

Dorset Selectboard Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2022

7pm Dorset Town Offices

Members Present: Megan Thorn, Henry Chandler, Jim Salsgiver

Members Absent: Liz Ruffa

Others Present: Rob Gaiotti, Jack Appelman, Frank Parent, Bruce Ketcham, Tory Rich, Laura Sibilia

Megan Thorn called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

September Minutes: Henry Chandler moved and Jim Salsgiver seconded to approve the September meeting minutes as presented, motion passed 3-0.

Public Comment: None

Zoning Board Interview with Bruce Ketcham: Bruce introduced himself and gave some background. He has lived in Dorset for almost 7 years and works for Scott Thompson Builders. He participated in portion of the Dorset Tomorrow process with the Vermont Council on Rural Development. He wants to give back to the community and be part of the land use process with the ZBA. Henry Chandler inquired about what he likes about Dorset, he stated that he enjoyed the landscape and the recreational offerings/ quality of life. He noted that one current challenge is the overall lack of workforce housing that makes the area difficult to settle into for young families. The Board thanked Bruce for interviewing and noted that they would have a full board in November and make the appointment decision at that time.

Selectboard Interview with Jack Appelman: Jack Appelman was present to interview for an open position on the Selectboard. He noted that his family has lived in Dorset for 30 years and he is fortunate that his children and grand children live here as well. Jack has owned/operated an art licensing business for many year and currently employs around 8 people. He has experience with running large businesses and commercial building construction. He feels that he has time to give back to the community and could be an asset with the construction of the new Town Offices. Discussion ensued about Dorset, he noted that he feels Dorset is in a strong position and would like to see the current trajectory move into the future. He noted that the infrastructure of the Town is in good shape, and those efforts need to be continued. Henry Chandler asked about what he liked about Dorset, he replied that it is a nice place to live and property values are solid.

Selectboard Interview with Frank Parent: Frank Parent was present to interview for an open position on the Selectboard. He noted that he has lived in Dorset since 1999. He is the owner of Long Trail Engineering and has worked in the community as an engineer since his arrival. He noted that he was stepping down from a few volunteer board positions to assure that he could commit time to the Selectboard. He noted that it is important for East Dorset to have a member on the Selectboard to assure that perspective is present. He felt that his professional background with land use would be helpful to the town. He also noted that he was concerned about the challenges with workforce housing, stating that his wife is a teacher and he can see how young families struggle to afford homes at the current rates.

The Board thanked both applicants and noted that they would have a full board in November and discuss the appointment at that time.

Town Health Officer Re-appointment: Henry Chandler moved and Jim Salsgiver seconded to re-appoint Dolores Marcotte as the Health Officer for Dorset, motion passed 3-0.

New Town Office Update: Rob Gaiotti presented an update on the new town office. The Town has decided to reduce the square footage by 10% which requires some re-design. Discussion ensued about ADA access and limiting hardscapes and walkways where feasible. An updated timeline was discussed, design/permitting through winter, with bidding in the spring and construction start in summer 2023.

Old Business: Rob Gaiotti presented the memo on Old Business, items included Traffic control/speeding on Route 7 and Route 30, Read Farm Lane flood efforts, Trail work on Raptor Lane etc. Discussion ensued about speeding efforts and long-term planning for lowering limits on Route 7.

Finance: Rob Gaiotti gave the monthly financial report. Expenses are tracking along as normal. The 3rd of 4 ARPA payments was received last week. The Town will pay the Fire Districts fire tax payments next week. Some items like fuel and salt have increased a lot in pricing and will have to be tracked through winter. Henry Chandler moved and Jim Salsgiver seconded to approve the finance report, motion passed 3-0.

Manager's Report: Highway Items: winter prep, grading, tree work, Inspection of the Prentiss Pond dam with future engineering review needed. The Dam was inspected last week and is in "poor" condition. There isn't high safety hazard but the Town needs to start front end engineering associated with the structure.

Other items included: Dorset Fire District water project will get \$2.25 million in grants and 0% interest for 30 years, saving \$1.5 million (on a \$5 million project). The timing of the closeout of the project could be really good, for additional grants upon closeout. Trail work is continuing for a new climbing trail from

a lower parking area at Raptor Lane to spread users out. R. Gaiotti attended workshops for continuing education etc.

Other Business: Street Naming and Addressing; Jack Appelman was present to request road names for the private road he lives on. A 3rd house is being added which requires the shared drive to be a private road for e911 purposes. It was the consensus of the Board to approve the name “Frost Pond Road” for the new road.

Henry Chandler moved and Jim Salsgiver seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm, motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rob Gaiotti

Town Manager