

**Town of St. Albans
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 18th, 2023
6:30 p.m.**

On Wednesday, October 18th, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., the Town of St. Albans Selectboard met at Town Hall.

Officials and Staff: Chair Bryan DesLauriers, Vice Chair Jack Brigham, Jonathan Giroux, Jeff Sanders, Town Manager Sean Adkins, Director of Public Works Dave Allerton, and Interim Director of Operations Al Voegelé. Absent was Brendan Deso.

Staff Participation via Zoom: Due to technical issue, none.

Public in Attendance: Trail Steward Andy Crossman.

Public Participation via Zoom: Due to technical issue, none.

Chair B. DesLauriers called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Addition to Agenda

MOTION: J. Sanders made a motion to add Andy Crossman to the agenda after public comment. Seconded by J. Brigham. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Payroll

MOTION: J. Sanders made a motion to approve the payroll warrant dated October 6th, 2023 in the amount of \$61,156.70 and the payroll warranted dated October 13th, 2023 in the amount of \$23,987.43. Seconded by J. Brigham. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Stormwater Utility Warrant

MOTION: J. Brigham made a motion to approve the Stormwater Utility warrant dated October 18th, 2023 in the amount of \$1,560.00. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Stone House Warrant

MOTION: J. Brigham made a motion to approve the Stone House warrant dated October 18th, 2023 in the amount of \$3,311.65. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Industrial Park Warrant

MOTION: J. Brigham made a motion to approve the Industrial Park warrant dated October 18th, 2023 in the amount of \$791.51. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

General Warrant

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion to approve the general warrant dated October 17th, 2023 in the amount of \$309,364.39. Seconded by J. Brigham. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Minutes

MOTION: J. Brigham made a motion to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes from Monday, October 2nd, 2023 as presented. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

Trail Steward Andy Crossman

A. Crossman came before the Board to explain that Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) has \$6 million in grants available this year. These are non-matching grants with a minimum award amount of \$50,000. This grant could be used to achieve part of

the strategic plan to connect recreation assets. A. Crossman would like to apply for \$295,000 (based on \$7/linear foot) in funds from VOREC to design and build a new 8 mile trail connecting the Town Forest to the Rail Trail at Sheldon Green Crossing. These trails would be multi use for hiking and snowshoeing, not just biking. He will be in talks with landowners this week. Projects would need to begin next summer and stretch out over a two year period. Grant deadline is December 15th, 2023.

A. Crossman asked the Board if they would be willing to have the Town be a sponsor and write a letter of support for this grant. It may be easier to obtain the grant with the Town supporting the application.

MOTION: J. Brigham made a motion to provide a letter of support to apply for the VOREC grant. Seconded by J. Sanders. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Stormwater Right-of-Way

D. Allerton came before the Board to update them on some of the right-of-way work. He explained he attended the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission meeting last week. They had a meeting of all the MS-4 communities in Chittenden County. D. Allerton continued by saying he posed the question to the communities as to whether or not they do work outside the right-of-way and it was a unanimous “no we are not”.

B. DesLauriers asked if anyone mentioned any legal precedent type situations? D. Allerton stated, no, but did say if they were going to do it, they were going to have to obtain easements and Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) to keep the liability straightened out. He continued by stating no one mentioned any legal issues they had about not doing work outside the right-of-way. There wasn't a situation where a community did work outside the right-of-way and then there was some legal repercussion.

D. Allerton explained that if we decided to start working outside the right-of-way, it will be difficult to stop. If we start picking and choosing which stormwater projects to do, it'll make one resident happy and make another one unhappy.

VTrans Meeting

D. Allerton explained he and S. Adkins had a meeting with VTrans today and a person from their Stormwater division and a couple of their engineers attended. Aldrich and Elliott and Chip Sawyer from the City of St. Albans were also in attendance. They had a very good conversation about what's going on in this area. D. Allerton continued by stating that we all agreed we need to slow the water down up around I89. Need to look at the two projects north of the SASH (St. Albans State Highway) that were identified in the Rugg Brook Flow Restoration Plan.

D. Allerton will follow up with the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. They have some funds for doing some of the preliminary engineering studies and it's 100% subsidies.

Town Manager's Report

Community Call for Art for Town Hall

S. Adkins explained to the Board that we have officially posted on our website and Facebook page that we are doing a community call for art for Town Hall.

Act 250 – Westview Condominium Development, LLC

Informational only. No actions required.

Act 250 – Newton's Forest Development, LLC

Informational only. No actions required. S. Adkins explained that their previous DRB approval and building permit expired, but J. Brigham said they just recently approved their new application.

Chair's Report

B. DesLauriers mentioned he was down in Washington DC and visited the Holocaust Museum. Given the events occurring right now in Israel, it was interesting to be there at that time. He went on to say they came upon very large protests with Israeli, American, and Palestinian flags.

Other Business

J. Sanders mentioned that a resident on Lapan’s Bay asked him if the Department of Public Works would look at some trees hanging over the road.

J. Sanders asked if there had been any progress in finding alternative funding sources for the Stormwater Utility. S. Adkins explained that we are, but we are still at the same point and waiting to see if the Sate ends up appropriating funds for MS4 communities in the next legislative session.

Schedule

The next regular Selectboard meetings are Monday, November 6th, and Monday, November 20th, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. The first budget work session meeting is Thursday, October 19th at 8:30 a.m. There will be a public hearing for the Bylaw Modernization and the Road Ordinance on Monday, November 6th at the Selectboard meeting.

Executive Session

MOTION: J. Brigham made a motion to go into executive session at 7:26 p.m. to discuss a contractual matter where premature general public knowledge of the subject matter would place the Town (or person involved) at a substantial disadvantage. It was further moved to enter into executive session to discuss a contractual matter under the provisions of Title 1, section 313(a)(1) of Vermont Statutes and to invite in Town Manager Sean Adkins. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:09 p.m. Seconded by J. Sanders. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Adjournment

MOTION: J. Brigham made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 8:10 p.m. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenn Gray Executive Assistant