**TOWN OF WESTON**

**P.O. BOX 98**

**WESTON, VT 05161**

**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**June 14th, 2022 at 7:30 PM**

**Present**: Denis Benson, Jim Linville, Charles Goodwin, Ann Fuji’i and Lisa Yrsha

**Absent:** None

**Public:** Natalie Boston, Almon Crandall, Kim Seymour, Brigid Sullivan, Lory Doolittle, Barbara Lloyd, Chris Bernier, Ken Hall, Jenny Server, Will Duane, Tim Morton and Donald Hart

Denis Benson calls the meeting to order at 7:29 PM

1. **Review and Approve Minutes:** Discussion on a few grammatical corrections and changes. Charles Goodwin moves to approve the minutes with changes, Jim Linville 2nd. *Unanimously Approved.*
2. **Changes or Additions to the Agenda:** Annie Fuji’i notes that will need to go into executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss the Engineer Contract. Jim Linville notes he would also like to go into executive session to discuss real estate. Denis Benson notes some questions that Natalie Boston had received on the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update being done. Almon Crandall answers a few regarding the towns Emerald Ash Borer status.
3. **Road Forman Almon Crandall:** Almon Crandall begins by discussing specs for a new 10 wheeler truck. Says that Jeff Yrsha is still working on it, Hunter Excavating ordered one like Weston will be getting so want to look at that and see before to decide on what they will need.
Almon goes on to address the storm water grant that is received every year and work done on a high priority drainage issues. This year addressing 2 areas. One location on Burton Road has an issue where there is a “historic” access on a property, before needing culverts installed. The property has another access that they use regularly. It was noted that the historic access leads to a garage. To do the work that is required, Almon will have to either put a ditch in the 'historic' driveway or install a culvert. Almon asks who would be responsible for covering that cost, notes he feels he has no authority to make a decision like that. Discussion on options and how to handle. Jim Linville makes a motion to offer the property owner the choice to either have the ditch done in the old access or allow the town to put in a culvert and bill the property owner for the direct costs: labor and materials only, with no overhead. Charles Goodwin 2nd . *Unanimously Approved.*Another area to be worked on involves cleaning out an old plugged culvert. Almon asks if the old culvert is no good anymore (cleaning out may break it) and needs to be replaced how should that be handled? Discussion. Lisa Yrsha asks if it is on the town or property owner to be responsible for cleaning out? Denis Benson notes it is a catch 22 situation and handled on a case by case instance. Discussion. Almon Crandall says if he can’t get it open he will need to dig it out to see. Almon Crandall will attempt to clean out the plugged culvert and if it can’t be cleaned out will readdress then.
4. **Markham Lane Drainage:** Discussion of the issue. Jim Linville notes there had been the idea to raise the lane up but Almon Crandall had noted that power lines above would be in the way of trucks. Barbara Lloyd addresses the board and expresses concern and complaint of the drainage and issue with her driveway now. Says it seems like the water run-off is coming from the development. Donald Hart produces plans that had been presented to the Selectboard when looking for approval of the development. Discussion. Denis Benson says this issue will need more research and will be tabled until the next meeting.

**Skip to #10: Mount Holly Conservation Trust Land Transfer to the State of Vermont:** Brigid Sullivan begins by explaining they have purchased a 210.9 Acer parcel in Weston that they had already conserved and planned on giving to Vermont Fish and Wildlife. The Mount Holly Conservation Trust is looking for the Town of Weston’s Support with the request. Lory Doolittle tells her story of coming to Vermont with her husband and children many years ago and where the desire to donate the funds to preserve the land came from. Will Duane continues discussing and explaining the process of land acquisition. It is 2 parcels of land for a combined 450 Acres. Explains that it will be state land but with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife it will be available for public access (ex: Hunting, Trapping, fishing, non-motorized outdoor activities). Access to the land would be off of Rout 100, 2 possible locations where they will create small parking area and build information kiosk. Discussion. Will Duane raises the topic of how property tax would work for this land, an annual payment: PILOT- Payment in Lieu of Taxes. The estimated PILOT for that parcel is $1,125.77. The land was assessed at $212,490 the value will stay the same but the PILOT will get an increase every 3 years. Denis Benson expresses concern that over 50% of Weston Land is “Tied up” in state/conserved land, concern of where the tax base is heading. Discussion. Lisa Yrsha asks about development on the land, traffic concerns and question if they have asked neighbors to the land what they think. Discussion. Charles Goodwin makes a motion to support the Mount Holly Conservation Trust land Transfer to the State of Vermont. In making motion explains he sees and has considered from a financial standpoint there are two sides: which side will cost less money? Jim Linville 2nd. Discussion. Denis Benson asks about a public hearing, Donald Hart says he believes a step is being missed: to ask the registered voters of the town. Jim Linville notes that the land is already conserved, Vote is on who will manage the land. Lisa Yrsha asks about their timeframe and Brigid says September. Discussion. Chris Bernier from Vermont Fish and Wildlife says that this is “critical habitat” for black bears in the area. In selecting this parcel of land many things considered. Discussion. Aye: Jim Linville, Annie Fuji’i, Lisa Yrsha and Charles Goodwin. Nay: Denis Benson.
5. **Bunker Hill/Park street corner signage:** Annie Fuji’i begins by saying that there is no “perfect” solution for the corner but the proposed solution seems to be a best case scenario. She explains that essentially they will enlarge the signs and have them be a brighter yellow and remove one. Simplify and make it more noticeable. Discussion and review. Lisa Yrsha moves to approve the design, Jim Linville 2nd. *Unanimously Approved.*Jim Linville moves to have Denis Benson sign the roads grant, Charles Goodwin 2nd. *Unanimously Approved.*
6. **Contract signature for Reappraisal from New England Municipal Consultants:** Jim Linville moves to sign, Annie Fuji’i 2nd. *Unanimously Approved.*
7. **Audit:** Review and discussion of the results from the Audit. Discussion of policies and procedures that were recommended moving forward and process to get started on them.
8. **Appointment of Town Officers:** Jim Linville moves to have Denis sign form from Windham Regional Commission on appointed officials, Charles Goodwin 2nd. *Unanimously Approved.* Natalie Boston reviews the remaining vacant positions. Discussion, note of Allison Stori-Hopkins not accepting appointment but Natalie says she never received a decline response. Also noted that Jeff Lennox may be stepping down. Discussion of requesting Town Officers communicate with Natalie on these issues and changes. Ken Hall requests a current list of who is “actually” on the Conservation Commission, Natalie Boston says that she will reach out to members to confirm who is on the CC as well as get contact info for each member. Discussion.
9. **Payment for Gardening Supplies for Lawrence Hill Road Retaining Wall:** Jim Linville moves to reimburse Carol Maclaury $300 for mulch and flowers to be added to tonight’s vendors. Charles Goodwin 2nd. Lisa Yrsha asks where the funds will come from and if there is an invoice. Discussion on erosion fund and history of garden put in for that purpose. Discussion. Jim Linville suggests having a line item for the budget nets year, Denis Benson says it could set a precedent for future “Small projects”. Discussion. Lisa Yrsha says she agrees that she should be reimbursed, just wants to be sure it is categorized correctly. All of the Selectboard notes that they appreciate the work and think it looks great. Annie Fuji’i also informs that The Vermont Country Store had offered to repaint the “Welcome to Weston” signs in the past; however the employee willing to do the work is no longer with them. Annie says she will follow up with Carol and Steve regarding this and materials. All thank Carol Maclaury for the work done and agree will need some type on invoice. *Unanimously Approved.*
10. **Covered Earlier**
11. **SO #13 Payroll/ SO #13 Vendors:** Charles Goodwin moves to approve SO #13 payroll for the amount of $7,244.75, Jim Linville 2nd. *Unanimously Approved.* Jim Linville moves to approve SO #13 Vendors with the $300 added for reimbursement to Carol Maclaury for the amount of $52,610.35, Annie Fuji’i 2nd. *Unanimously Approved.*
12. **New/Old Business**: Jim Linville notes hethought he would have something on the Mill Lane culverts but doesn’t have anything at the moment.
Jim Linville asks Kim Seymour if she had received any response from letters sent out regarding the unregistered dogs. Kim Seymour notes that she did get some response and was able to remove 2 dogs from the list.

**9:45: Annie Fuji'i moves to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 VSA subchapter 313 (2). Jim Linville seconds.** *Unanimously Approved.*

**10:25 Annie Fuji'i moves to exit Executive Session. Lisa Yrsha second. *Unanimously Approved.***

Annie Fuji'i moves to retain MSK Engineering to Review Town Subdivision Permit Application materials for compliance with Town Subdivision Regulations related to the Lindgren Subdivision (not to exceed $2,400) as well as assist DRB with other Subdivisions. Additional contracts to be negotiated. Jim Linville 2nd. *Unanimously approved.*

Denis Benson moves to add the $1000 deposit portion of the MSK fee to the Account Payables Report #13. Jim Linville 2nd. *Unanimously Approved.*

Jim Linville moves to authorize additional consultation with Town Attorney Merrill Bent to determine appropriate actions regarding the recent survey of Town Office and Annex Property with respect to adjoining property owners. Lisa Yrsha seconds. *Unanimously Approved.*

Jim Linville moves to authorize additional consultation with Town Attorney Merrill Bent to assist PC/DRB with zoning regulations. Lisa Yrsha seconds. *Unanimously Approved.*

Charles Goodwin moves to adjourn, Jim Linville 2nd. *Unanimously Approved.*

**Meeting adjourned at 10:35.**

Weston Selectboard:

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Denis Benson, Chair Jim Linville, Vice Chair

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Anne Fuji’i, Secretary Lisa Yrsha

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Charles Goodwin