



Town of Bolton
3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway
Bolton VT 05676
Select Board Minutes
December 7, 2015

Board members present: Josh Arneson, Gene Armstrong, Jen Dudley-Gaillard, Ron Lafreniere; Chair (6:20 p.m.), Sharon Murray
Board members absent: none
Also present: Eric Andrews, Mike Gervia, Rob Mullen, Bonnie Mullen
Clerk: Amy Grover

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by Josh with a quorum of 4 members present.

2. Additions or deletions to the agenda: none

3. Public comment:

Rob and Bonnie Mullen provided comment regarding the agenda item of trapping on town land/Preston Pond and stated that:

- They live on the pond, are very familiar with the area, understand traditional uses of the land, and the importance to wildlife to link the Preston Pond tract to other lands.
- There has never been legal trapping on Preston Pond in the past 68 years, and understand the town needs to give written permission for trapping.
- Balancing the public good and reviewing the cost benefit analysis suggests that animal trapping and the price pelts bring (beaver pelts worth less than \$20) results in a negative impact given the amount of use and the enjoyment the users get from wildlife in the area.
- Concerns noted: potential for flooding if beavers are not in the area to maintain dams, unsure the beaver population is robust – only adolescents have been sighted, the area is not being overgrazed – predators are keeping the population in check, cannot be sure that traps will only take beavers – special concern noted: otters seen that day in the pond, a treasure, and unclear how trapper would be befitting, clearly not financially, and allowing trapping is simply not good public policy.
- Allowance of trapping is not clear in Preston Pond management plan – would like to see much more discussion in depth, and public opportunity for comment.

Brief group discussion: types of traps, otters, restrictions, seasons, Fish and Game trapping laws.

4. Appointments:

A.) Eric Andrews – Truck Option and PW FY 16-17 Budget:

- Discussion on the '01 & '08 Internationals and Clark's offer to trade a '07 International for the '08 International for the town to use until the new '16 International arrives. Sharon made the motion "to approve Clark's written offer to trade the 2007 International truck for the town's 2008 International truck, as amended, pending inspection of the 2007 International truck by Eric and Gene." Gene seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0).
- Budget: discussion on wages, overtime, health insurance stipend, materials, vehicles, operating expenses, maintenance, capital expenses.

B.) Mike Gervia – BVFD FY 16-17 Budget:

- Budget: discussion on stipends, general operations, telephone, and dispatch services.
- Fireworks permit: requested to be part of the discussion when an applicant requests that the fee be waived.

5. Business and Action Items

Old Business:

1. Leduc et al v. Antley Litigation: Jen made the motion "to enter executive session under 1 V.S.A. § 313 Executive Sessions, (a)." Gene seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0). Jen made the motion "to exit executive session". Josh seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0). Discussion of mediation process/content.
2. All Hazard Mitigation Plan:

- Any additional comments should go to CCRPC by December 25, 2015.
3. ZA Posting: Jen made the motion *"to enter executive session under 1 V.S.A. § 313 Executive Sessions, (a)."* Gene seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0). Jen made the motion *"to exit executive session."* Gene seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0). Discussion on ZA position including compensation.
 4. FY 16-17 Budget:
 - See above under appointments.
 5. Trapping on town land – request:
 - See above under public comment.
 - Noted: trapping not addressed in the management plan of the Preston Pond/town forest, check with Conservation Commission on status of management plan and opportunity for input.
 - Discussion on trapping and conditions of approval, noted need to gather and review information from the VT Fish and Wildlife Department on trapping.
 - Decision tabled until the next meeting.

New Business:

1. Errors and Omissions: Sharon made the motion *"to approve the errors and omissions to the 2015 Grand List as received from by Kermit Blaisdell, Assessor."* Josh seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0).
 2. Expenditure and Revenue Reports: Dispersed.
 3. Warrants: Signed.
 4. Minutes November 23, 2015: Gene made the motion *"to approve the minutes of November 23, 2015."* Sharon seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0).
6. **Communications:** none
7. **Other Business:**
 - Continued issue between hunters and climbers and climbers continued use of Ledge 82 during hunting season. Suggested that CRAG VT representatives come to a Select Board meeting, and/or a formal letter to the climbing community.
8. **Closing:** No other business was brought before this Board at this time. Gene made the motion *"to close the meeting."* Jen seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0), at 9:22 p.m.

Attest: Amy Grover, Clerk

Minutes are unofficial until approved. These minutes were read and approved by the Bolton Select Board on:

12/14, 2015



Ron Lafreniere, Chair, For the Board