

**Town of St. Albans
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 7th, 2021
6:00 p.m.
Via Zoom Teleconferencing**

On Monday, June 7th, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., the Town of St. Albans Selectboard met via Zoom Teleconferencing.

Official and staff attending site visit: Chair Brendan Deso, Vice Chair Jessica Frost, Erin Creley, Jonathan Giroux, Bryan DesLauriers, and Town Manager Carrie Johnson.

Chair B. Deso called the Selectboard meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Selectboard started their meeting with an executive session to discuss a contractual matter.

Executive Session

MOTION: E. Creley made a motion to go into executive session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss legal, contractual, or personnel issues 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 legal, contractual or personnel issues under the provisions of Title 1, section 313(a)(1) of Vermont Statutes and to invite Town Manager Carrie Johnson. Seconded by B. DesLauriers. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: E. Creley made a motion to come out of executive session at 6:26 p.m. and recess the Selectboard meeting until 6:30 p.m. Seconded by J. Frost. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Regular Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

Officials and Staff participating via Zoom Teleconferencing: Chair Brendan Deso, Vice Chair Jessica Frost, Erin Creley, Jonathan Giroux, Bryan DesLauriers, Director of Operations Corey Parent, Town Manager Carrie Johnson, Director of Public Works Alan Mashtare, Facilities Manager John Montagne, Town Clerk Anna Bourdon, and Recording Secretary Jenn Gray.

Public Participation via Zoom Teleconferencing: Arthur Omartian.

B. Deso called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by B. DesLauriers.

General Warrant

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion to approve the general warrant dated June 7th, 2021 in the amount of \$129,258.12. Seconded by B. DesLauriers. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Payroll

MOTION: E. Creley made a motion to approve the payroll warrants dated May 21st, 2021 in the amount of \$21,412.64, May 28th, 2021 in the amount of \$35,715.02, and June 4th, 2021 in the amount of \$22,477.22. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Infrastructure Development Warrant

MOTION: B. DesLauriers made a motion to approve the Infrastructure Development warrant dated June 7th, 2021 in the amount of \$4,308.95. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Impact Fee Warrant

For Maple Run Unified School District.

MOTION: E. Creley made a motion to approve the Impact Fee warrant dated June 7th, 2021 in the amount of \$75,000. Seconded by B. DesLauriers. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Industrial Park Warrant

MOTION: J. Frost made a motion to approve the general warrant dated June 7th, 2021 in the amount of \$5,982.50. Seconded by B. DesLauriers. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Minutes

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes from Monday, May 17th, 2021 as presented. Seconded by E. Creley. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Public Comment

Town resident, Arthur Omartian who lives at 215 Bingham Shore Road addressed the Board regarding the traffic diverted onto his road on May 20th during a culvert replacement. Mr. Omartian said that there were no signs posted on Georgia Shore, causing heavy traffic on Bingham Shore Road which is a narrow, private road. He went on to explain that cars were speeding while on Bingham Shore Road. A large truck also got stuck on the road, not being able to navigate around the corner. He requested a written apology to the residents and wanted to know what the Town was going to do to avoid this problem in the future, and wanted to know if the road would remain open when it was paved.

C. Johnson explained that we do plan on leaving one lane open doing paving jobs. A. Mashtare explained the second half of Church Road will be paved tomorrow and then Georgia Shore Road would be next. There will be flaggers, allowing traffic to move freely down one lane.

B. Deso suggested a larger cone and/or more signage saying 'private road' to help alleviate traffic traveling on public roads as a go around. C. Johnson stated that this doesn't happen often. Adding signage doesn't always help. Road closure signs were up further up Georgia Shore Road giving folks more opportunity to turn around instead of driving all the way down Georgia Shore Road before learning the road was closed.

The Board agreed to have the Town purchase a more visible, larger cones and signs to try and prevent this from occurring in the future.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Update

C. Johnson explained that we were encouraged to apply for a grant for a health path from Collins Perley to Hard'Ack. The grant for the scoping study for the SASH has been closed out. C. Johnson explained that these types of grants from VTrans give very little lead time to have a project shovel ready and suggested that at budget time, the Board discuss budgeting more funds for engineering to get more projects shovel ready.

C. Parent explained that VTrans grant for the health path could include a crossing of the SASH. We should hear back from VTrans by either late July or early August as to whether or not we were awarded the grant. C. Parent continued by saying that if we are awarded the grant, we will do a Request for Proposal to do the study. It would be a yearlong cycle before you have the study in hand.

Town Manager's Report

Board Appointment Vacancies & Committee Appointments Needed

Development Review Board, Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council, and Honor Wall Committee

Development Review Board (DRB)

C. Johnson explained that we are still looking for someone to fill the vacancy on the Development Review Board (DRB). The DRB is very well staffed and she encouraged the Board to get the word out.

Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council

Regarding the vacancy on the Northwest Rail Trail Council, J. Frost agreed to speak to some people about their interest.

Honor Wall Committee

Regarding Honor Wall Committee, C. Johnson explained that we could plan to meet in the fall, seek nominations for the wall, and provide a recommendation to the Board in January. B. Deso stated he would sit on this committee and suggested maybe presenting the recognition in the new Town Hall prior to or after a Selectboard meeting. E. Creley stated we should try to find more members for the committee this summer and come up with a recommendation for a nomination. C. Johnson will continue to move this along.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission – Town Representative

B. Deso stated that Sarah Hadd has accepted a Town Manager position for the Town of Fairfax and will no longer be serving on the Northwest Regional Planning Commission to represent the Town of St. Albans. This is another vacancy we will need to fill.

Town Hall Update

C. Johnson explained that we did finalizing the bids for subcontractors. The Town is planning the ground breaking for either the first or second week in July. She explained that C. Parent is working

with the Governor's office for the ground breaking of Town Hall and the ribbon cutting for the new Department of Public Works facility. C. Johnson reminded the board that the next Town Hall construction meeting is scheduled for June 16th.

Mask Wearing Guidelines

C. Johnson explained Health Officer Bob Cross recommended we open Town Hall to the public effective today. We have signs posted stating mask wearing guidelines per State and CDC guidelines.

Notice of Initial Act 250 Application Filing – Ben & Jerry's homemade, Inc.

Informational only, no action required.

Land use Permit Amendment – Barry Callebaut USA, LLC

Informational only, no action required.

Schedule

The next regular Selectboard meetings are Monday, June 21st and Wednesday, July 7th, at 6:30 p.m. The Board agreed to move the July 7th Selectboard meeting to Monday, July 12th.

Bay Day is scheduled for Saturday, July 3rd. A. Mashtare stated we could always use volunteers for Bay Day. B. Deso agreed to volunteer. Sunday, July 4th is the rain date for the Great Race and the rain date for fireworks is Monday, July 5th. A. Mashtare stated the last day for sign up for the Great Race is June 19th.

Chair's Report

B. Deso presented a Resolution to the Board requesting they declare June 19th as Juneteenth Recognition Day. The Resolution was prepared by C. Parent and recognizes June 19th as a Town holiday. C. Parent read....

"Whereas for more than 2 years before the news of the Emancipated Proclamation..."

MOTION: E. Creley made a motion to adopt the Resolution as presented. Seconded by J. Frost. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Other Business

B. Deso suggested raising a pride flag at the Stone House until the end of the month. J. Frost agreed. C. Johnson suggested and requested some guidance on these types of requests. B. Deso suggested to treat each request on a case by case basis until the need for a guidance is necessary. E. Creley suggested seeing what other communities are doing. B. DesLauriers suggested putting a policy in place first. E. Creley agreed and stated that we need to treat all requests in a similar manner. C. Johnson and C. Parent to work on this.

C. Parent suggested changing the Town logo colors to represent Pride Month as an alternative, until a policy is in place to raise flags. He will work on this.

B. Deso explained there is an anti-semitic group in the area looking to recruit, mainly in the City of St. Albans, but there has been some activity at the Highgate Commons.

Executive Session

MOTION: J. Frost made a motion to go into executive session at 7:32 p.m. to discuss legal, contractual or personnel issues 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 legal, contractual or personnel issues under the provisions of Title 1, section 313(a)(1) of Vermont Statutes and to invite Town Manager Carrie Johnson. Seconded by J. Giroux. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: J. Giroux made a motion to come out of executive session at 7:47 p.m. Seconded by E. Creley. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Adjournment

MOTION: B. DesLauriers made a motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 7:48 p.m. Seconded by E. Creley. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenn Gray, Recording Secretary