

Town of Eden  
71 Old Schoolhouse Rd  
Eden Mills, VT 05653

February 9, 2021 Selectboard Meeting

The Eden Selectboard met at the Town Office on February 9, 2021. Present: Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittimore, Virginia Parker, Candy Vear, Freeda Powers.

1. Ricky opened the meeting at 6:01pm.
2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda: Under #10) 2021 Liquor License for Eden General.
3. Citizens Input: John DiGiuseppe re. Act 164  
The Board spoke with John by phone to follow up on his request that they consider including on the 2021 Town Meeting Day warning a determination whether or not cultivation of cannabis will be allowed in Eden beginning on June 1, 2022. The Board had declined to add this to the Warning after being advised by the Town Attorney on the matter. John requested that the Board reconsider and encouraged further education on the proposed Act 164 details, which he says includes a provision for 1% of sales revenue to go directly to the municipality. The Board agreed to accept further information submitted by John to learn more about Act 164 and to reconsider adding the question to the Warning prior to the June Town Meeting date.
4. Sign orders: Five (5) orders were reviewed and signed.
5. Minutes: The Board reviewed the minutes of 1/26/21. Clayton made a motion to approve as amended, the minutes of the 1/26/21 meeting. Ricky seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.
6. Outside Audit: The Board requested to revisit the proposal from KBS at their 2/23/21 meeting.
7. Beach Managers Position Update: No new leads have come in for LERA managers for the 2021 season. The Board discussed options for getting the word out and agreed to have advertisements put in the following local papers: The Stowe Reporter, The County Currier and The Caledonian Record and once again in the News & Citizen. Additional outreach efforts online will also be made.
8. Grants:
  - a.) We will be applying for an ANC Grant for a tablet for Greeter Program; due date 2/26/21.

b.) We are working with Brent Lanpher of the NHP/Eden Fire Dept. on an AFG Grant for air packs for the department; due date 2/12/21.

9. LFCUD:

a.) The Board received notice that the Eden Alternate Rep on the LFCUD, Stephanie Van Blunk, will be stepping down due to limited time availability. Eden resident Damien De Clerck has shown interest in taking the position as Alternate Rep. for Eden. Virginia made a motion to appoint Damien De Clerck as the Eden Alternate Rep. on the LFCUD board. The Board voted 3-0. The Board signed the required appointment form; Freeda will get the signed document to Lea K. for official record.

b.) Pole Assessment follow up: The Board read a press release from Lamoille County FiberNet Communication Union District (LFCUD) dated January 29<sup>th</sup>. The release indicates that the results of the first pole assessment commissioned by LFCUD will be used in the design and engineer phase of the project, and to develop a concrete business plan for initial buildout in those areas over the next two to three years. The initial pole assessment identified 1008 poles located in Eden.

10. 2021 Liquor License Renewals for Eden General Store & Eden Mini Mart: Clayton made a motion to approve and sign the 2021 liquor licenses for Eden General Store and Eden Mini Mart. The Board voted 3-0. Both liquor license renewals were approved and signed.

11. CAI, Inc. Tax Map Maintenance Proposal: The Board reviewed the proposal for services rendered between 4/1/21 through 3/31/2022 in the amount of \$1500. The Board asked for clarity around who will be responsible for coordinating the Towns' data to CAI. This item will be revisited at the 2/23 meeting.

12. Gihon Trak Packers: The Board received a written request from the Gihon Track Packers snowmobile club to use Square Road since logging operations have disrupted their typical route in the area. The Board had no objections to the request. Ricky noted that signage remains the responsibility of the snowmobile club. Virginia made a motion to approve the amended landowner permission form to include use of Square Road with a date ending of April 15, 2021. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

13. Road Commissioner's Report:

a.) Crooks Rd. Complaint: The Board reviewed and amended a draft response to the concerns of stones in the road sand causing tire issues. A revised draft will be before the Board for approval at the 2/23 meeting.

b.) Excess Weight Permits: Clayton made the motion to approve to town specifications excess weight permits for Bourne's Energy, Suburban Propane and Hillcrest Trucking & Storage. Virginia seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0. Approved and signed.

c.) Weight Limits: The Board reviewed the 2021 list of Road Weight Restrictions in Eden. No changes were made.

d.) Update of other activities of Highway Dept.: Ricky reports he has been busy plowing and sanding; removing snow from around mailboxes, pushing back banks etc. Looking ahead to a busy summer with large projects on the horizon, he would like to advertise for a full time position in the next couple of months.

14. Ratify Additions and Deletions of 1/26:

a.) Audit Proposal from KBS

Ricky made a motion to approve the additions and deletions from 1/26, as listed above #14a). Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

15. Town Meeting Update: The Board reviewed a draft advertisement notifying registered Eden voters of the date change for Town Meeting Day to June 15<sup>th</sup>. No changes were made to the draft. The ad will run for two weeks in the News & Citizen paper. Clayton made a motion to approve the ad as written for publication. Virginia seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

16. Other Business:

a.) NEMS: The Board received a follow up to response time concerns from a recent call on East Hill Road. While no direct reason was given, it is acknowledged that the response time was 26 minutes as opposed to the reported time of 41 minutes. The call was made at the predawn hours and darkness may have played some part in the delayed arrival.

b.) Town of Eden social media account and email accounts: Virginia expressed her desire to see some social media presence from the Town of Eden, suggesting a Facebook account which could be used to disseminate PSA type of information. Additionally, citing FOIA concerns, she suggests that Board members should have defined email addresses which could be used for any municipally related communications. Clayton and Ricky declined this suggestion, noting that they do not access information via electronic means and further pointing out that any communications directed to the Board should come through the Town Administrative Assistant or the Town Clerk. Open Meeting Laws must also be clearly and strictly followed. The Town of Eden does have an online presence in the form of the Town website, found at [www.edenvt.org](http://www.edenvt.org) where meeting minutes, agendas and Town announcements can be found, in accordance to Open Meeting Laws.

17. FYI: Candy updated the Board on the Town Report and associated deadlines as outlined in 17 V.S.A. § 2641. When the State permitted towns to delay Town Meeting Day, the associated deadlines moved with the meeting date. The Warning should be announced not less than 30 nor more than 40 days before the meeting. This means we have requested a delay in the printing of the Town Report, which includes the Town Meeting Warning. No additional costs have been incurred with the printer as a result of this request. Town Reports will be mailed to voters 10 days prior to Town Meeting, as always.

Candy reported to the Board that the annual Good Neighbor payment has come in; this is the 9<sup>th</sup> out of 10 payments to be received from Green Mountain Power as part of their effort to share direct value from power generation at its Kingdom Community Wind Farm.

Candy updated the Board on the status of upcoming tax sales which will take place on March 11<sup>th</sup> instead of February 18<sup>th</sup>; due to COVID-19 and a high volume of interest in the properties going up for tax sale, the Town Attorney has suggested holding the tax sale in the Town Garage or another location to accommodate social distancing requirements.

She mentioned that one property in particular has been cancelled and will be handled by the Board of Abatement at a later date. The Board requested clarification on the 1% interest paid; Candy will provide correct information on this issue to the Board at their 2/23 meeting.

18. Adjourn: Clayton made a motion to adjourn. Virginia seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:19pm.

Minutes Approved as written on 2/23/2021 by: Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Virginia Parker.  
Freedra Powers, Town Administrative Assistant