

Town of Panton
Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday, August 11, 2009
6:00 p.m. – Panton Town Offices

Board:

Lynn Donnelly, Chair
Beth Tarallo
John Viskup

Administration:

Sue Torrey
Rick Cloutier

Guests:

Sharon Ashcraft Deb Brace
Joe Kuhn Kevin Sullivan

Call to Order: Chair Lynn Donnelly called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Motion by Beth Tarallo, seconded by John Viskup, to approve the July minutes as written. So voted.

Public Comment: Joe Kuhn commented that he is pleased the Selectboard plans to do long range planning and added that he brought a copy of the Solid Waste Districts long range plan which could be used as a template for Panton. The Chair Donnelly thanked him and Joe commented that he may be able to help.

Sharon Ashcraft: South Road - Advised Board that South Road is not classed correctly. Currently classified as a Trail but should be Class IV as it was never legally changed. She added that she would like to see South Road used more to take away some of the travel from Panton Road. She commented that people use South Road all year; bikers, all terrain vehicles, etc. Chair Donnelly asked what the advantage would be for the town to which Sharon responded that it's not a legal trail and should be corrected. Discussion ensued on making it legally a trail or revising map to show it's a Class IV road. Sharon Ashcraft advised that the State will not open the gate if it's classed as Class IV. She added that opening the road perhaps would enable car travel at some point and would qualify for grant monies as it could be a viewing area for wildlife. Sharon said many bikers travel Jersey Street and it would be advantage to the town. Comments were made that it wouldn't be of any advantage as they would not be spending money in the town. Deb Brace commented that the State of Vermont does not allow 4-wheelers to travel on State land. Sharon advised that she spoke with Fish and Game and they don't have a problem with 4-wheelers using the road. Chair Donnelly recommended the issue be discussed at the next town meeting and should be petitioned to be place on the Warning. Sharon advised that there is a drainage problem behind her house which is undermining her stone school house. Rick Cloutier explained that he and Larry Miner looked at the area in question and because it's all ledge there isn't anything he can do. The Board said they will be inspecting the town roads and will include this in their tour. Sharon inquired about the Vorsteveld bunker violation and commented that they shouldn't get away with this violation. The Board advised that they will be meeting with Ed Hanson to further discuss. Sharon commented that Bob Moulton really worked hard to establish an atv trail on South Road.

Dennis Mueller: Park – Chair Donnelly advised that she spoke with Dennis and he believes there is an agreement regarding the park across from the store. Dennis also gave permission to remove the dead junipers.

Road Foreman Report: Rick advised that the work on Hopkins Road is nearly complete. Discussion of the road change on the corner of Jersey and Pease which was advised by the State of Vermont from their visit last year. It was also discussed that many vehicles don't stop when coming off Jersey Street which is extremely dangerous and is the reason for the change. Rick commented that the day the State of Vermont was evaluating the corner they observed four vehicles go through the stop. Rick will ask the State to return to evaluate the area again. Discussion on putting the 1999 truck out for bid. Rick advised that he was able to get a license plate number of the car that was damaging the dirt roads and has reported it to the State Police.

Old Business: Dog Status – Deb Brace advised that Phil Russett still owes a fine for his unregistered dogs as does Ben Chamberlain and Brenda Blacklock. Until fines are received dogs are not considered registered. Deb spoke to Sheriff Coons who will accompany her if necessary but it will cost the dog owner an additional \$125. Deb asked if the Board would contact each owner before taking the next step of taking the dogs. The Board agreed to do this. John Viskup commented that a lot of time has been expended on these dog issues and the fines hardly cover the expense.

Russett Abatement – Sue Torrey mentioned again that she does not have the official decision for the Russett abatement. The minutes have been transcribed but not the decision which Ann Sullivan was to supply. Sue also contacted Eric Carter regarding the calculation for the abatement but he couldn't remember. It is unclear from contact with Ann Sullivan whether she has this information.

Stimulus Application – Letter of Intent was due August 10. Chair Donnelly will contact them to let them know we are sending the LOI.

Chair Donnelly mentioned that Dock Doctors is interested in putting in a dock at Arnold Bay boat access. Further discussion to take place at a later date.

New Business: Sue Torrey asked that the person providing recording services for the town be on a per diem basis rather than an employee. She will receive \$3.00 per page of recording which will come out of the recording fees the town receives. This will save the town money in payroll expense. Motion by John Viskup, seconded by Beth Tarallo to pay the Recording Clerk \$3.00 per page. So voted.

Financials/Correspondence: Financials were reviewed and check warrants were signed. The City of Vergennes Fire Contract was reviewed and signed. Sue mentioned that there appears to be a stockpile of new culverts and is concerned about buying so far in advance. Discussion on not having so much inventory on hand and possibility of the culverts being stolen. The Board asked that it be put on the agenda for next month's meeting to discuss with the Road Foreman.

Chair Donnelly regretfully submitted her resignation from the Panton Selectboard effective immediately. Lynn explained that she prefers to live closer to her parents in Vergennes due to their ill health. Motion by John Viskup, seconded by Beth Tarallo to accept her resignation with great regret. All attendees expressed their sincere appreciation for Lynn's work on the board and wished her well.

Motion to recess the meeting until Thursday, August 13th at 4:15 p.m. to continue discussion of the stimulus application.