contacting larger

companies that can move quickly through neighborhoods. The 211 data comes to CReW every day and the driveway and roads can be pulled from that list. Lots of damages to basements, culverts, and driveways. There are approximately 250 homes effected in Waterbury. There are approximately 400 homes effected in total with the neighboring communities included. There have been over 300 volunteers since Thursday. The Rotary has been sourcing meals for families and volunteers. 211 is crucial to assist in getting individual assistance, the data does make it to CReW and someone will call and follow up with affected people. Until there is a FEMA declaration there is not a lot of help for private roads. There are simply not volunteer resources for private roads to be repaired. 125 reports to 211 but some are not from Waterbury despite their report to 211 because they live in Moretown, Duxbury or Bolton. Cannot state enough to report to 211 and CReW.

T. Leitz wonders if the Planning Commission should be looking more at regulations in Waterbury Center for driveways and stormwater plans to assist in flood mitigation.

A. Johnson publicly thanked L. Schlegel and CReW for all their efforts in the recovery.

C. Viens asked to clarify if most of the damage is basement flooding – the answer is yes in some of the communities. C. Viens would like to know if recovering some of these properties is not the right course of action and if it is time to consider a buyout. There was a lengthy discussion about raising properties to ensure they are above the floodplain.

**Hazard Mitigation Grant Pre Application:** Hazard Mitigation Grant application is due August 16<sup>th</sup>. The State has encouraged Waterbury to list all the possible concepts. Roy Schiff, hydrologist with SLR Consulting, will refine the scope of the application.

Staff driven concepts: Project at the State of Vermont Cornfield, using fill from the cornfield to build earth and levy from Hope Cemetery to the State Complex, Storm water drains – would a baffle or float valve in the system operate? On Route 2 – the homes about I-89 are generally on slabs and suffer from runoff from the interstate. Make large culverts larger. The State encouraged T. Leitz to complete an application despite the owners of the plant being EFUD – look at the plant, it is a 39-acre parcel, could that field be lowered to ensure the safety of the plant? During the last three floods the lagoons were not breached but there was partially untreated affluent entering into the water ways. Staff would like to have a Hydrology study performed on Thatcher and Graves Brook; there are places along the brook lines with infrastructure that is more exposed than Public Works would like it. Union Street – there are three FEMA buyouts that have been submitted with a possible fourth property considering this. If these properties all were town owned would that land be useful for a mitigation plan? T. Leitz would like to have the Municipal Building included in a study as there are corners of the building that are in the flood plain and he would like to know what the cost would be to move utilities more above the flood plain. In the July 2023 and December 2023 flood, a fair number of people had to have water shut off; there are smart meters for water as well as power that can be purchased that would allow for quick response time. Public ideas for Hazard Mitigation ideas should be sent to [tleitz@waterburyvt.com](mailto:tleitz@waterburyvt.com).

B. Vigdor stated on Perry Hill and others the culverts did not fail but filled with debris. B. Woodruff would like to see the Town having access to upstream areas without hurdles.

**FEMA Buyouts:** T. Leitz shared the parcel map of Mr. Gallagher’s property on 1634 US Route 2 to demonstrate the flood plain. Mr. Gallagher has completed the FEMA buyout paperwork; staff seeks board approval this evening. **A. Johnson moved to approve the FEMA buyout application for 1634 US Route 2 in Waterbury. K. Sweeney seconded the motion; a vote was held and passed unanimously.**

B. Kravitz, 15-17 Randall Street has stated he is also interested in considering a FEMA buyout. The documents are not yet completed; the owner is still considering his options but is interested in hearing what FEMA will offer him.

**Bump Out for Stone's Throw & KC's Bagel:** T. Leitz stated the concept is a temporary, seasonal structure on Stowe Street that would encompass two parking spaces. KC is concerned because her business is drop in and go. T. Stratton, owner of Stone's Throw is lobbying for this. Town can move temp structures in and out – portable jersey barrier - \$1,000 are not aesthetically pleasing.

Discussion followed regarding the structure, size, seasonal use, and responsibilities. Desire to have the structure in place from May 15 to October 15<sup>th</sup>. **A. Johnson made a motion to approve the use of two parking spaces on Stowe Street for the use of Stone's Throw subject to approval of DRB and Public Works for a period until November 15, 2024 on a one-year pilot. M. Bard seconded the motion.** Discussion followed about the timeline of DRB approval. **A vote was held and passed unanimously.**

**Update Temporary Sign Bylaw at Welcome Sign:** K Sweeney moved to adopt the resolution as presented. I. Shea seconded the motion. **A vote was held and passed unanimously.**

**Noise Concerns (third discussion) signage, State Ordinance, Enforcement:** T. Leitz stated there is a State Ordinance between sunset and sunrise. I. Shea stated in Burlington there is signage with times along lakeside communities, 10pm – 7am. Discussion followed about whether a Town Ordinance is necessary when a State Ordinance already exists. A. Johnson stated this is not the top of her priorities. R. Clapp stated he did get a comment regarding the use of air brakes coming down the ramp day and night. G. Dillon stated there are times when exhaust brakes are necessary such as a fire truck coming down Blush Hill Road. These brakes make the operation of the truck safer. Discussion followed about the placement of courtesy signs in the Town. **K. Sweeney made a motion to instruct the Manager to purchase and install courtesy signs requesting not to use exhaust brakes in neighborhoods. M. Bard seconded the motion; a vote was held and passed unanimously.**

**Next Meeting Agenda:**

7/29 meeting will be held at the Fire Station  
Flood Concept Hazard Mitigation  
FEMA Buyouts  
After Action  
TextMyGov  
Remove Executive Session

8/5 meeting will be held at Municipal Building  
Leaf Peeper Traffic, T. Leitz has a meeting with K. Nevin on Wednesday and will speak to her.  
Natural Disaster Preparedness Committee Handbook  
Road and Pedestrian Safety Plan  
Police Stats and Evaluation of Statistics

**Executive Session:** unneeded

**Adjourn:** A. Johnson moved to adjourn. K. Sweeney seconded the motion; a vote was held and passed unanimously.