

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

May 5, 2021 Selectboard Special Meeting

The Eden Selectboard held a special meeting on May 5, 2021 at the Eden Town Offices at 4:00 pm, reconvening at Lakeshore Road at 6:00 pm. Present: Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Virginia Parker, Freeda Powers, Candace Vear, Peter Danforth (Director, Lamoille County Conservation District). Public present: Bruce Burnor, George Desmarais, Sarah Wildman, Davis Wildman, Steve Leach, Jim Leach, Donna Leach, Casey Leach, Dennis Landry, Aaron Courtemanche.

1. Ricky opened the meeting at 4:00pm.

Clayton made a motion to go into executive session under 1 V.S.A. § 313. The Board entered executive session at 4:01pm with only the Board present. The Board exited executive session at 4:54pm. No decisions were made.

2. Review FY22 proposed budget, sign Town Meeting Warning: The Board reviewed the final draft of the Town Budget and the Town Meeting Warning. The proposed FY21-22 budgets are: for municipal of \$516,048.16 (4.05% increase) and highway of \$566,300.69 (3.08% increase). Note that monies for local appropriations of \$23,000.00 and other appropriations of \$12,431.99 are to be decided by separate articles at town meeting. If the FY21-22 budget proposals were to be approved, the result is a 3.43% increase over FY20-21. Clayton made a motion to approve and sign the Annual Town Warning for June 15, 2021 as prepared, with proposed budgets as reviewed. Ricky seconded the motion. Virginia abstained from this vote. Approved and signed by the Selectboard and Candy.

3. LERA: Candy notified the Board that a second applicant, Dave Whitney, has shown interest in the Beach Manager position. The Board discussed the possibility of Mr. Whitney working in coordination with Craig Rounds, the first applicant who showed interest in the position last week. It was proposed that the two men could work in a coordinated capacity to cover the required needs of managing LERA. The Board requested to have the two gentlemen come to the Town Office to meet and discuss the possibilities. Candy called Mr. Rounds and Mr. Whitney, who both arrived to the Town Office shortly thereafter to speak with the Board and meet one another. Together, the Board discussed coverage options with them. An arrangement was discussed in which Mr. Rounds, acting as Beach Manager, would take reservations and cover running the office 6 days per week with hours between 10-6, and Mr. Whitney as

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the Manager's Assistant, would help with upkeep, mowing, and covering the office the remaining day of the week. Candy mentioned that the LERA Lifeguard has also offered to put in some time covering the office if need be. Clayton requested that a clear and agreed upon schedule be created to ensure smooth operations and minimize potential culpability.

Pay was discussed; Mr. Rounds as the Manager, would be paid the Manager's salary of \$10,200 for the season and Mr. Whitney would accept use of campsite #18 in addition to \$2,000 paid out to the Manager's Assistant. The Board agreed to tentatively hire Craig Rounds as the 2021 LERA Beach Manager and Dave Whitney as the 2021 LERA Beach Manager's Assistant. Freeda will revise the LERA Manager's contract to reflect the shared duties of the two men. The Board and the two gentlemen will review and sign the contract at their 5/11/21 meeting. Ricky made a motion to hire Craig Rounds as the 2021 LERA Beach Manager and Dave Whitney as the 2021 LERA Beach Manager's Assistant. Details to be worked out and finalized with a revised contract to be signed at the 5/11/21 meeting.

4. Review Personnel Policy: The Board agreed to defer this discussion to their 5/11/21 meeting, at which time they will aim to clarify the current policy language. No further revisions of the policy will take place at that time. The Board discussed postponing further actions in policy revisions until after Town Meeting Day in June.

Ricky took the opportunity to provide minutes from the 10/12/15 meeting which demonstrate when the Town of Eden Personnel Policy was last amended. He also provided copies of minutes from the 8/8/16 meeting, when the Board was made aware of the need for a full time position in the Highway Department and from 8/22/16, in which the Selectboard approved the full time highway position which Ryan now holds.

Virginia departed the meeting at 5:57pm.

5. The Board reconvened at Lakeshore Road to continue the ongoing work towards the Lake Eden Watershed Action Plan. Peter Danforth, Director at Lamoille County Conservation District, led the Board and several property owners along Lakeshore Road to witness rain runoff and discuss future plans for mitigating storm water runoff into Lake Eden. This is part of an ongoing, larger discussion about the watershed and how to implement best management practices and minimize such impacts as erosion, sediment and nutrient loading and more.

On the site visit, the Board could see how this Class 4 town road (portions of it are private) lacks a buffer and is concentrating runoff. A seasonal gully forming on the eroded embankment was noted; this directly inputs sediment into Lake Eden. The road

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lacks drainage ditches as well, causing severe rill erosion in some areas. Rill erosion occurs when runoff water forms small channels as it concentrates down a slope. Ricky asked Peter what he thought about paving this type of road. Peter said it's not objectionable to consider.

Ricky pointed out the fences that landowners have installed very close to the road, which have prevented him from regular maintenance of the roadway. Additionally, he pointed out two cherry trees which also impede the maintenance of the road. Peter advised removal of those cherry trees if it would improve the ability to maintain the roadway. It was agreed that much of the work that needs to be done in this area will require cooperation and approval of individual land owners. Community "buy-in" helps the momentum of these types of projects.

Peter indicated that grant funds from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) may be used to improve this area. He recommends improving drainage near the bend on the Class 4 section to reduce runoff reaching the lakeshore and a stabilizing conveyance to the lake with stone. To mitigate some of the erosion concerns on this road while also enhancing the lakeshore natural communities, he suggests establishing native vegetation plantings along with reduced mowing of the vegetated buffer. In some areas, a buildout of the buffer will be required as the existing buffer is insufficient or entirely absent. In the case of grant funding, Peter said the Town match can include town labor, equipment, materials and even time spent by the landowners of Lakeshore Road. Project costs at this time are estimated below \$25,000.

Designs can be drawn up this summer, and improvements could begin in the fall or next spring. Peter expressed that this road, part Private, part Class 4 Town Road, has a high interface between public and private use. He will be soliciting more input from landowners on this road as the process moves forward. He advised the property owners present about the Lake Wise program which is an Agency of Natural Resources initiative that awards lake-friendly shore land property, including that of private homes. The program will cover the labor or installing best management practices (i.e., vegetative buffers, etc.); landowners supply the materials.

Special meeting adjourned at 7:20PM.

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