



Town of Bolton
3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway
Bolton VT 05676

Select Board and Capital Planning Committee Joint Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2019

Board members present: Mica Cassara, John Choate, Wendy Hoffman, Janet Metz

Board members absent: Tony Barbagallo

Also present: Sharon Murray, Jen Dudley-Gaillard, Joss Besse, Steve Barner, Mike Gervia, Amy Ludwin, Karene Cox, Virginia Haviland, Steve McLeod, Wright Preston

Clerk: Amy Grover

1. **The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by the Chair, Mica Cassara, with a quorum of 4 BSB members present.**

2. **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:**

Additions:

- Review of truck RFB and specifications, discussion included needs and uses, question of need for a new sander, review by Eric Andrews needed. John Choate to follow up with Eric Andrews on final RFB and vendors.

Deletions: none.

3. **Public Comment:** none.

4. **Tour of the Fire Station, review/discussion of: vehicle fleet, equipment, staffing, status as a municipal department, capital needs.**

The group toured the Fire Station, and discussion included:

- Vehicle fleet and equipment on each Engine 1, Engine 2, Engine 3, Rescue 1, Antique truck. Mike Gervia noted Engine 1 passed inspection, and that Engine 1 is slated for replacement with a tanker truck.
- Staffing: volunteers generally run from 12 – 16 members.
- Status as a municipal department: Noted yes, all equipment is owned by the town.
- Capital needs include vehicles, air packs.

5. **Recurring Business:**

- Minutes May 6, 2019: John Choate made the motion *“to approve the minutes of May 6, 2019 as presented (included Vicious Dog Hearing minutes, and regular meeting minutes).”* Janet Metz seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (4-0).
- Warrants: signed.

6. **Communications:**

- Resident drainage concern: John Choate followed up; the driveway culvert was plugged. John Choate will follow up with Eric Andrews to see what the town can do to address the drainage.
- EMD Listserve: Amy Grover noted that was receiving emails designated for the EMD, so the town is in the EMD loop.
- VT Microcell Interest Survey: survey answers reviewed, Amy Grover to submit.
- I89 Advisory Committee: No town staff or volunteers have the bandwidth for involvement at this time, primarily addressing I89 from Williston to Exit 14.
- CDBG communication: CCRPC noted that they will be following up with the town, contract with CCRPC needs to be in place first.

7. **Appointments:**

1. 7:30 p.m. Amy Ludwin, Town Wood Lot Stage Road, PPCA Parking Area

Town Wood Lot Conservation:

- Brief review of history: 13.5 acres deeded to the town in 1942, sister deed to a parcel in Richmond, former home sites and wildlife habitat, abutting lands are conserved, and the VAST trail runs adjacent to the parcel.
- Legal responses noted that the town cannot hold the land and hold the easement in perpetuity – it could be changed.
- Amy Ludwin stated that there are two choices: retain ownership and give a conservation easement to the Richmond Land Trust (RLT), or to sell the land to Wright Preston and he could conserve it, and the land would then be taxable.
- The Conservation Commission is in favor of the town retaining ownership of the land.
- Wright Preston wants to see both the Richmond & Bolton parcels conserved, is willing to underwrite the costs, legal fees and future stewardship of conservation, noting that these are important parcels of land; treasures. Mr. Preston added that he is a board member of the RLT
- The Richmond Conservation Commission Chair has noted that they are intending (not in writing) to conserve their parcel and to “enhance it,” perhaps with trails.
- Steve McLeod stated that there is a 3rd option: if town continues to own it, the town can amend the deed to conserve the land. A future Select Board could overturn the deed, but the likelihood of that happening is slim to none. That way, the town retains control, and Mr. McLeod urged the BSB to consider that course of action.
- Group discussion on conservation in perpetuity, ecological protection zones, being conserved as “forever wild” with no management except for invasives.
- Noted: if conserved with the RLT (which did vote to enter conversations with the towns, and would provide insurance for legal disputes), the RLT would have a stewardship plan in place and a steward – there would be an annual “walk” with the RLT and the owner to make sure RLT conservation easements are kept in place. Generally, conservation easement restrictions include: no residential or commercial development, motorized access limited (VAST and logging machinery).
- Mica Cassara made the motion “to initiate the process to explore the Town of Bolton retaining ownership of the parcel, placing a conservation easement on the parcel with the RLT, and to considering keeping the parcel ‘forever wild,’ only managing for invasives.” John Choate seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (4-0).
- Wright Preston noted his appreciation and that he would to follow up on an easement deed from the RLT, with a letter coming from the RLT to the town outlining the process and samples of easements.
- Opportunity to walk the parcel: Monday June 10th at 6 p.m., meeting at the VAST trail on Stage Road.

PPCA parking area:

- Complaint about parking. Mica Cassara to touch base with resident.
- Amy Ludwin noted that she had connected with Eric Andrews, the plan for the PPCA improvements/expansion is still underway, and that she will trim trees in the area when the Peregrines are done nesting.
- Brief discussion ATV use in PPCA – illegal. Game wardens will enforce if illegal riding is observed. Amy Ludwin and Mica Cassara will touch base regarding ATV use history in the PPCA.

8. **Business & Action Items:**

- Highway department:

- Paving:
 - \$169,500 allocated for paving, plus FY 20 70K, plus Notch reserves 25K = \$264,500 total.
 - Previously accepted Pike bid for Notch Road paving at 95K., leaves \$169,500 remaining for the Bolton Valley Access Road “S Turn;” 90K 2” shim and 1” overlay 33” wide, and Sugarshack area; 45 K 2” shim and 1” overlay.
 - Town to address/patch Nashville Road and Duxbury Road (potholing), and the Bolton Valley Access Road areas (potholing) not addressed by paving; 30K.
 - Paving to begin mid-June.
 - Paving funds previously allocated to Thacher and Wentworth re-allocated. Noted: need to build up reserves to fully address issues/base on Thacher and Wentworth.
 - Apply for Class 2 grants annually.
 - Consensus to move forward with plan as presented and discussed.
 - Road reclassification Notch, Nashville and Stage Roads - Class II; worth considering, evaluate cost benefits and maintenance requirements. VTrans’ “Orange Book” provides information.
 - Road Commissioner: Wendy Hoffman made the motion “to appoint Mica Cassara s the Interim Road Commissioner for six months.” Janet Metz seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (4-0).
 - Resignations ACO and Constable Leete: Resignation by ACO and Constable Jeffrey Leete will be regretfully accepted. Amy Grover to follow up on posting of vacancies.
 - Returned Check Policy: Wendy Hoffman made the motion “to adopt the Returned Check Policy as presented.” John Choate seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (4-0)
9. **Adjournment:** John Choate made the motion “to adjourn the meeting.” Janet Metz seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (4-0) at 8:33 p.m.

Attest: Amy Grover, Clerk

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

June 3, 2019



Mica Cassara, Chair, For the Board

