

TOWN OF WESTON
P.O. BOX 98
WESTON, VT 05161-0098
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 24, 2020 7:30 PM

PRESENT: Denis Benson, Jim Linville, Charles ("Tim") Goodwin, Bruce Downer and Ann Fuji'i

ABSENT: None

PUBLIC: Michael Smilovich, Regina Downer, Donald Kollisch, Gloria Dawson, Cherise Forbes, Kim Seymour and Natalie Boston

Denis Benson called to order at 7:29 PM

1. **Changes To The Agenda:** Denis Benson notes the addition of Notice of Hearing for conditional use permit that will address later on in the meeting.
2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **My Community Nurse Project:** Regina Downer is waiting on a couple of people to arrive still so will wait.
4. **Weston EMD Michael Smilovich on COVID Update:** Will do after My Community Nurse presentation.
5. **Conditional Use Permit:** Denis Benson notes the upcoming hearing for a conditional use permit on Wednesday December 2nd at 7 PM Via Zoom. Mentions location is the Old Orton House in the Flood Plain.
6. **Financial Summary:** Denis Benson begins with saying at the last meeting Kim Seymour was wondering if would have to borrow money for the Trout Club RD culvert. Says he looked at the bridge fund today and if get any funding from the sate shouldn't have to borrow any money. Will take money out of the bridge fund for that.
7. **Review and Approve Minutes 11/10/2020:** Charles Goodwin moves to approve the Minutes, Annie Fuji'i 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*
8. **My Community Nurse Project:** Regina Downer begins with introducing herself; she is an advanced practice nurse. As of February 2020, My Community Nurse Project launched as an independent nonprofit. Mission is to provide in home safety assessments, medication assistance, assistance with managing medical care and making sure safe and secure in your home. Covers 6 towns: Andover, Landgrove, Londonderry, Peru, South Londonderry and Weston. In those towns, currently have 27 Active clients. Regina says that she loves this community and loves this work, believes that is reflected in the faces of her patients. It is personal and focused on the patient and focused on their health needs. During

time of COVID which began 1 month after launching, the board decided to keep in the community and keep eyes on patients would be helpful to provide a hot meal. Started once a week and grew. Meals became the eyes on for them, regular wellness check in. In the last 3 weeks an instance occurred where as a patient was walking to the door to get their meal they collapsed with no pulse.

Thankfully the volunteer making the meal delivery was a trained professional and he got the help he needed and is doing well now. Regina gave stats of clients in the program and emphasized the precautions taken with Covid (masks, lots of hand washing, distancing, etc.). Notes that all of this is done at no charge for the visits and care to the clients. Donald Kollisch introduces himself, he is a doctor currently at Dartmouth and also had a private practice in Woodsville. Explains that he is an "old fashioned" doctor, community based. Notes that in the last 10-15 years he has seen people are less connected in the sense of healthcare.

Different people/practitioners doing different things for one patient and there is no one to connect it. My Community Nurse Project is based off of a Parish Church Nurse model. Nurse would be hired by the church and use nursing skills as well as knowledge of community so people wouldn't fall through the cracks. Donald says he has seen an improvement in not only health of patients that participate but in community cohesiveness. Notes that the current healthcare system is in some ways broken (some with no insurance, primary care provider, community nurse etc.) and this Project acts like a glue for the community. Also notes that all the volunteers must have medical training. Gloria Dawson was to speak on the financials but due to technical issues could not hear her. Regina Downer says they currently have 20 volunteers all willing to drive, pick up meals, medications etc. Possibility for having time count as additional hours for nursing. Regina asks about the possibility of receiving funding from the town and how to be in the Agenda and warning for town meeting 2021. Donald Kollisch notes that 99% of participants are elderly or disabled. Also says there are benefits of this in times of COVID, isolation and anxiety. Charles Goodwin asks if Kim Seymour would send instructions on how to be a part of the Budget. Kim Seymour explains that in the past it was something that would be sent to Cheryl Barker (previous SB Administrative Assistant) in the form of a letter. If the Board decided to not include it in the budget there is the option to get 5% of the voters to sign a petition but in times of COVID it has been kind of frowned upon. Natalie Boston says they can send their letter to her and it would be reviewed by the board.

9. **Weston EMD Michael Smilovich on COVID Update:** Michael Smilovich begins by noting that this is a very stressful time, if you or someone you know is having a hard time please reach out, www.helpvermont.gov/covid19 has some great resources. Stress/mental health aspect has potential to turn into something negative as time goes on. Michael notes that he wants to keep this as a-political

as we can and focus on the information from the state. Recent stats as of November 6th are 24 new cases for a total of 2,326 to November 23rd are 85 new cases for a total of 3,714. Michael says as of the 24th the state of Vermont had an additional 48 new cases for a total of 3,762 cases. Recommends that the community heeds the advice the Governor with Thanksgiving coming up. Wear your masks, sanitize and wash hands and practice social distancing. Michael notes that the Weston Fire Department has begun wearing gloves and n95 masks to all calls. He also thanks Regina Downer for all the work she has been doing. Annie Fuji'i notes a email received from Ann Degan requesting the Selectboard to publically endorse or acknowledge Governor Scott's new regulations on COVID. Charles Goodwin says he believes it says something that Michael was on the agenda, has spoken with them and that he appreciates it. Goes on to say that even with a high awareness of the new regulations it's hard to hear it too much. More exposure/talking about it and having it fresh on the mind won't slip up and forget. The more we hard it the better we will adhere to the guidelines and Charles says he thinks the more we adhere to the guidelines the healthier we will be. Michael says he agrees and thinks constant exposure and re-exposure is key, not out of the woods yet. Great studies/trials out for a vaccine so there is a light at the end of the tunnel but the more we can stay vigilant even through the last several months the better off we will be in the long run. Denis Benson says he hates to disagree with them but that he thinks people are tired of hearing about it and don't like the instructions. Say he thinks that they are talking about it so much that people are becoming immune to it. He's not sure where to go with it but thinks that "force feeding" he information isn't helping a lot of them. Michael says that he agrees with him, exposure and re-exposure does have its downfalls. Resilience goes a long way. In this day and age we don't really get to choose what we can absorb or what we are exposed to but using trusted sources (.gov sites) we can prepare ourselves a bit better. Jim Linville suggests that they simply encourage people to stay smart, stay strong and do the best they can. Wear your mask, social distance, wash your hands and keep any gatherings small because there is a light at the end of the tunnel. He is tired of the masks and regulations but also doesn't want to get it so thinks they should encourage people to hang in there.

- 10. Financial Summary:** Denis Benson had mentioned earlier the bridge fund is at \$532,467.77. If needed for the Trout Club culvert project he is confident that there will be enough funding in that if not enough from state. Jim Linville says that if they get \$170,000 from VTRANS, not saying no, feels confident and looking good. Will know more in a month or so. Denis Benson says should know more in time for some sort of budgeting meeting. Charles Goodwin asks Kim Seymour about an item that she informs it is where she has been putting the fee for Zoom. Jim Linville asks if

there were any problems with the summary, from what he sees think will be in excellent shape by the end of the year. Kim confirms that yes, doing well overall.

- 11. SO # 25 Payroll, SO #25 Vendors:** Bruce Downer makes a motion to approve SO# 25 Payroll for the amount of \$7,508.09, Charles Goodwin 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*

Jim Linville makes a motion to approve SO# 25 Vendors for the amount of \$22,573.29, Charles Goodwin 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*

- 12. New/Old Business:** Jim Linville gives an update on the generator for The Little School. Getting it hooked up this winter is looking more difficult. Need a permit for fuel and electrical. Simple plan suddenly looking more difficult. A licensed Professional needs a permit or they won't do it. Annie Fuji'i asks if they need the permit from the state, who do they need to apply with. Jim Linville confirms yes, needed through the state and also says unfortunately don't get hopes up right now.

Denis Benson brings up starting the budget meetings on the 4th of January, asks Jim about a print out of the playhouse seating to begin a seating plan for 75-80 people. Annie Fuji'i brings up that Jim is not part of the community association so Charles Goodwin will get it. Jim Linville brings up that 1/2- 1/3 are couples who wont need to be spaced.

Charles Goodwin moves to adjourn, Bruce Downer 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM