

Town of Danby
DRAFT Select Board Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2024
Town Office, Danby, VT 7:00pm
<https://www.danbyvt.org/government-information>
ZOOM MEETING ID: 813 2851 1750

Public Present – D. Stoddard, G. Heaton, K. Corey, L. Dever, T. Porter, R. Porter, J. Arnold, I. Halligan, M. Bushee, B. Payne, E. Pepin,

Virtual Present – D. Coburn, D.R. White, B. Thompson, A. Stoehr, Z. Golden, L. Bondurant, A. Smith, S. White, C. Hardaway, T. Parker, S. Wilde, A. Wilde, T. Katz, R. Alyward

- **Call to order at 7:00pm**
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Roll Call**
 - **Abbott, Fuller, Haines, Bender – present**
- **Procedure for Remote Access and Public Comment Statement**
 - **Brad Bender**
- **Motion to set agenda**
 - **Motion by Haines, Seconded by Abbott**
 - **Motion passes unanimously**
- **Motion to adopt minutes of Select Board Meeting of September 12, 2024**
 - **Motion by Haines, seconded by Fuller**
 - **Motion passes unanimously**
- **Public Comment**
 - **Annette Smith**
 - **Would like to speak about last meeting**
 - **ARPA money was brought up at the end of the meeting**
 - **Wasn't put on the agenda**
 - **Needs to warned when there are action items**
 - **Actions were unclear that took place**
 - **Would recommend some amount of the money should be spent on a device for the hybrid meetings**
 - **Would enable the audience and the board to be seen at the same time**
 - **Comment on recent road work**
 - **Appreciates the recent quality of work**
 - **Plans to remove large tree in the ditch on Baker Brook?**
 - **Tree was left, it will be removed, if anyone would like it they are welcome to it**
 - **Truck was already voted on, and money was moved around to cover expenses**
 - **The balance of ARPA money was spent**
 - **Beth Thompson**
 - **Wondering about why the spending wasn't being warned**
 - **It was addition**
 - **Wondering about procedures**
 - **Wondering about Old Business and why new things come up**
 - **Agenda is posted ahead of time to meeting requirements**
 - **Wondering about town plan amendment**
 - **Since the attorney was not at the meeting should that have been in the notes**
 - **Was mentioned during meeting that the attorney needed to be consulted**

- Executive session question
 - What happens during the session regarding letters of interest for vacant select board seat
 - Letters have been sent to select board members
 - Will be reviewed and discussed
 - Annette Smith
 - ARPA money wasn't added to the agenda
 - Asking for items to be warned so the public can be involved
 - Violation of rights, would like more awareness
 - Michelle Bushee
 - It is a safety issues regarding the tower spending and decision to use funds
 - Allows for better communication for emergency services
 - Lauren Dever
 - Is the tower up and running
 - Yes it is
 - Working on truck to truck communication
 - Don't want to crowd communications since emergency services access the repeater as well
 - Tracy Porter
 - Agreeing with Annette about the lack of mention of ARPA money spending
 - Annette Smith
 - Asked about transfer station relocation
 - Consideration of working with Mt. Tabor and relocating to their site
- Executive session to discuss letters of interest for Select Board Vacancy
 - Motion by Haines seconded by Fuller
 - Executive session started at 7:22pm
 - Executive session ended at 7:50pm
- Appoint Select Board member to vacant seat
 - 7 people submitted letters
 - Janice Arnold
 - Sarah Wilde
 - Ingrid Halligan
 - William Payne
 - Annette Smith
 - Byron Battease
 - Greg Heaton
 - Thank you to everyone you submitted a letters of interest
 - Motion to Appoint Greg Heaton to serve on the Select Board
 - Motion by Fuller seconded by Abbott
 - Motion passes unanimously
 - Heaton takes Oath of Office
- Review and act on Rootland Cannabis LLC Application
 - CCB mixed cultivator small tier renewal
 - Outdoor growing
 - Was anything ever set in town regarding this
 - Brad attended a Zoom meeting with the CCB
 - Many towns are struggling with similar things
 - Understanding since Danby doesn't have zoning it goes by what the CCB says
 - Very difficult board to communicate with

- Having neighbors that grow isn't always a pleasant smell
- Motion to Approve renewal of Rootland Cannabis LLC application
 - Motion by Haines, Seconded by Heaton
 - Heaton – yes
 - Abbott – yes
 - Fuller – no
 - Haines – yes
 - Bender- no
 - Motion carries
- RRPC Update: Michelle Bushee
 - New structure for member dues
 - Flat rate of \$1000 for every town in the RRPC is current structure
 - Looking at new structure based off other Regional Planning commissions
 - Has been talked about for years to add to the RRPC budget and revenue
 - Would be based on \$1 per resident of each town
 - Danby wouldn't increase that much
 - Would take effect until FY 2026
 - Economic and Work force grant
 - Work Force Opportunities for Rural Communities
 - Will begin this year with a small group of seniors
 - Directed towards high school students not college bound
 - Reaching out through guidance councilors
 - Still very new and working on details
 - Should hear more at the next meeting
- Ethan Pepin, Transportation Planner Presentation
 - Phase two in regional plan update
 - Phase one was reaching out to towns
 - POP up events
 - Extensive survey
 - Started to develop initial policies
 - Drafts and looking for feedback
 - Phase two is feedback
 - Draft policies are on the website
 - Open house on 10/30 6pm at the RRPC office
 - Longer session to go through policies and receive feedback
 - Available for any questions or concerns
 - Drafting may begin in December
 - Final draft will go to public hearing in late 2025
 - Informing about the process
 - Question from Haines
 - Wondering about road studies
 - Would like information from counter that was on Baker Brook
 - Information will be sent
- Treasurer's Report - Michelle Bushee
 - Some tax money is coming in
 - Still learning but moving forward
 - Skylar – assistant treasurer has been helpful
 - Friday evenings 5-7pm
 - Saturdays 9-12
 - Along with regular hours
- Transfer Station Relocation Discussion

- there are safety issues with the current location
 - Has been discussed for a long time
- Mt. Tabor contacted the town
 - Exploring moving transfer station to their location
 - Met with the town of Mt. Tabor on Tuesday evening
 - There is no electricity down there
 - Compactors or open containers
 - Would like to hear from the community on their opinions about moving the transfer station
 - Worked on a new sticker system to help not lose so much money with the transfer station
 - There is still a lot that needs to be explored before moving forward
 - Site is very spacious
 - Can take more items
 - Currently an open dumpster with a roof and electric fence
 - Need to look at costs
 - Compactors seem to be a waste of money
 - Open top may be more efficient
- Road Commissioners Report: T. Fuller Jr.
 - Sand pile is almost full
 - 2,000 ton as of today
 - Hoping for 3,000 tons when done
 - Only one sand pile this year instead of two like last year
 - Grading
 - About 25% through fall grading
 - Trucks are in good shape
 - Working on new pan for sander
 - New tires are on order for Truck #2
 - Quote to have chimney repaired in town garage (not present)
 - To add new blocks on top to get it above snow load
 - New liner for multi-fuel
 - Will need special brush for cleaning
 - Time frame would be sooner than later
 - General maintenance that doesn't need a vote
- VT 250th Anniversary Resolution
 - Gov. Phil Scott signed a resolution regarding celebration and events
 - 252 town engaged in the state
 - Building a stronger community
 - Official established a liaison or community
 - Planning events and celebrations
 - Motion to adopt resolution
 - Motion by Fuller Seconded by Abbott
 - Motion passed unanimously
- Old Business
 - Discussion of salt from last meeting
 - Still waiting to hear on one quote
 - American – waiting to hear
 - Cargil – \$87.25 per ton
 - Appalachia – \$93 per ton
 - Would like to buy from both to keep two vendors available
 - Motion to buy the bulk of salt from Cargil and some from Appalachia
 - Motion by Haines Seconded by Fuller

- Motion passes unanimously
- New Business
 - Haines
 - Thoughts on communicating with Jason Pergament from BBA to see if there is a student that could work with the road crew through the winter in a work study program
 - Need to get more information on what limitations are
 - Could be a very good idea and possibility
 - Something to investigate and explore
 - Back up help for the winter
 - Should be on the next agenda
 - Discuss options for part time help through the winter
 - Budget season
 - Last November started working on budget workshops at 6pm before regular meeting
 - Will begin that again this year
- Motion to adjourn 8:45pm by Heaton, Seconded by Fuller
 - motion passes unanimously

Respectfully Submitted by:
Drea Stoddard
Minute Taker