

Town of Dorset, Vermont



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=====*Chartered*

Regular Meeting of the Dorset Select Board July 19, 2022

Present: Megan Thorn, Liz Ruffa, Jim Salsgiver, Tom Smith

Also, present: Rob Gaiotti (Town Manager)

Megan Thorn, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Approve Minutes of 6/21

Jim Salsgiver and Liz Ruffa noted that names were misspelled on the last page of the 6/21 minutes, and listed corrections.

Jim Salsgiver moved and Liz Ruffa seconded to approve the minutes of 6/21 as amended, motion passed 3-0.

Public Comment:None

Board Goals (Continued):A brief discussion ensued about Housing, Liz Ruffa is working with contacts at the Champlain Housing Trust to plan a visit and a talk with Dorset officials with regard to how they operate.

Outdoor Recreation Director Update: Rachel Batz was present to give an update from the operations of the Outdoor Recreation Department. She noted that much of the current efforts of the department are carrying out trail crew construction time this summer. The trail crew consist of local highschool and college kids that work to maintain and expand hiking and bike trails in Dorset. The crew is doing a great job this summer, focus has been on the Owls Head re-route trail and the East Dorset trail reconnection. Additionally Rachel has done some programming related to foraging and plant identification. She has partnered with the Dorset Library on many programs and they are well attended. Rachel also outlined her goals and plans for the next 12 months moving forward. Discussion ensued about her efforts and the success of the department.

Approve Northshire Rescue Squad Agreement:

Jim Salsgiver gave an update about the NRS multi-town agreement being ready for approval by each town. Discussion ensued about the support in Dorset for the good works of NRS and how things will continue to work moving forward. Tom Smith moved and Liz Ruffa seconded to approve the NRS agreement, motion passed 3-0 (Jim Salsgiver abstained)

Set Municipal Tax Rate 2022-2023:

Rob Gaiotti presented the grand list and tax rate certificate for the upcoming year:

Tax Rate: \$0.3439 per \$100 of assessed value (includes Town services and Fire tax). Tom Smith moved and Liz Ruffa seconded to approve the tax rate as presented, motion passed 4-0.

Old Business:

Broadband: Jim Salsgiver noted that Consolidated and the Southern VT CUD were working to deploy fiber through the region by the end of 2023. It was noted that the fiber will run all through town and offer higher speeds. Another goal of the effort is to keep it affordable. The CUD and CCI are working on an \$8.9 million grant.

East Dorset Village: The speed study should occur this week for Route 7 and Rob Gaiotti has sent another email to the VTrans property officials about the space behind the post office.

Other updates included: Read Farm Lane, and the Raptor Lane bike trail efforts.

Finance Report:

Rob Gaiotti gave the June finance report. The auditor will be in the office starting 7/27. Tom Smith moved and Liz Ruffa seconded to approve the finance report, motion passed 4-0.

Manager's Report:

Updates were presented about: Highway projects, Dorset Fire District projects, Broadband, and continuing education for the Town Manager.

Other Business:

Jim Calder was present and inquired about projects on Pine Road and impacts to the road and levels of traffic. He also noted that the curve sign in the area of Pine Road and Morse Hill Road should be replaced.

Tom Smith moved and Liz Ruffa seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:18pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Rob Gaiotti
Town Manager