



Town of Bolton
3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway
Bolton VT 05676
Select Board Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2019

Board members present: Tony Barbagallo, Mica Cassara, John Choate (6:28 p.m.), Wendy Hoffman, Sharon Murray

Board members absent: none

Also present: Lydia Menendez -VT River Conservancy, Pete Siegel - Emergency Management Director, Tim Grover, Andrew Pond – MMMUSD Board Chair, Amy Ludwin, Virginia Haviland, Jerry Mullen, Rob Mullen, Paula Gervia

Clerk: Amy Grover

1. **The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by the Chair, Mica Cassara, with a quorum of 4 members present.**
2. **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:**
Additions:
 - Firewood lottery – two winners have asked to be released from “winning” and their checks returned. Approved.
 - Deletions: none.
3. **Public Comment:** none.
4. **Recurring Business:**
 - Minutes February 4, 2019: Sharon Murray made the motion *“to approve the February 4, 2019 minutes as presented.”* Tony Barbagallo seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (4-0).
 - Brief discussion of gasoline tax proposal sent earlier from the Waterbury and Strafford Select Board Chairs, and the previous decision to not support that tax as a funding source for infrastructure. Objective was for support at Local Government Day on February 14, 2019.
 - Warrants: signed.
 - Financial Reports: expenditure report dispersed, current to date.
5. **Communications:**
 - RPD Reports December 2018, January 2019.
 - Green Mountain Clean Energy – Certificate of Public Good, de minimus modification. Mica Cassara to review.
 - Letter received from CCRPC regarding their review of VTrans’ preliminary plans for the Notch Tunnel. Noted: placement suggestion for “yield” sign on the uphill side, the pedestrian crossing system is not designating a “crossing” (it is designating pedestrians in the tunnel), removal of system suggested, suggestion to make one way traffic only, separating pedestrians with a barrier.
6. **Appointments:**
 1. 6:15 p.m. Vermont River Conservancy (VRC) – Lydia Menendez: Bolton Potholes update and signage. Lydia Menendez noted that VRC:
 - Has purchased the “Potholes” parcel after 5+ years of efforts to conserve its public access, and are starting the long term management process.
 - Will review the management plan and process annually with the town and MMMUSD.

- The management plan strategy includes signage, staffing (part time, T shirt and hat “uniform”), conveying that the Potholes are still privately owned, allowing for public access, and that there are guidelines and rules.
 - Rules; i.e. no glass, dogs must be controlled per the town ordinance, carry in carry out, no: nudity, fires, camping, disturbing vegetation etc.
 - Will rely on the town to enforce its vehicle ordinance.
 - May hold community clean up hours and events for fundraising, but will not be encouraging people to come to the Potholes.
 - Will need some sort of presence (social media) to explain the change in ownership and guidelines, but will do so in generalities.
 - Is working with the Friends of the Winooski to pursue a grant for funding water quality monitoring in 4 locations (primarily after rain events). Volunteers have been identified for water sampling. Suggestion to connect with environmental classes at schools for assistance with testing.
 - Is requesting permission for:
 - A trial period for the installation of 1 or 2 port-o-lets on town property, behind the school, paid for by VRC.
 - If unsuitably used (vandalism), or not “working,” the town could request removal.
 - To construct a trail/stone steps for access on the east side of Joiner Brook, on town property pending grant funding. Noted: VRC has applied for a Watershed Grant which would fund trail improvement work. Showing that the land is being taken care of can increase visitor respect, and reduce: erosion, compaction, trespassing, trampling vegetation. Noted:
 - Trail work at the town canoe access on the south side Winooski River was addressed similarly.
 - VRC should contact Bolton’s PZA regarding permitting.
 - “Welcome” signage to be placed at two locations: VRC’s property on the west side of the Pothole area, entering from the Bolton Valley Access Road (behind the guardrails, TBD if in town right of way), and behind the school, on town property, near the east side access area.
 - Review of sign size, draft language provided for review and input by February 27, 2019.
 - Signage to be reviewed by all stakeholders.
 - Noted: Bolton’s PZA will need to review with respect to Bolton’s sign regulations.
 - Timeline for permission: the signs by March 18th, the trail and port-o-lets by May 15th.
 - MMMUSD – Andrew Pond will follow up with John Alberghini, Superintendent, and Jeff Forward, Facilities. Concern was noted about placement of port-o-lets, and designating Smile School’s parking lot as an official parking area with the parking symbol on the sign. Andrew Pond noted that MMMUSD’s interest is in educating students, not enforcing parking in the parking lot, and/or addressing all of the other issues that come with a swimming hole being near the school, and that if this project starts to require time and energy from the District, gating the lot may be a possibility.
 - Noted: the Town may need an agreement with MMMUSD for the authority to enforce: keeping the fire lane clear, parking and towing at Smilie School. Andrew Pond will communicate this to the Superintendent.
2. 6:45 p.m. Pete Siegel – Emergency Management Director: LEMP. Follow up appointment to be scheduled at a later date due to time constraints. Noted:
- Follow up needed for office generator (Amy Grover has contacted an electrician), Red Cross shelter designation.

- Sharon Murray expressed concern that the town is not well prepared for emergencies given that there have been disaster declarations every two years since Irene.

7. **Updates:**

- Highway Position Hire update, training, Road Commissioner:

Highway position:

- 18 applicants, short list of 5, one accepted an interview.
- John Choate is following up on background check and references, and will make a recommendation to the BSB.

Training:

- Noted: upcoming trainings, Amy Grover queried who was responsible for ensuring trainings are taken advantage of as needed.

Road Commissioner: tabled until after Town Meeting.

8. **Business & Action Items:**

- MRGP – annual report – signed by Mica Cassara. Amy Grover to submit.
- Geddes Litigation/legal services – executive session as needed.

Wendy Hoffman made the motion “to enter executive session under § 313 (1) (E) pending or probable civil litigation or a prosecution, to which the public body is or may be a party regarding the Geddes tax appeal litigation.” Sharon Murray seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0) at 7:36 p.m. Tony Barbagallo made the motion “to exit executive session.” Wendy Hoffman seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0) at 7:47 p.m.

- Sharon Murray made the motion “to appoint Wendy Hoffman and Tony Barbagallo to represent the Bolton Select Board in the Geddes legal proceeding.” Mica Cassara seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0).

- Brief discussion on the next re-appraisal; timing, funding and process.

- Delegation of Town Meeting Tasks:

- Mica Cassara – Budget.
- Tony Barbagallo – HD work truck; required informational meeting prior to the start of Town Meeting.
- Sharon Murray – Notch Road Tunnel prior to the start of Town Meeting, paving and MRGP with respect to the FY 19-20 budget as needed.
- Noted: request a formal detailed assessment of the Bolton Valley Access Road UPWP '20.

- Personnel Policy – statutory updates +

- Highway Department: correction – lunch not excluded from service hours.
- BSB to review changes.

9. **Closing:** Sharon Murray made the motion “to close the meeting.” Mica Cassara seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0) at 8:45 p.m.

Attest: Amy Grover, Clerk

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

March 18, 2019



Chair, For the Board

