

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

June 22, 2021 Selectboard Meeting

The Eden Selectboard met at the Town Office on June 22, 2021. Present: Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Jubal Durivage, Candace Vear, Freeda Powers. Also present: Art Curcillo (Lake Eden Association), Craig Rounds (LERA Manager). Joining by Zoom: Ann Ford, Rob Moore (LCPC) Joining by phone: Rob Moore (LCPC).

1. Ricky opened the meeting at 6:01pm.
2. Additions and deletions: None
3. Citizens input: Art Curcillo joined the meeting to voice concerns around vehicle traffic on VT Rte. 100 by the VT Fishing Access, also site of the annual Greeter Program which educates boaters on aquatic invasive species. This location is very busy in the summer months and vehicles traveling north and south on Rte. 100 have very little sight distance, given the hilly, curvy terrain. Vehicles towing boats and associated trailers turning into or exiting out of the access area are in danger of being hit from oncoming traffic on Rte. 100. The posted speed here is 50mph. Many vehicles exceed that, making the site even more potentially dangerous.

The Board heard and understood Arts' concerns, noting that VT Rte. 100 is a State roadway and is therefore not the prevue of the Town. Having said that, we are able to employ the help of Lamoille County Planning Commission in initiating a traffic study in the area to determine if there is in fact a speed issue, or if there is a perceived one. Freeda has already put forth this request and the study should be done this summer. We can look at the data once available and make further decisions from there. Other possible ideas were brought up including expanding or reconfiguring the existing Fishing Access site to allow better parking and an improved entrance. Rob said these ideas can also be discussed as part of the traffic study review. The Board thanked Art for his time and for bringing the concern to their attention.

In order to accommodate those present, the Board skipped to Agenda item #8 then #9.

8. G1 Holdings Update: John Schmeltzer appeared before the Board for this discussion. The Board was given financial spending to date documentation which was submitted by John in advance of the meeting. The Board relayed their feelings on the Square Road project site, reiterating that it is not a high priority project for the Town, it is not a heavily traveled road, there are less expensive alternative solutions to the existing perched structure on Square Road to allow fish passage, the existing boiler tube is structurally sound at this time and there are several other pressing needs throughout the Town. John said he hears the Board and the Trustees are willing to walk away from the Square Road project at this time if

that is the desire of the Board. The Board agreed saying the Square Road site can be a future project addressed with other available funds. John went on to say that the remaining funds, approximating \$240,930.00, will be split 50/50 to be spent on projects around Lake Eden and on projects relating to the Town's road erosion priority segments. Additionally, John and Rob reminded the Board that the funds can also be used to leverage other monies such as our Better Back Roads grant project on Square Road and our MRPG Grant In Aid work on South Pond Road. This sparked further discussion wherein the Board considered the funds toward further erosion control work on hydrologically connected segments along Blakeville Road; John said this would be eligible but that the larger project of Bridge #13 on Blakeville Road, would not be eligible.

The discussion wrapped up with a request for the Board, in collaboration with Freeda and Rob, to compile a list of potential erosion control projects which could be funded; these can be compiled as one grant application so to speak, vs. each project being applied for individually. The projects should represent between \$105k-\$120k worth of work. These projects can be supported by these funds. The Board thanked John for his time.

9. Beach update:

a.) Water: All water tests for the lake and drinking water have come back clean.

b.) Lifeguards: Craig said Joslyn, our current lifeguard, is working 4 days per week. The new LERA Manager's Assistant, Johanna, has taken the written portion of the open water lifeguard certification test and is practicing to take the practical test. Craig may reach out to the schools to see if they have lifeguards interested in hours at LERA. The Board reminded him that the expectation is not to have lifeguard coverage at all times and encouraged him to try to ensure lifeguard coverage is in place when he knows that large groups or school trips are coming to LERA. Craig mentioned that he would like to see a "throw bag" purchased for LERA in the future, to have on hand. A throw bag is standard rescue equipment for outdoor water-rec activities.

c.) Managers update: Craig said that LERA continues to see high numbers of visitors this year. The working relationship between himself and the newly hired Assistants, Pam and Johanna is going very well and proving efficient and effective. The grounds look in good shape and guests are being greeted as they enter and leave. The Bathhouse has been thoroughly cleaned with a pressure washing. Some small repairs have been made to the office screen door and to the lifeguard chair. Craig said the lifeguard chair floor joist framing should be replaced next year. There was one unexpected occurrence at LERA in which a visitor cut her leg while opening a box. The cut was washed, liquid band-aid was applied and the visitor was ok.

Returning to the Agenda:

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

5. Minutes: The Board reviewed the minutes of 6/8 and 6/15. Clayton made a motion to approve the minutes of 6/8/21 and 6/15/21 as written. Ricky seconded the motion. Jubal abstained from the vote as he was not present at these meetings. The Board voted 2-0.

6. Dog Officer Position (ct'd): The Board took up this continued review of the application for the open position of Dog Officer. Jubal made a motion to approve hiring Katie Belval to the position of Dog Officer for the Town of Eden at a rate of \$16.81/hr. Ricky seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0. Candace will coordinate with Katie to get the proper paperwork done. This prompted some discussion about the equipment purchased by the Town for use in the role of Dog Officer. This equipment, purchased in 2020, was not returned to the Town when the prior Dog Officer left the position. The Board authorized Freeda to draft a letter to reclaim the property so that Katie can have it for use in her new position.

7. Eden Cemetery Commission letter of interest: The Board received a written letter of interest from resident Amy Fitzgerald who would like to take a seat on the commission. There are currently two open seats on the Cemetery Commission. Jubal agreed to take the letter before the ECC for their consideration.

10. Road Commissioner's Report:

a.) Access Permit on Knowles Flat Rd. (ct'd): The Board continued its review of a driveway access permit on Knowles Flat Road. While Ricky sees no site distance issues with the location, he is conscientious of an existing subdivision of this property. Knowing that, he cautioned that the property owner be advised of the importance of adhering to all subdivision rules around shared access. As it appears on a map of the site, this permit request would result in two access cuts to a single parcel, which is prohibited. If, as the applicant has verbally indicated, the parcel described in this application is to be sold as an individual lot to the original applicant, Ms. Cheney, then the application would be reviewed as just that—a single lot's single access, which is allowable. The Board discussed and agreed that they would not sign off on this permit until a deed for the property in question has been recorded in the Town Office.

b.) Excavation Permit on Tree Farm Rd (ct'd): The Board continued its review of a permit request on Tree Farm Road. This originally came in as an overhead lines application by Mr. Goodrich. It was discussed that he intended to bury the lines, which are currently overhead lines under an annually renewed permit with the landowner, Greatwoods LLC. This required the applicant complete and submit a different form and also required them to meet with the Road Commissioner to discuss proper burial of the lines. In these discussions with Mr. Goodrich, he found that burial of the existing lines was not feasible for him. This caused the applicant to revert his project plans from burial of the sap lines to relocation of the overhead lines. The Board will be revisit this at the 7/13 meeting for clarification of the current status of the request.

c.) RFP Review: Boy Scout Rd. Engineering & Blakeville Rd BR15. These draft RFP documents were not completed in time for the Board to review. They will be reviewed at the 7/13 meeting.

d.) Other activity of Hwy Dept.: Ricky voiced the need for another full time worker in the highway department. With two major projects coming down the pipeline, five highway grants currently awarded and remaining FEMA work still to complete, there is simply not enough hours for the current two man crew to get the work done. The Board was in support of the highway department hiring a full time employee and authorized Freeda to advertise

for the position at a rate of \$18.11 per hour with a 90 day probation period with benefits to commence at that time.

11. Grants:

a.) FEMA

i. Review and select bids for Paronto BR17 & Blakeville BR13: The Board continued its review of the bids received for projects on Paronto and Blakeville roads. The bids received were:

Dubois & King

TH#17 Blakeville Rd Bridge project: \$145,000

TH#8 Paronto Rd Box Culvert project: \$100,000

Stone Environmental

TH#17 Blakeville Rd Bridge project: \$55,919

TH#8 Paronto Rd Box Culvert project: \$38,133

Clayton made a motion to approve selection of the Stone Environmental bid for the TH#17 Blakeville Road Bridge #13 project at a cost of \$55,919 and selection of the Stone Environmental bid for the TH#8 Paronto Rd Box Culvert project at a cost of \$38,133. Ricky seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0. The Board authorized Freeda to contact both firms to relay the selection decision and to invite Gabe Bolin of Stone Environmental to the 7/13/21 meeting to initiate contracts. Target date for completion of these projects is Oct. 17, 2022.

ii. Eden can expect its next FEMA funds payment of \$27,193.47 to come in by end of the month, reimbursement for work completed.

b.) American Rescue Plan Update: The next step of receiving the ARPA funds has been opened; this is the Town putting its name in to the State for our official request for funds. Candace indicated that she has completed Step 2 which was to create a separate Bank and NEMRC account for these funds. Putting the Towns request for funds into the State is the next step; we have until July 11<sup>th</sup> to do this. Freeda voiced her recommendation that Candace, as the Town Treasurer, be the one to make this official request. Candace agreed.

12. Annual Salary Review of Wages: The Board began discussion of the annual review of wages. It is agreed that the current rate of 2% will not get wages to where we would ideally like them to be, at a more competitive level with similar positions in comparable towns. Balancing that with the need to be vigilant about the budget, the Board agreed to table this discussion to the 7/13 meeting to allow more time for consideration and deliberation.

13. Ratify Additions and Deletions of 6/8:

a.) Under #8: Applications received for Beach Managers Assistant position

b.) Under #9: Review revised Bids for Blakeville BR13 & Paronto Rd. Culvert Replacement

c.) Under #9: Bids Received for Knowles Flat Rd. Paving; reviewed and selected

d.) Under #9: 2 Permit Applications: Griggs & Cheney reviewed; Griggs signed Cheney tabled to 6/22

- e.) Under #10: Better Back Roads Grant Agreement: reviewed and signed
- f.) Under #10: Class II Grant Agreement: reviewed and signed

Ricky made a motion to approve the additions and deletions from 6/8/21, as listed above (#13a-f). Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

14. Other Business:

a.) 2021 Document Management Schedule: The Board reviewed a list of documents in the downstairs vault that are eligible for destruction in accordance with the required document retention schedule. It is important to maintain our files in accordance with these guidelines in order to continue efficient and orderly operations in the Town Office. Jubal made a motion to approve the list of documents scheduled for shredding from the downstairs vault. So voted.

b.) COVID Restrictions Lifted: The State of VT has lifted all COVID-19 restrictions regarding gatherings and masks. Individual employers and business owners can still determine mask wearing mandates within their own businesses. Given this lifting of restrictions, and the ending of the State of Emergency Order, the Selectboard is now free to resume in person meetings without the added requirements of electronic platforms including Zoom. Currently, the platform is costing the Town around \$16 per month. The Board has agreed at this time to maintain having Zoom audio available for the next month to see what level the public use of the platform is at and to reevaluate the use of it at the end of July.

c.) NEMS 2021 Contract-review and sign: The Board reviewed the 2021 NEMS contract which lays out the expense to each town. Eden's cost is \$54,375. Jubal made a motion to approve the 2021 NEMS contract for services to the Town of Eden for \$54,375. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

15. FYI: The new owners of Bianchi Memorials out of Derby, VT submitted a flyer advertising their stone masonry services. Jubal indicated the Eden Cemetery Commission had also received the flyer and is aware of their services.

16. Adjourn: Jubal made a motion to adjourn. Ricky seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:37pm.

Minutes Approved on 7/13/21 by Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Jubal Durivage.  
Freeda Powers, Town Administrative Assistant