

Town of Bolton 3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway Bolton VT 05676 Select Board Minutes April 14, 2014

Board members present: Josh Arneson, Gene Armstrong, Jen Dudley-Gaillard, Ron Lafreniere, Chair, and

Sharon Murray

Board members absent: None

Also present: Mark Kolter, David Parot

Clerk: Amy Grover

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by Ron.

There were no changes to the agenda.

Appointments:

Mark Kolter, of Darby, Thorndike, Kolter & Nordle, LLP met with the board to discuss the possibility of installing signage at the Bolton Potholes. Mr. Kolter stated that:

- He was part of 12 member task force addressing the prevention of accidental drowning.
- The task force included Dr. Chen from the VT Department of Health, and Bruce Siefer, whose son drowned at the Potholes 2 years ago.
- The task force was utilizing a two prong approach; public service announcements and signage at areas that had been identified as dangerous swimming holes.
- The Potholes were identified as a dangerous swimming hole with at least 4 deaths since 1976.
- He had received research assistance from Deb Larivieire on the number of deaths at the Potholes.
- Signage at the Huntington Gorge seemed to have reduced drowning incidents.
- He wanted to have a preliminary conversation on installing signage at the Potholes which addressed the dangers and/or number of drownings, and provided sample language.
- He had been made aware of the town's sign regulations.

David Parot noted that as a former Select Board member issues around the Potholes had taken up a great deal of the Select Board's time and that:

- He had responded to the horrible Siefer accident that day and while very sympathetic to the family's tragic loss, did not want to see any acknowledgement given to that location, and would start a petition to not allow signage in the town right of way.
- It would not be prudent for the landowner to allow signage, and he would like to see the landowner cited for the keg parties at the Potholes.
- Signage would not be an effective deterrent for the majority of the Pothole users.
- Huntington Gorge deaths had decreased because of limiting the parking, constant surveillance and no
 parking enforcement by the Richmond Police, and that Bolton did not have those resources to
 address/solve the multiple Potholes issues and problems.

Members of the board responded that:

- The Potholes were unique as they were privately owned on the west side, and had multiple access points which would make sighting a sign visible to all users impossible.
- A sign in the Bolton Valley Access Road right of way could be a safety concern as well as impede road maintenance.

- While a sign similar to the Huntington Gorge sign might give pause to parents, but perhaps not to other users.
- Signage on school property was not a Select Board decision, and any sign would need to be permitted.

Mr. Kolter stated it sounded like there was stiff opposition to signage, he felt no trespassing signs on the landowners property would address issues, and that a more reasonable approach might be to contact the school about placing signage on school property.

Business and Action Items:

- 1. Organizational Meeting: Sharon motioned "to appoint Ron Lafreniere as Select Board Chair and Josh Arneson as Select Board Vice Chair." Jen seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0).
 - Regularly scheduled Select Board meetings will be the first and third Mondays of the month.
 - The Board should adopt Rules of Procedures and Conflict of Interest Policies and will address after the passage of the Open Meeting Law bill.
- 2. <u>GMC VTRANS111 Permit:</u> Jen motioned "to co-sign the Green Mountain Club's VTRANS1111 permit necessary for the installation of poles needed for the pedestrian crossing system required by the Bolton DRB for the Green Mountain Club's Long Trail re-routing through the Notch Road tunnel." Josh seconded. There was no further discussion. Four were in favor, one opposed due to safety concerns, and the motion passed (4-1).
- 3. <u>2013 Bridge Inspection Report:</u> the Board reviewed and signed the 2013 bridge inspection report for Mill Brook, Duxbury Road, and Joiner Brook bridges. Funding for repairs to be addressed in FY '15-'16 budget.
- 4. Town Website:
 - Interest from residents expressed in helping with updating the town website.
 - Noted: changes to VT electronics posting policies, availability of state templates.
 - Sharon to follow up with Steve Barner; possible subcommittee.
- 5. Fireworks Ordinance:
 - Josh to research costs/pricing from vendor.
 - Noted: by statute applications must be made to the chief of the fire department, with inspection.
 - Amy to ask Mike Gervia to attend the next meeting to review.
- 6. <u>ERAF:</u> Amy to confirm what Bolton has on file with the state for policy.
- 7. Warrants: Warrants were signed.
- 8. <u>Bolton Valley Liquor License</u>: Gene motioned "to approve Bolton Valley's liquor license application." Josh recused himself. Jen seconded. There was no further discussion. Four were in favor, and the motion passed (4-0).
- 9. <u>Towing Incident BV Road 2012:</u> The reviewed information regarding a towing incident from 2012. Ron will follow up.

- 10. <u>CDL Physical Payment:</u> Sharon motioned "to approve payment of \$88 to Central VT Medical Center for payment a CDL Physical for town staff, as insurance not accepted." Josh seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor, and the motion passed (5-0).
- 11. <u>BCA May 6th:</u> Amy noted that Josh had volunteered to transport ballots and assist with counting the MMU Budget revote at CHMS, one more person needed. Ron possibly available, won't know until 5/4/14.
- 12. Minutes April 7, 2014: Gene motioned "to approve the April 7, 2014 minutes as amended." (Incorrect date for SB budget meeting.) Sharon seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0).
- 13. <u>Communications:</u> The board reviewed a letter from the VNA thanking the town for continued support and the appropriation of \$781.
- 14. <u>DT Update:</u> Four parcels were abated; two removed from the delinquent tax list, and two removed from the late tax list. A warrant was issued to the DT Collector for Dan Wilcox.

15. Any Other Business:

- Mountain Gazette requested story ideas. Josh to follow up on Pothole discussion.
- Five 911 numbers on the Notch Road had been changed. Residents very understanding and accommodating, despite the frustrations with the changes.
- Route 2 Project informational process up and running. Amy to post weekly updates on FB, FPF and send to website for posting.

Closing:

• No other business was brought before this Board at this time. Gene motioned to close the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Jen seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0).

Attest: Amy Grover, Clerk

Minutes are unofficial until approved. These minutes were read and approved by the Bolton Select Board on: May 6, 2014, Ron Lafreniere, Chair, For the Board