



Town of Bolton  
3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway  
Bolton VT 05676  
Select Board Minutes  
February 1, 2016

Board members present: Josh Arneson (5:55 p.m.), Gene Armstrong, Jen Dudley-Gaillard, Ron Lafreniere; Chair, Sharon Murray

Board members absent: none

Also present: Theresa Wood, Tom Stevens, Amy Ludwin

Clerk: Amy Grover

**1. The meeting was called to order at 5:46 p.m. by Ron with a quorum of 4 members present.**

**2. Additions or deletions to the agenda:**

- Leduc v. Antley v. Town of Bolton litigation: Extension until February 24, 2016.
- River Conservancy: Letter received and reviewed offering assistance as needed with respect to ownership change of the "Potholes."

**3. Public comment: none**

**4. Appointments:**

Theresa Wood & Tom Stevens – Representative Update. Discussion included:

- Bolton specific legislation: Bill introduced to give landowner freedom from prosecution if signage is worded incorrectly. Based on conversations with Siefer family whose child drowned in 2012 in Bolton.
- PILOT payment. 50% of the land in Bolton is conserved, 75% including conservation easements, 10,491 acres in state ownership. ANR still working for a change from what was adopted last year – loss of 17K for Bolton. Noted to VHCB, as they were not aware; the town is being penalized for conserving land, may negatively impact desire of towns to conserve land in the future. Additional discussion: revised proposal, meeting last summer with Forest and Parks, inflationary factor, fair market value assessments. Will continue to monitor.
- Ethan Allen Range lands – no payments to towns. Tom to look at the genesis of nonpayment.
- Concerns noted regarding funding/costs of future required town road permitting; noting steep dirt roads in Bolton. Brief discussion of June 9, 2015 FEMA storm event, & Honey Hollow Road right of way issues to move the road away from an area of constant washout/erosion.
- Preston Lafreniere Homestead sale – no update from the state of Vermont. Bid was selected in November 2015.
- MMMUSD merger, costs of teachers' health insurance.
- Opening of new state complex/municipal building in Waterbury, admirable job, take advantage of any opportunity to visit.

Amy Ludwin: Conservation Commission – Winter Access to Preston Pond

- Request by the Conservation Commission for plowing to provide winter access to Preston Pond trailheads. Currently cars are parking on roads, questioned if plowing by the town for at least one trailhead was a possibility without negatively impacting the VAST trail.

Select Board noted:

- Plowing was previously discussed by Select Board and not approved.
- Board understands desire to provide winter access to Town Land.
- Would require a separate trip by the one ton truck. Board does not support a separate trip, and the lot/s need to be improved to be able to be plowed.

Group Discussion:

- DRB conditions for the trailheads, hiring out plowing, Conservation Commission to support plowing with partial funding from their line item, Stage road area; parking would block snowmobile traffic and grooming, make the Notch Road area larger, future logging access – possibly utilize a new/larger landing area, unable to plow if vehicles are parked.

The Select Board stated that for now, there would be no plowing of trailheads to provide for winter access to town land. Action: Conservation Commission to explore upgrading the Notch Road parking lot this summer, keep discussion open, ascertain logistics and costs.

Group discussion:

- Trapping liability: Amy to follow up with the VLCT.
- Hunting: suggestion that hikers and dogs refrain from Preston Pond area use from October – December to give respect and to allow older folks access for hunting.

**5. Business and Action Items**

**Old Business:**

- ZA Position – Executive Session: Gene made the motion *“to enter executive session under 1 V.S.A. § 313 (1)”* Sharon seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0). Gene made the motion *“to exit executive session”* Jen seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0). Sharon made the motion *“to approve the Planning Commission’s nomination of Sarah McShane as Zoning Administrator.”* Josh seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0).
- Kent Masonry: Repair amount previously approved, contract signed.
- Personnel Policy: Amy to collate Josh’s notes and provide draft.

**New Business:**

- Humane Society 2016 Intake Contract: Jen made the motion *“to approve the 2016 Humane Society intake contract”* Josh seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0).
- Economic Development Committee: The Planning Commission sponsored forum for businesses last week and attendees formed an Economic Development Committee and are holding an organizational meeting. If the committee will become town sanctioned is to be determined, under the auspices of the Planning Commission. Sharon to follow up with information for the group.
- VTrans:
  1. FY 17 Highway Grant – town will not be applying as the town received a grant last year and the grant cycle is two to three years for approval.
  2. Certificate of Compliance – completed and signed
  3. TA 60 – wait for budget to be approved at Town Meeting before completion.
  4. Complete Streets Report – Amy to follow up with Eric and submit for 2015.
  5. BV Road repairs – revisit submission of repairs/expenses to the state in the spring.
- Warrants: Signed.
- Minutes January 11, 2016: Jen made the motion *“to approve the minutes of January 11, 2016.”* Gene seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0).

**6. Communications:** none

**7. Other Business:** none.

**8. Closing:** No other business was brought before this Board at this time. Gene made the motion *“to close the meeting.”* Sharon seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0), at 8:05 p.m.

Attest: Amy Grover, Clerk

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

February 15, 2016

  
Ron Lafreniere, Chair, For the Board