

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

August 23, 2021 Selectboard Meeting

The Eden Selectboard met at the Town Office on August 23, 2021. Present: Clayton Whittemore, Jubal Durivage, Ricky Morin, Candace Vear, Freeda Powers. Also present: Susan Alexander (LRSWMD). Joining by phone: Kelton Bogasky (Casella).

1. Open Meeting: Ricky opened the meeting at 6:04pm.
2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda: None.
3. Citizens Input: The Board received a complaint about roadside mowing which damaged planted flowers on a property on Crooks Road. The Board viewed photographic evidence of the damage. While the plants were clearly cut by the roadside mowing, the Board noted that the plants in question were within the town road right of way, which reaches 25' from the center of the roadway to either side of the road. It is the responsibility of property owners to keep the ROW clear of all vehicles, debris, and other items to avoid the risk of damage to town equipment or personal property. The Board requested Freeda to draft and send a response explaining the ROW and apologizing for the damage done to the flowers. The property owner should be advised to plant flowers further back, and out of the ROW.
4. Sign orders: Five (5) orders were reviewed and signed.

To accommodate those present, the Board went to Agenda item #7 next.

7. LRSWMD Update: Susan Alexander, Manager at LRSWMD, joined the Board in person for this discussion. Kelton Bogasky, Sales Consultant with Casella, joined by phone for this discussion. The Board reviewed LRSWMD Profit & Loss numbers for 2019 and the portion of 2020 that the Eden site was running. This helped to give an idea of the volume that went through the site when open, and offers some reference for the cost of running the site. Susan pointed out that these numbers are not a reflection of the true cost of operating the site, but do offer a frame of reference. The site, while originally closed due to COVID-19, has remained closed due to ongoing staffing shortages within the District. Susan noted that staffing is the only reason that the Eden transfer site is not currently open.

The Board discussed some ideas for the long-term future plans for Eden when it comes to trash removal. The Board agreed it would be ideal to keep the Eden site hours of Sunday 10am-2pm. We are obligated by the State to collect the following three items: trash, recycling and food waste. Some options include having the Town provide staffing at the transfer site and contract a hauler for removal, having Eden invest in the infrastructure (i.e., purchasing a compactor for the site) or contracting the site to a hauling service to manage.

There was some discussion about the cost of hauling and compacted vs. non-compacted. There are implications beyond cost to consider as well; compacted trash can remain onsite until the container is filled and hauled away while non-compacted bagged trash must be hauled within less than 48 hours. Kelton noted that the current price of steel and high shipping rates mean the cost of a compactor is very high right now. He offered to send the Board his recommended options for containers and rates that Casella could offer for hauling.

Susan indicated she noticed that there was some trash left behind at the Eden site when the District moved their containers out in June. She assured the Board that she will send a crew back to clean it up. Ricky asked about the shed that has been left as well; would the Town be allowed to utilize that shed as part of the future infrastructure for the site? Susan said she will need to check with the facilities manager about that. She will let the Board know.

The Board thanked Susan for attending the meeting and for the data supplied on behalf of the District. The Board thanked Kelton for joining by phone and for the information he provided. This discussion will continue as we plan for the future arrangements at the Eden transfer site. For the time being, residents can call 253-4059 on weekends for LRSWMD site closures.

Returning to the Agenda:

5. Minutes: The Board reviewed the minutes of 8/10. Ricky made a motion to approve the minutes of 8/10/21 as written. Jubal seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

6. Assessor's Office Update: Due to family obligations, Assessor Russ Beaudoin was unable to meet with the Board tonight. The Board agreed to table this discussion with until their next meeting.

8. Office Staffing Update: Candace offered an update, saying that Beth Spaulding has taken the open position of Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer. She will begin training on 9/7/21.

9. Dog Officer Update: Candace offered some follow up to the question of what happens once a ticket is issued. There is a fee for failure to answer within 21 days of receiving the ticket.

Candace said the State recommends the ticket book be kept at the Town office at all times. Tickets can be completed and sent from here for security and accurate tracking. The Board felt this was an appropriate recommendation.

Previously purchased bite-proof gloves and a catch pole have not been returned by the prior dog officer. The Board did not object to Candace repurchasing these tools for Katie to use in her role.

The Board asked Freeda to confirm if Katie was able to view a recent webinar for Dog Officers in VT offered by the VLCT and to get a follow up on a dog being abandoned at the Eden store recently. Freeda will reach out to Katie and see if she can join the 9/14/21 meeting for an update.

10. Beach Update:

a.) Water: The regular water test for August came back positive for Total Coliform. Required repeat tests taken also showed positive for Total Coliform. We await notification from the State for our next steps. The Board requested Freeda to obtain the well history from Manosh and to secure the services of Plumbing Solutions to pull the well pump for inspection.

b.) Swim Lessons Update: Swim lessons were a success again this year. Freeda has secured the first two weeks of August 2022 for Eden lessons; a contract will likely be available for signing at the next meeting.

c.) Beach Managers Update: Nothing to report. All continues to run well at LERA as the season winds down.

11. FEMA & Grants:

a.) Albany Road project update: We have received the ok from the Wetlands division on this project. This project is currently at a standstill pending a 30 day review by the Army Corps of Engineering division.

b.) There will be a grant writing workshop Sept. 11-12th in Sheldon, VT focusing on the Aid to Firefighters Grant (AFG) which Eden/North Hyde Park FD went after this year and was not awarded. This is an important grant funding opportunity, and we are in need of very expensive Air Packs for our firefighters. The grant will reopen for applications in November. Freeda expressed a desire to attend the workshop in September in order to improve our application and increase our chances of an award for funds. The Board agreed.

12. Road Commissioner's Report: Ricky said they have been grading and working on Square Road ditching and culvert clearing. He asked that Freeda contact KNS Tire Recycling out of Albany, VT to remove the green up day tires still at the town garage.

13. Ratify Additions and Deletions of 8/10/21:

a.) Upon meeting opening; Review bids received for Boy Scout Camp Road engineering.

Ricky made a motion to approve the additions and deletions from 8/10/21, as listed above (#13a). Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

14. Other Business: The annual VLCT Town Fair will take place 9/29/21. Freeda, Candace and Beth will attend.

15. FYI: None.

16. Adjourn: Jubal made a motion to adjourn. Clayton seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Minutes Approved on 9/14/21 by Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Jubal Durivage.
Freeda Powers, Town Administrative Assistant