

Town of Danby
Select Board Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2022
Town Office, Danby, VT 9:00am
<https://www.danbyvt.org/government-information>
ZOOM MEETING ID: 834-6028-2318

Public Present – D. Stoddard, T. Porter, B. Thompson, J. Millard, M. Fernandez, D. Keeler, S. Borque,
Virtual Present – B. Richardson, L. Dever, D. White, D. White Sr., S. White, A. Smith, G. Derr, S.
Pearce, Jade, V. Griffith, S. Wilde,

- Call to order at 7:00pm
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call
 - Abbott, Fuller, Bender , Haines arrived at 7:05pm
 - Powers - absent
- Procedure for Remote Access Attendance Statement
 - Beth Thompson
- Motion to Set Agenda
 - Striking motion to review driveway permit
 - Motion by Fuller, Seconded by Abbott
 - Motion passes unanimously
- Public Comment
 - Don Keeler,
 - Complaint from election because the heat was unbearable
 - Consider heat pumps or other options for cooling
- Motion to adopt Minutes of Select Board Meetings of July 14, 22, and 30, 2022
 - Motion by Abbott, Seconded by Bender
 - Motion passes unanimously
- Planning Commission Report – D. Stoddard / S. Taylor
 - Presentation from Samantha Pearce
 - Cannabis Control Commission
 - Danby did op-in to allow cannabis retailers
 - Forming a CCC would allow notification prior to a retailer opening, and open a dialog, and potential for further control down the line
 - The State has the most control at this point
 - Recommendation from Planning Commission is for the Select Board to act as the CCC for the Town of Danby
 - Put on the Agenda for September
- Michael Fernandez – Bennington County Conservation District Presentation
 - Collaboration with Conservation Districts
 - Aluminum arch bridge (\$429,300) or steel stringer bridge (\$310,000)
 - Would allow for aquatic travel, and remove impediments
 - Working with engineers
 - Invite the board or an individual from the board to come out and have a discussion at the site
 - Looking into partnering with the DEC & VTRANS for funding
 - Initially brought up as an undersized culvert
 - Has never been an issue as it stands
 - Starting to sound like a different project then when initially explained
 - Current understanding for project to increase aquatic travel and reduce erosion
 - Funding is an issue

- Looking at grants that the town is already looking into to use for other projects
 - Looking for input if they can make it happen and coordinate with funding partners
 - Do not want to ask town for funds
 - In stream erosion question
 - The more often high erosion events happen could lead to culvert failure down the road
 - Schedule to put on the October Agenda
 - **Treasurer's Report – J. Millard**
 - Monthly report handed out
 - Normal month
 - Set Tax Rate
 - Listers have completed the 2022 Grand List
 - Tax Rate from last year was .5622
 - Motion to Set tax Rate at .56
 - Motion by Haines, Seconded by Abbott
 - Motion passes unanimously
 - Charging a late filing fee for late filing homesteads?
 - There has not been a penalty in the past
 - There is potentially a lot of paperwork and costs involved
 - Motion to Set penalty for late filing
 - Motion by Fuller, Seconded by Haines
 - Motion passes unanimously
 - Motion to Set local agreement at .0019
 - Motion by Haines, Seconded by Fuller
 - Motion passed unanimously
 - Accepting by post mark
 - Phrase can be found in town meeting information
- **Road Commissioner's Report – T. Fuller Jr.**
 - Motion to adopt State preferred alternative for bridge 7 over Mill Brook Work
 - Motion by Fuller, Seconded by Haines
 - Motion passes unanimously
 - Discussion options to alleviate the cost of Lilly Hill bridge replacement
 - Received \$200,00 grant for the bridge in the 'S' turns
 - Originally wanted to try to straighten the road some
 - Pricing has increased for bridge work
 - Worked with engineers to rework current bridge, cleaning up and reworking around the bridge instead of replacement
 - Discuss proposed Drug & Alcohol Policy for CMV operators (Guidance)
 - Reviewed several policies
 - Motion to use Policy provided by Vermont Truck and Bus
 - Motion by Fuller, Seconded by Abbott
 - Town has been randomly testing, just didn't have a policy in place
 - Outlines what is tested for & procedures
 - Motion passes unanimously
 - Discuss Hazard Mitigation Plan and how to proceed – S. Borque
 - Working with Mt. Tabor to identify hazards
 - Here to potentially get things back in motion
 - Has worked with 21 out of the 27 towns who has updated their plans
 - Would need to re-establish a team

- **Would need a special meeting**
 - Need to have a plan in place by the end of the year
 - State will start using the guidance in January 2023
 - **Would encourage the town to resume work on the plan**
 - Open eligibility for FEMA grants
 - **Is this still a priority and how quickly can things get back in motion**
 - **Re-establish team of Shelley, Brad, Steve, Tom, Ken, & Mike**
 - Notice of meeting
 - Only topic would be hazard mitigation
 - **3 or 4 planning meetings and then public presentation of plan**
 - Will send out an email to set up first meeting
- **Discuss Dufresne report - Depot St. Drainage**
 - **Must bring Mt. Tabor in on the issue**
 - Some of the work needs to happen on their side of the town
 - Water now bubbling out of the ground when there is a water event
 - **There is broken pipe, a mystery pipe, water coming from somewhere**
 - Possible to manage water above ground
 - Unknown source of the water
 - **Review Report**
 - May not be addressing the correct issues
 - **Continuous ground water needs to be addressed**
 - **Annette Smith**
 - Contact a hydrogeologist?
 - May require contacting a different firm that can provide other services
 - **Need to expand the scope of potential work**
 - **Table action at this point**
- **Discuss Short Cut Road findings and possible alternatives**
 - **Met with Josh from Vermont Fish**
 - Dealing with an active land slide on the short cut road
 - Looking at close to \$20,000 to get core samples
 - \$100,000 to potentially fix, but not guarantee
 - Understanding that there's only so much that can be done
 - **Improvements are coming for Lilly Hill access**
 - Brush cutting to open the view
 - Paving from Danby Pawlet Rd to the bridge so it can be salted in the winter
 - **Want to address the safety issues for now**
 - **Needs to be re-classified instead of throwing it up**
 - Put on Agenda for September meeting
- **Read into record VLCT statement regarding Select Board Volunteer time**
 - **Vicky Abare Sr. Underwriter, AINS, UA**
 - **'A selectboard Member that volunteers to plow using a municipal vehicle, would be covered for liability, according to the terms, conditions, limitations and exclusions of the PACIF Coverage Document. If the Selectboard member is injured while plowing town roads, workers' comp coverage may extend to road commissioners or selectboard members while actually engaged in highway maintenance or construction, according to workers' comp statute. If the vehicle requires a CDL to operate, he must be part of a drug and alcohol testing program. You can reach out to Wade Masure, if you're not familiar with the CDL requirements**

- **Old Business**
 - **When renovations happened to town office there was discussion about air conditioning**
 - **Motion to get quotes for a heat pump installed**
 - **Motion by Abbott, Seconded by Fuller**
 - **Motion passes unanimously**
 - **Any interest in having security cameras installed outside and inside buildings**
 - **Continue discussion to next meeting**
- **New Business**
 - **Application from Jake Desjadon**
 - **To get some weed eating done around signposts and guard rails that can't be down with the mower.**
 - **Cap the hours at 50hrs. to be paid \$20 an hour**
 - **Motion to Hire Jake Desjadon as temporary weed eater for a maximum of 50 hours at a rate of \$20 an hour**
 - **Motion by Fuller, Seconded by Haines**
 - **Motion passes unanimously**
 - **Portable fuel tank for the road crew**
 - **Look into getting a trailer that can carry tank and lights**
 - **Motion to purchase transfer tank for the price of \$1,099**
 - **Motion by Fuller, Seconded by Haines**
 - **Motion passes unanimously**
- **Motion to adjourn 9:12pm by Haines, seconded by Fuller**
 - **motion passes unanimously**

Respectfully Submitted by:

**Drea Stoddard
Minute Taker**