

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

April 27, 2021 Selectboard Meeting

The Eden Selectboard met at the Town Office on April 27, 2021. Present: Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Virginia Parker, Candy Vear, Freeda Powers. Joining by Zoom for Agenda Item #7: John Schmeltzer, and Linda Elliott on behalf of VT Agency of Natural Resources, Molly Sperduto from US Fish & Wildlife and Rob Moore from LCPC. Joining by phone: Craig Rounds (resident), Chad Letourneau (President of Green Mountain ATV Club) and Spencer Leggett (Vice President of Green Mountain ATV Club).

1. Ricky opened the meeting at 6:04pm.
2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda:
  - a.) Personnel Policy review: Virginia asked that the Board review the current Personnel Policy and make any necessary revisions in order to ensure this document does not conflict with the recently adopted Conflict of Interest Policy. In light of the many open positions within the town governance, including some not yet advertised, she felt it would be prudent to review and update the Personnel Policy prior to any hiring of new employees.  
Ricky recommended the Board take this up with a full discussion at their next warned meeting. At that time, the Board could gain understanding on the difference and implications of elected vs. appointed positions and more clearly define all roles on the town employment roster. The Board agreed to continue this discussion on May 5<sup>th</sup>, prior to the site visit with Peter Danforth, already planned as a warned meeting.
  - b.) Excess Weight Permits:
    - ii.) R.L. Morin & Sons Construction
    - iii.) E.C. Morrison Trucking & Excavating

In order to accommodate those joining via Zoom, the Board moved to Agenda item #7.

- 7.) VAG Funds Update:  
John Schmeltzer, Molly Sperduto and Linda Elliott on behalf of VT Agency of Natural Resources and Rob Moore from LCPC joined by Zoom to participate in this discussion of the current status and future projects that relate to the distribution of the funds from the Memorandum Agreement between the Agency of Natural Resources and the Vermont Asbestos Group Mine Site.

John explained that any remaining funds from the Knowles Flat Road twin culvert replacement project will be rolled back into the funds for other projects. The next project on the priority list is the Square Road culvert #812-23 replacement. This project aims to provide the greatest benefit to fish by expanding the size of the existing, perched culvert. Previously estimated project cost between \$200-315k, may now be outdated and in need of revision, John suggested. He went on to recommend a new site visit with the Board, Chris Smith, Linda Elliott, Molly Sperduto and himself. The Board felt this would be an appropriate next step. Rob Moore asked to attend that site visit once it is established. Ricky noted that the Town currently has several large projects on the horizon, hopefully to get underway this year, and those projects will take priority from the Town's perspective. Ricky offered to attain a revised cost estimate based on the existing hydrology study and other projects of similar scope. Ricky requested from John a brief report on Eden's current expenses to date. Freeda will coordinate with John in the coming weeks to secure site visit date options and to receive the requested spending report.

Returning to the Agenda:

3. Citizens Input: Craig Rounds, a local resident, joined by phone to voice interest in some of the open positions in town. Craig has experience in management and is interested in possibly working with the Greeter Program or at LERA. The Selectboard expressed their gratitude for his interest and willingness to serve. After some discussion about the role of Beach Manager at LERA, Craig agreed to come by the Town Office this week to pick up a copy of the LERA Manager job description. He will submit any questions he has after reading that. He indicated that staying onsite for the season was not feasible for him. The Board was open to considering alternative LERA management coverage hours to find a schedule that works for him and the Town.

At 7:14pm Clayton left the meeting.

4. Sign orders: Five (5) orders were reviewed and signed.

5. Minutes: The Board reviewed the minutes of 4/13 and 4/20. Virginia made a motion to approve the minutes of 4/13/21 as amended, the minutes of 4/20/21 as written. The Board voted 2-0.

6. Green Mountain ATV Club: Chad Letourneau, new president of the Club, joined by phone to introduce himself and to ask about the status of Blakeville Road and Albany Road. Ricky explained that we hope to have bridge replacement work on Blakeville and Albany roads done this year. Until that time, these roads remain unpassable for ATV use. Chad relayed an offer from the ATV Club and the Ridge Riders group to assist in any way they can to accelerate the work on Albany Road. Ricky declined the offer for repairs from the ATV Club, thanking him for the offer, but adding that State standards require more than a "simple fix" so to speak. He added that right now, the roads are still soft up there. He explained that there is a liability concern; the Town is not responsible if they chose to travel these two roads.

Chad asked what the best alternative route to get from the Eden Mini Mart to North Road is. Ricky asked if they have a legal trail for Shover Road. Chad said the road is open but the Club does not have a trail beyond the large boulders. Ricky then suggested use of Rte. 100 in that case. Chad agreed, but said the State discourages long stretches on 50mph roadways, such as Rte. 100. He said they are asking for the Selectboards' approval to use the roadway on Rte. 118 from Old Dueso Road to Eden General Store. Ricky said the State will begin a paving project on Rte. 118 in May. He asked that the GMATV Club send their request or proposal to the Selectboard in writing for further review and discussion at their 5/11/21 meeting.

8. NHP/Eden Fire Department audit plans: Marvin Whitcomb, Treasurer of the NHP/Eden Fire Department, sent an email asking if Eden's appointed Auditors would be able or willing to audit their financial books every year or every other year. Virginia recommended that the Fire Department look into having a CPA do this. Ricky suggested that Candy relay the inquiry to the Auditors; their response will be the answer to the Fire Department. Candy agreed to relay the inquiry to the Auditors for follow up.

9. Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP): The Board reviewed the updated LEMP for 2021. Virginia made a motion to adopt the 2021 Local Emergency Management Plan for the Town of Eden with corrections. The Board voted 2-0. Freeda will submit the final adopted LEMP to Alec Jones of Lamoille County Planning Commission per requirements.

10. Beach Update:

a.) Managers: The Fryk's have notified Candy that they will not be taking the LERA Manager position for the 2021 season. We await further discussions with Mr. Rounds who has shown some interest in the position.

Virginia suggested paying the LERA Manager position as contract labor. Candy and Ricky explained that it is, saying that the required insurance for a 1099 worker is prohibitive.

b.) Opening Plans: At this time, there will be no renting of shelters until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Tenting, restrooms and day use area will all be open per usual once we have management in place. This discussion will be continued at the 5/5/21 meeting.

11. Road Commissioner's Report:

a.) Excess Weight Permits: Virginia made the motion to approve to town specifications excess weight permits for: Kelley-View Farm, R.L. Morin & Sons Construction and E.C. Morrison Trucking & Excavating. The Board voted 2-0.

b.) Other activity of Hwy Dept.: Ricky reports they have been grading roads. They have pulled postings for roads except for East Hill; this will officially be done by annual resolution at the 5/11/21 meeting for all roads.

The Sweeper will be having the motor rebuilt. This will take about three months, but will be done at no cost to the Town since it is work that was not done properly last year. In the meantime, they will be renting a sweeper in the next couple of weeks.

12. Grants:

a.) FEMA update: Freeda reported that a portion of the funds due has been submitted for payment, in the amount of \$38,735.53. Remaining projects continue to work through the FEMA process; submissions for payments will be made as ready.

b.) Grant-In-Aid 2021: We have been awarded \$10,920 for 2021. Ricky, Rob Moore and Freeda all did a site visit to South Pond Road recently to evaluate road segments to be included in this scope of work under the grant funds. This work will begin this summer, to be completed by October 31<sup>st</sup>.

c.) ANC Grant: We have been awarded up to \$1,187 from the Aquatic Nuisance Control grant to help us comply with required digital data collection in the Greeter Program.

d.) American Rescue Plan Funds: Eden will be awarded an estimated \$140,000 through the ARP Funds; these funds will be distributed to us via the State in the coming months. Clear guidelines and regulations around the allowable spending of these funds is forthcoming. This discussion will continue as we learn more.

13. FY22 Budget: Virginia made a motion to enter executive session under 1 V.S.A. § 313. The Board entered executive session at 8:33pm. The Board exited executive session at 9:07pm. No decisions were made. Virginia made a motion to approve the proposed FY22 budget. The Board voted 2-0.

14. Ratify Additions and Deletions of 4/13: None.

15. Other Business:

a.) The Board agreed to send a letter to the Eden Historical Society asking for their permission for use of the image of the sailboat on a lake which is shown on the entry signs to the Town. Freeda will send the letter to the EHS.

b.) Municipal Officers Training Review: Freeda and Ricky both participated in a webinar on 4/22/21 regarding Conflict of Interests. Freeda provided the Board with copies of the Q&A from that webinar. Copies of the slide presentation are also available upon request.

16. FYI: May 3rd, VTrans will begin paving from the intersection of Rte. 100/118 4.6miles down Rte. 118 to just south of the Long Trail Crossing in Eden. Be prepared for delays.

17. Adjourn: Virginia made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:23pm.

Minutes Approved as written on 5/11/2021 by: Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore.  
Freeda Powers, Town Administrative Assistant