



Town of Bolton
3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway
Bolton VT 05676
Select Board Remote Special Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2020

Board members present remotely: Tony Barbagallo, Mica Cassara, Lynda DesLauriers (5:04 p.m.), Wendy Hoffman, Janet Metz

Board members absent: none

Also present remotely: Kaelyn Modrak, Vicky Congdon, Robin Streeter, Amy Ludwin, Paula Gervia, Steve McLeod

Clerk remote: Amy Grover

1. **The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by the Chair, Mica Cassara with a quorum of 4 members present.**
2. **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:**
 - No additions to the agenda under Special Meeting.
 - Deletions: 5:15 p.m. appointment for approval of CDBG Grant, Subgrant, and Resolution documents tabled until the November 9, 2020 meeting, pending legal review.
3. **Public Comment:** none.
4. **Recurring Business:** none.
5. **Appointments:**
 1. 5:05 p.m. Kaelyn Modrak, Approval of Professional Planning Services Agreement Between the Town and CCRPC.
 - Kaelyn Modrak noted that she was attending on behalf of the Planning Commission (PC). The PC is addressing the Bolton Valley Master Plan (Municipal Planning Grant zoning regulation update recommendations from PlaceSense), and will be utilizing the services of CCRPC (approved application to the UPWP) to review recommendations and determine what recommendations/updates to incorporate, to be followed by meeting all of the requirements of the PC adoption process.
 - Tony Barbagallo made the motion *“to approve Mica Cassara signing the Professional Planning Services Agreement between the Town and CCRPC as presented.”* Wendy Hoffman seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0).
6. **Business and Action Items:**
 - Traffic Ordinance – Consideration of Approval of Amendments:

Mica Cassara noted he had recused himself from voting, although he disagreed with the recusal request, he would consent to the request.

 - Article VII Parking Regulations, Section 2. Addition of Highway Superintendent to Violation - Towing Enforcement. Lynda DesLauriers made the motion *“to add the Highway Superintendent position to Article VII: Parking Regulations, Section 2.”* Wendy Hoffman seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0).
 - Article VII Parking Regulations, Section 2. Duxbury, Stage, and Notch Roads No Parking Zones.

Duxbury Road:

 - Tony Barbagallo made the motion *“to amend Article VII: Parking Regulations Section 1. (vi), to three (3.0) miles east of the intersection of T.H. #1 (Duxbury Road) and Cochran Road, for 188 miles east measured along T.H. #1 (Duxbury Road) to the entrance of the*

GMC Long Trail parking lot.” Wendy Hoffman seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0).

Notch Road:

- Amy Grover stated that she added Notch Road to the agenda as there had been discussion on parking issues on Notch Road during the October 19th BSB meeting and wanted to be sure it had been warned for potential discussion. No further discussion on Notch Road parking.

Stage Road:

- Robin Streeter noted that:
 - Some folks avoid driving on Stage Road because it can be dangerous with cars parked on both sides of the road.
 - Residents have tried to be nice and asked people not to park, their efforts are disregarded.
 - His concerns included lack of site distance with a blind hill and blind corner, difficulty for homeowners/family members being able to safely access their own driveways, emergency and town vehicle access.
 - He hoped that the BSB sticks to their guns on the Ordinance, it is a great idea, residents are relieved to have parking addressed, and that more signage is needed.
 - Folks may have been told that it was OK to park on a family member’s side of the road, he wanted to clarify that it was not OK.
 - His understanding was that the PPCA was to be left wild and undeveloped, and how this area ever became a trailhead without due process is wrong, and he will research this when COVID allows; it is illegal.
 - There is no formal/legal curb cut, increased drainage issues could lead to the road being taken out in a heavy rain, and that it should not be at the town’s expense to put in parking lot.
 - ✓ Tony Barbagallo asked for Robin Streeter’s opinion on parking on one side of the road.
 - ✓ Robin Streeter stated that either side of the road is dangerous, there is a blind hill and a blind corner.
 - ✓ Janet Metz stated she had spoken with Shirley Streeter on her position on parking, and that Shirley Streeter did not support parking on either side of the road.
- Vicky Congdon noted that:
 - She appreciated the time that BSB and CC members have put into addressing the parking issues, the time that BSB members took to do a non-quorum site visit, and comments of fellow residents, and had thought about the CC’s recommendations.
 - She supported the ordinance to stand in the vicinity of the PPCA trail head, noted that no parking signs were not obeyed, and perhaps their location could be reviewed, there is no parking allowed in the traveled portion of the road, and yet folks continue to park there on both sides.
 - It was previously noted that towing companies would not be trolling the area; that it required contact with an authorized person to trigger towing enforcement. She did not plan on triggering towing for neighbors who might have friends visiting for dinner who had parked along the edge of the road, and hoped she would receive the same courtesy.
 - The ordinance provides for action if and when an unsafe situation occurs, adding that vehicles pull in and out, families and dogs are present, all converging in an area with a slight rise and a curve.

- She is not supportive of an expanded parking lot, noting that this residential area on Stage Road is different than Notch Road, where there are not homes in close proximity, and creates more impact to surrounding residents. It is not within the character of the residential neighborhood to have a 5-car parking lot.
- All potential issues of creating a new parking lot have not been thoroughly evaluated, especially run-off, which has created notable issues in the past when there was logging and removal of vegetation occurring.
- The area does have restrictions to parking, which is the reality of this particular access point that perhaps was not initially seen.
- Mica Cassara noted that:
 - He held a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, practiced for several years holding licenses in VT, NY, and NH, addressing groundwater remediation. Civil Engineers design buildings and parking lots. Parking lot design must consider impervious surfaces and run off.
 - He is opposed to increasing parking, expanding the road shoulders as both would scrape away vegetation, and pack down the soils, increasing runoff. That runoff drains to a culvert, then to a cross culvert (under and across Stage Road), and discharges down into a swale which is on his property. An increase in runoff would generate an increase in erosion.
 - In the past he has not voiced his opinion or complained, but he was voicing his opinion this time.
 - For the record he is opposed to development projects by the town which have an adverse effect on a person's property unless that property owner agrees, and it would serve the general town community. The proposed increased parking lot and shoulders do neither. There is space for 2 vehicles to park, that is the parking access. Allowing parking access to people in an area owned by our town should not trump landowner's rights and should not disregard safety.
 - ✓ Janet Metz noted she had visited the site and that the parking area proposed could hold 3 cars at most, which would not solve the parking issues on high volume days.
- Wendy Hoffman noted:
 - She visited the site with an open mind, seeking to find a compromise.
 - The site visit revealed that there is no place for any cars to park out of the traveled portion of the road in that area, and there is no way to expand the shoulders in that area.
 - During the site visit, a dump truck with a flatbed trailer came through the area, which was revealing in affirming the lack of parking space.
 - There is no assurance that increasing the drainage areas and removal of vegetation would not compromise private property. With technical input on these concerns, perhaps this could be re-visited.
 - Any increase of parking would require funding, and the town is currently under some financial restraint, noting the Notch Road slide area and necessary emergency repairs measures outside of the larger FEMA permanent repairs.
 - Using funds for expanding recreational purposes is not fiscally responsible at this time.
- Amy Ludwin noted:
 - Part of the CC's proposal of creating a parking lot was meeting all permits and requirements, including erosion and water quality, and that it would be adequately built and drained. Permits would not be granted if there were issues.
 - There is currently space for 2 cars, and it would be tight to fit 4 cars in the expanded area.

- It would be a much smaller area than Jim Tiffany's logging area.
 - Funding would come from the Conservation Fund, not the general fund.
- Brief discussion regarding an email from Sharon Murray late that day, no consensus on agreement with points made.
- Tony Barbagallo noted:
 - Comments about runoff were disingenuous, that was a red herring in the discussion, everything would need to be permitted. Runoff issues would mean no development anywhere.
 - ✓ Janet Metz asked for clarity, if Tony Barbagallo was speaking to the parking lot or the road.
 - ✓ Tony Barbagallo noted the road, the parking lot was a separate issue.
- Lynda DesLauriers noted:
 - The meeting was to review further amendments to the Traffic Ordinance in effect, not to make decisions about a parking lot.
 - Agreeing to allow parking on one side of the road, which would be in the traveled portion was not safe, and would create liability for the town (per VLCT, the town's insurance carrier).
 - The BSB cannot "look the other way," with respect to safety.
 - ✓ Tony Barbagallo questioned who made the determination that it was not safe, that this had to be done in an independent manner, that 30% of the roads in Bolton would fall into this category.
 - ✓ Mica Cassara noted the difference was that the 30% of those roads do not coincide with an access point.
- Amy Ludwin noted:
 - The CC was not asking for permission to park on the traveled portion of the road, the request was to park off the traveled portion.
 - ✓ Lynda DesLauriers stated that it was not possible to park off the traveled portion.
 - ✓ Amy Ludwin stated she believed it was possible.
 - ✓ Janet Metz noted she had gone on a site visit and walked the whole length of the area, there was no place to park off the traveled portion as there were ditches on both sides.
 - ✓ Lynda DesLauriers noted she did not feel there was anything else to discuss with respect to the issue.
- Tony Barbagallo stated
 - He sided with the CC, but that he was not going to offer a motion.
 - ✓ Wendy Hoffman asked for clarification.
 - ✓ Tony Barbagallo stated to follow the recommendations of the CC with no parking along one side of the road and limited parking on the other side of the road.
 - ✓ Lynda DesLauriers noted there was no space for parking off the traveled portion.
 - ✓ Wendy Hoffman questioned where Tony Barbagallo felt there were areas for parking.
 - ✓ Tony Barbagallo stated that singling out this one area was a NIMBY issue that was being acquiesced to.
 - ✓ Lynda DesLauriers stated it was similar to the safety issues on the Bolton Valley Road that were addressed through the ordinance.
- Tony Barbagallo noted:
 - It was the same issue as Notch Road; cars parking on both sides of the road, people see cars and slow down, duration is a couple of weekends a year.

- ✓ Janet Metz noted that parking issues were now year-round, not just during foliage season, and that the areas on Notch Road were not immediately near homes.
 - ✓ Tony Barbagallo agreed that homes were not as close, but that the nearest driveway to the PPCA on Notch Road had a “no turnarounds” sign posted.
 - Mica Cassara noted that the Traffic Ordinance stands.
 - Wendy Hoffman noted that if a plan was brought forward in the future with a solution, which addressed concerns; run off, safety, studies, she would be happy to review that solution’s research and would be open to amending the Traffic Ordinance.
 - Amy Ludwin noted the CC was unwilling to pursue permitting for the parking lot without BSB support and funding approval, a process similar to the parking lot on Notch Road.
7. **Adjournment:** Lynda DesLauriers made the motion “to adjourn the meeting.” Janet Metz seconded. There was no further discussion. Four were in favor, Tony Barbagallo opposed, and the motion passed (4-1) at 6:12 p.m.

Attest: Amy Grover, Clerk

Minutes are unofficial until approved. These minutes were read and approved by the Bolton Select Board on November 9, 2020.