

Town of Danby  
DRAFT Select Board Meeting Minutes  
September 12, 2024  
Town Office, Danby, VT 7:00pm  
<https://www.danbyvt.org/government-information>  
**ZOOM MEETING ID: 813 2851 1750**

Public Present – D. Stoddard, M. Bushee, T. Porter, R. Porter, C. Bicskei & F. Bicskei, L. Dever, K. Corey, M. Reed, S. Crosby, S. Corey, T. Jesmonth, T. Katz, C. Moran, I. Halligan, D. Tifft, B. Hodgins, A. Hodgins, B. Corey, R. Aylward, H. Solomon, B. Martin, M. Abbott, H. Abbott, C. Crandall,

Virtual Present – B. Thompson, D.R. White, S. White, H. Blucher, Z. Golden, Janice, C. Hardaway, T. Parker, G. Derr, A. Smith,

- Call to order at 7:00pm
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call
  - Abbott, Fuller, Haines, Bender – present
    - Powers - Absent
- Procedure for Remote Access and Public Comment Statement
  - Brad Bender
- Motion to set agenda
  - Add winter sand proposals
  - Presentation from Hillary Solomon - PMNRCD
  - Motion by Haines, Seconded by Fuller
    - Motion passes unanimously
- Motion to adopt minutes of Select Board Meeting of August 8, and 15, 2024
  - Motion by Haines, seconded by Fuller
    - Motion passes unanimously
- Public Comment
  - Mike Abbott
    - Wondering about the update on culvert request at the end of Holland Heights
    - Presented photos of damage
    - Would like it addressed
    - Town came and fixed ditches, and filled in damage along road
      - Temporary fix
    - Water has always come down
      - gotten worse
  - Kim Corey
    - Petition presented to the board with 103 signatures
    - Requesting that the land designation change does not happen
  - Ingrid Halligan
    - Finding it hard for the board to not be bias with a vote
  - Cheryl Bicskei
    - Would like to read a statement
      - Appalled from viewing the last meeting and hearing
        - Mentioned statements from individuals speaking against the land designation change
      - Negligence from the Select Board
      - Brought up legal immunity

- Unethical behavior from the Select Board regarding the land designation change
- Renata Aylward
  - Reiterate what was stated prior in meetings
    - Not in favor of the land designation change
  - Need to consider what is happening in the village
    - the village is the heart of the town
- Dana Tift
  - Wondering about the proposal of doing a test blast
  - Classification on discussion outside of meetings between board members
    - Can only be one on one, otherwise illegal and would be considered a meeting
- Lara Dever
  - Wondering about time to discuss if new information has come up during the meeting regarding town plan change
- Annette Smith
  - Very concerned about how public engagement is addressed
    - Doesn't feel friendly
  - Is not in support of the land designation change
- Treasurer's Report - Michelle Bushee
  - Tax bills will be out by the end of next week
- Motion to accept the resignation of Select Board member Michael Powers
  - Motion by Haines seconded by Fuller
    - Discussion
      - Would like to thank him for his service
      - Brought a lot of knowledge to the board
    - Motion passes unanimously
  - How to proceed
    - The select board needs to appoint a replacement in a timely manner
    - Post and warn about vacancy
    - Would like to receive letters of interest for the October meeting
  - Motion to remove from the table the Land Use Designation change
    - Motion by Haines seconded by Abbott
    - Motion passes
      - Fuller abstained
- Motion to adopt Resolution to Amend the Land use districts shown in the 2020 Danby Town Plan to expand the land use Commercial/Industrial District depicted on the Draft Land use map dated 8/8/24 by increasing the tract shown west of South Main St. by 11.87 acres
  - Motion by Abbott seconded by Haines
  - Discussion
    - Brad Bender
      - 928 registered voters
      - Reviewed and considered comments from the 20 voters who spoke
      - Considered those who remained silent
      - 12 asked questions, 6 concerned about blasting, 3 spoke about fumes
        - Propane leak was a single event
      - Seismograph placement
        - Cannot see Maine Drilling & blasting risking license by tampering with readings
      - Ken Abbott Jr. – sand pit not a quarry
        - No legal interest in the real estate
        - Owned by Ken Abbott Sr.

- Asphalt plant will not be moving or closing
      - Fumes from existing asphalt plant
      - Will increase truck traffic over time when available material decreases
    - Can deal with blasting, not additional truck traffic
    - Real estate in village area has consistently gone up, in many cases dramatically, during quarry's existence
    - Quarrying has been part of this town's history
    - Expansion could continue to allow hydro electric
  - Steve Haines
    - Would like to see a test blast done before a decision is made
    - The direction of the blasting is said to be less
  - Ken Abbott
    - Agrees with the test blast conversation
    - A lot of the questions need to be address in the Act 250 process
  - Brad Bender
    - Select Board is not the act 250 board
    - Only amending the land designation
      - Not the actual use
  - Roll call on Vote
    - Abbott – yes
    - Haines – no
    - Bender – yes
    - Fuller – abstained
  - Motion does not carry in town attorney's opinion
  - A majority of the 5 member board would need to vote in affirmative
- Road Commissioners Report: T. Fuller Jr.
  - Winter Sand Bids
    - 3 prices
      - Pike Industries \$9.15 per ton
      - Peckham Industries \$15 per ton
      - Wallingford Crushed Stone \$12.90 per ton
    - Motion to buy majority of winter sand from Pike Industries
      - Motion by Haines, Seconded Fuller
        - Motion passes unanimously
  - Beaver Dam removal
  - Cleaned up tree after Towsley had it taken down
  - Ditching on Colvin Hill
    - Good start done
  - Limited grading with the dry ground
  - Brush and tree removal
  - Worked on truck maintenance
  - Working on the west side
  - Can we do some mowing along with current projects?
    - Maybe do the more traveled areas
    - Stop signs
  - Water system gate valves were exposed by Danby Hill/Brook Rd
    - One was paved over
    - No riser was put on, didn't realize there was a valve in there
    - Need to have spare covers, most cannot be removed easily
    - Whose responsibility is it to maintain the valves
      - The Fire District? Need replacement covers

- **Old Business**
  - **Hillary Solomon**
    - **Two updates**
      - **Working on flower brook project**
        - **Wondering about sediment build up**
        - **Better sense of what is happening**
        - **Particle sizes are small and travel through water**
        - **Stream is sinking deeper, and bank erosion**
      - **Some possible solutions**
        - **Leaving some debris in the brook helps with gravel retention**
        - **Will help the headwaters regain some water**
      - **Green Hill Rd – Purchase Brook Bridge**
        - **Available to look for funds to help with the bridge**
        - **The issue is the pool on the other side of the culvert is a water source for the fire department**
        - **The last time the board was approached**
          - **If funding could be found the board is on board with the project**
          - **Along with water for the fire department**
      - **New funding available**
        - **Vermont Clean water fund**
          - **Phosphorous credit available**
          - **Voluntary projects**
          - **Not required by a permit**
          - **Flexibility in funding and maintenance funds available**
      - **Available to come look at projects whenever needed**
  - **ARPA Money**
    - **Needs to be spent by December**
    - **\$130,420.07**
    - **Buy part of the truck with these funds**
    - **Radio Tower cost contribution conversation**
      - **\$23,365.45 invoiced for the tower installation**
        - **Paid \$5,913 already by the fire department**
    - **Truck radios should be here soon**
      - **Need tax exemption form to proceed**
    - **The town and fire department will be using the tower**
      - **Rescue is also moving their repeater to the new tower location**
      - **The state may be working off the tower as well**
      - **Fire department would appreciate any amount of funds contributions from the town**
      - **The tower is doing its job**
    - **Motion to reimburse the fire department for the tower project with \$25,000 from ARPA funds, and use the remaining funds from ARPA for the new truck payment**
      - **Motion by Fuller Seconded by Haines**
        - **Motion passes unanimously**
- **New Business**
  - **Mt. Tabor is now interested in doing a dump deal**
    - **Potentially interested in Danby taking over the location**
      - **Put on the October agenda**
    - **Sandy Pinsonault is asking to set up on the weekends by the dump to introduce herself to voters and talk with them**

- **Permission is not needed**
- **Motion to adjourn 8:13pm by Haines, Seconded by Abbott**
  - **motion passes unanimously**

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

**Drea Stoddard  
Minute Taker**