

Town of Fairfax



Selectboard Meeting
August 5, 2019

The drafted minutes presented below are unapproved subject to corrections and/or additions at the next Selectboard meeting. Those corrections and/or additions will be written into an amended version of the minutes, which will also be made available to the public.

Selectboard Members Present: Randy DeVine, Vice-Chair; Sheri Rainville; and Stephen Bessette

Public Present: Robby Rodimer

Employees Present: Brad Docheff, Deb Woodward

Call to Order: R. DeVine called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Minutes: 7-15-19 S. Bessette moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by S. Rainville, all in favor.

7-22-19 S. Rainville moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by S. Bessette, all in favor

Accounts Payable & Payroll Warrants: The Town warrants and Utility warrants were reviewed by S. Bessette, all approved by Board.

Public Comment: None

Correspondence: None

Town Manager Updates:

- The Town fielded an inquiry from a local maple producer regarding the tapping of trees in the 100 Acre Wood lot. To Brad's knowledge, this had not been previously considered. The producer has an existing lease agreement with the City of St. Albans on nearby property. Before moving forward with any discussions, Brad wanted to get the Board's opinion on any potential lease arrangement. R. DeVine stressed being cautious to keep in mind potential disruptions to the natural state of the land. The Board advised to proceed and gather more information about the process and the suitability of the forest. The idea will be revisited once this information has been gathered.

- Brad wanted to get a gauge of the Board's interest in the different options put forth by Casella at the 7/1/19 meeting. It was agreed that the current service arrangement of 2 days of MSW pickup was optimal and that that would be the primary option to be considered. Brad has also reached out to other haulers and organizations to ensure that the process for moving forward into a new contract is open and transparent. Northwest Solid Waste District is planning on attending the 8/19 Selectboard meeting to make a presentation and Duffy's and Myers trash services have also been invited to make presentations in the future.
- Reminder that there will be a public information meeting regarding the proposed Verizon Tower on property along Fletcher Road on Monday, 9/9, at 7pm at the Town Office. This will be a special meeting of the Selectboard for this sole purpose. Letters have gone out to abutters, and emails have been sent to other neighbors who have expressed interest in this project.
- It was a busy month for the Recreation Department. The Egg Run was held on Saturday, 8/3, and had a good turnout. The weather was cooperative, making for a pleasant race day. Brian did a great job of bringing the event together with the help of his team of volunteers. Highway Supervisor Tim Germaine was also instrumental in helping and getting roads closed and marked.
On Saturday, 7/27, the Town held a Community Build Day effort at the Community Corner lot. About a dozen residents came out to help build garden beds, a picnic table, and plant flowers at the site. More will follow, including signage, perimeter fencing, and potentially a free library box. Thanks to River Berry Farm, J&L Hardware, Trevor Campbell Construction, VT Woodworking School, Stones Throw, and the VT AARP for their support and donations.
Brad would like to utilize the water lines that are running at this property to water the gardens, as they are currently being maintained by a private residence. It will be possible to install a yard hydrant to make this happen.
- The Highway Department has done great work repairing Evergreen and Bessette Roads this month. They have also been extremely helpful in other Town activities like the Egg Run and helping build the Community Corner. Much thanks to the Department and to Tim for their efforts.
It has been also been arranged to have a boom lift rented for the week of 8/19, weather permitting, in order to paint the covered bridge and the town garage.
- There will be an introductory meeting of the Fairfax Arts Council on Wednesday, 8/7, at the Community Center at 6:30pm. It is hoped that the Town will help organize this group and then allow it to operate as an independent volunteer organization to help cultivate and share the arts in Fairfax.

Other Business: Robby Rodimer wanted to publicly thank the Road Crew for their work addressing wild parsnip this year. Brad mentioned that the Town is doing its best to get better educated on the proper treatment and removal of this invasive species that is affecting many communities in the region.

Adjournment: At 7:25, S. Bessette made the motion to adjourn, seconded by S. Rainville, all in favor.

The minutes were respectfully submitted by Brad Docheff, Town Manager.

Steven Cormier
Selectboard Chair