

Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
June 20, 2017
7:00 pm at Pawlet Town Hall
REGULAR MEETING

Members in Attendance:

Mike Beecher
John Malcolm
Chuck Weeden
Bob Jones

Others in Attendance:

Timothy Hughes-Muse
Frank Nelson
Keith Mason
Bob Morlino

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:00 pm
2. Addition or Deletion of Agenda Items
 - a. Additions:
 - i. New Business - none
 - ii. Old Business –
 1. AOT interest in Gravel Pit
 - b. Deletions: none
3. Introduction of those present by chairperson
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting
 - a. Motion to accept the Minutes of June 6, 2017 with edits.
Result: Approved [Unanimous]
Mover: Mr Weeden
Second: Mr. Malcolm
Discussion: Under section 9, Mr. Weeden added the plan to get a quote for a survey and assessment for the slag pile in West Pawlet.
5. Appearances by local citizens and visitors. Frank Nelson working is with West Pawlet citizens about a group solar option. And is interested in studying radon and possible cost effective methods for remediation.
6. Announcements- The Next Regular Meeting of the Select board, July 4th,2017 has been canceled. The selectboard will hold a Special Meeting July 3rd, 2017 7 pm, at the Pawlet Town Hall in order to conduct town business.
7. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - Motion to Appoint the Town Emergency Manager to form a committee with the purpose of developing the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Result: Approved (unanimous)

Mover: Jones

Second: Weeden

Discussion: Mr. Morlino discussed the process for the development of the plan.

The Pawlet Local Hazard Mitigation plan is expired, but the Rutland Regional Planning Commission has grant funding to help towns update these plans.

The LHMP (Local Hazard Mitigation Plan) is one of the five State ERAF requirements. ERAF stands for Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund. It is a state program that provides a larger share of emergency relief “match” dollars to towns that have completed the five requirements (which are:

- 1. Belong to National Flood Insurance Program.*
- 2. Adopt the latest Road and Bridge Standards.*
- 3. Have an approved LHMP.*
- 4. Adopt a Local Emergency Operations Plan. And*
- 5. Adopt River Corridor language in to the Flood Hazard Regulations.)*

Towns need to adopt an LHMP in order to be one step closer to having a 17.5% ERAF rate.

The LHMP is also important because it is the tool that a town uses to gain HMGP (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program) funding from FEMA. Once the town adopts the LHMP, the town may apply to have FEMA pay (with HMGP dollars) for the mitigation action projects that are listed in the LHMP.

Elysa Smigielski, from the Rutland RPC, is meeting with and helping towns update these plans. Elysa has spoken with Bob Morlino regarding the update of the Pawlet LHMP. Elysa and Bob will need to meet with a few other representatives from Pawlet over the course of the next few months in order to complete the plan. These meetings will be orchestrated soon.

8. Reports

- a. Energy Group Report- no report to review
- b. Town Hall Historic Preservation Conference- The town reviewed the report submitted by the town's three representatives to the conference.

Karen Folger, Elizabeth Gibson and Sue LaPorte attended this conference on behalf of the Town of Pawlet. The conference was held in White River Junction and sponsored by Preservation Trust of Vermont and the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development. This event was sold out, with over 300 people attending – representatives from state agencies, nonprofits, private industry and municipalities. The conference program is attached separately.

We split up during the day to get the best coverage of the sessions offered.

Elizabeth: *I attended a morning session on “Zoning – Getting it Right for your Town,” at which I picked up some useful information that I will pass onto the planning commission and DRB. I also went to two afternoon sessions: one on how to most effectively present data and convey information and the second on local historic preservation.*

The most relevant session with regard to the Town Hall Project was the historic preservation session. It

focused on the National Park Service's CLG community program (certified local government, <https://www.nps.gov/CLG/>). This is a program that municipalities can apply for to qualify for federal national historic preservation funds and technical assistance and might be helpful in Pawlet, given the number of historic buildings in our Town. I will look into this program further.

Karen: *The keynote speaker, Architect Joe Minicozzi (born and raised in Rome, NY), discussed tax literacy in small towns, as well as the roles zoning and planning play in their success. His basic arguments for the value (tax and otherwise) of historic buildings vs. big box stores reinforces what Pawlet is capable of doing with its downtowns. Tax incentives for small business owners was a key to jumpstarting local economies, and worth serious consideration.*

The session "Stimulating the Local Economy through Arts and Culture" discussed the arts as an economic catalyst for White River Junction. Their economy has improved and they are now attracting more visitors, residents and businesses. They emphasized how important it is to create an infrastructure that supports more businesses.

Accessible parking was touched on in all the sessions I attended. The "Small Town Retail..." session advocated accessible parking within walking distance to several businesses. Walkability is key to the success of downtowns. The "...Complete Streets" session stressed pedestrian- and bike-friendly access to downtowns, as well as creative ways to jump-start downtown revitalization. I took away a lot of information that would benefit both our village downtown areas.

Sue: *I attended three sessions:*

- *Small Town Retail on the Rise – a panel discussion about how small downtown businesses have found their niche in their communities.*
- *Place making with Complete Streets – we learned how Bethel is attempting to get people out of their cars and onto the sidewalks in their walkable downtown.*
- *Stimulating the local economy through Arts and Culture – speakers were from The Northern Stage, Catamount Arts and the Vermont Humanities Council.*

Much of what I learned will be helpful to our town and gave me some good ideas for expanding the use of the town hall.

General recommendation: *We suggest looking at the overall status of the Town Hall project and any other major municipal building projects to develop a comprehensive program and prioritize and focus our efforts over the next few years.*

- c. Zoning Administrator's/ Planning Commission Report- no report to review
- d. Road Foreman's Report
 - i. Paving Bids- the board discussed funding of the paving project and reviewed the bids.
Motion to accept bid from Fuller Sand & Gravel total: 3,976 tons, \$58/ton, \$230,608 + \$1800 shoulder work, \$232,408 total. The Paving will be for the complete scope of work, not to exceed \$232,408.
Result: Approved (unanimous)
Mover: Mr. Weeden
Second: Mr. Jones
Discussion: The board weighed the cost and benefits of paving the full bid. The board discussed the scope of the project.
 - ii. The board discussed the process and progress of the culvert installation.
 - iii. David Hosley has been mowing the town highway roadsides.

- iv. Mr. Jones requested that the crew address brush and branches that stick into the road.
 - v. Bauer Rd- Regarding the locked gate on Bauer Rd, Mr. Malcolm informed the camp owner that the gate cannot be locked.
 - e. Town Clerk's Memo
 - i. Reviewed town clerk's memo
 - f. Emergency Management Director's Report- reports only submitted on the first meeting of the month
 - g. Health Officer's Report-- reports only submitted on the first meeting of the month
 - h. Town Treasurer's Memo
 - i. Reviewed the Treasurer's Memo
 - ii. Review of bills and signing of selectboard's orders
 Motion to approve the warrants
 Result: Approved [Unanimous]
 Mover: Mr. Jones
 Second: Mr. Malcolm
 Discussion: None
 - i. Selectboard Administrative Assistant's Memo
 - The board reviewed the assistant's memo
 - j. WWTF
 - The board discussed the progress on studying the repair of the WWTF RBC.
9. Old or unfinished business
- a. Discussion Topic- AOT interest in purchase of Gravel Pit. The consensus of the board is to further investigate the sale of a portion of the gravel pit.
 - b. Review and propose changes to Personnel Policy
 - i. Further review and discussion of the personnel policy was tabled
 - c. Discussion topic- the subdivision and sale of a parcel of the town's slag pile. The board determined steps to take in order to make a decision.
10. New Business- no new business
11. Motion made to Adjourn at 9:14pm
 Result: Approved [Unanimous]
 Mover: Mr. Weeden
 Second: Mr. Malcolm
 Discussion: None