

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

May 10, 2022 Selectboard Meeting

The Eden Selectboard met at the Town Office on May 10, 2022. Present: Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Tim Bullard, Beth Spaulding, Freeda Powers. Also present: residents Kristina Brown, Dan Lathrop, Faye Cochran, Jubal Durivage, Nicholas Tetreault. VT AOT Reps: Laura Stone and Carolyn Cota.

1. Open Meeting: Ricky opened the meeting at 6:00pm.
2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda:
 - a.) Under 15c: Excavation Permit on Square Rd.
 - b.) Under 15d: Excess Weight Permit for Blue Collar Septic Services, LLC.
 - c.) Under 18: VLCT response to funds to Church
 - d.) Under 18: Greeters as town employees
3. Citizens Input: None.
4. VT AOT: Laura Stone and Carolyn Cota came before the Board to offer a brief presentation on a future bridge replacement project on Rte. 100. This state project will be a full replacement of Bridge #220, where Eden Fields Lane comes off Rte. 100. This project is 80% federal funded, 20% state funded. Existing conditions of the structure were viewed and the project timeline was discussed. Data shows that currently, this location sees 4,600 vehicles per day, or 530 per hour; large trucks make up 10% of vehicle traffic at this location. The replacement structure will be larger, allowing the river to flow naturally, meeting the hydraulic study recommendations for the site and also meeting current road and bridge standards which include 11' lanes with 5' shoulders on either side. Anticipated costs of this project are \$3,270,000 which includes calculation for inflation. The replacement structure will have an anticipated lifespan of 75 years.

A temporary bridge will be installed downstream of the existing bridge. In scoping this project, it was discovered that the existing Eden Fields Lane is an unpermitted access off Rte. 100. The existing bridge makes this a poor location for an access point due to the site distance and close proximity to the bridge structure itself. The replacement structure will have a required standard approach rail of 50-60' and will result in relocating Eden Fields Lane access. This will resolve the existing unpermitted concern while improving an existing dangerous access for residents on Eden Fields Lane. Alternatives for access to Eden Fields Lane were reviewed. This project will take place in the summer of 2025 or 2026 so there is time to find the best option and work through the proper channels for

Right of Way concerns to be handled. Updates and project progress can be found via a link on the Town of Eden's website.

5. Lowell Rte. 100 project: Laura and Carolyn also offered an update on a future project in Lowell which will impact traffic in Eden. This culvert replacement project will result in a detour, sending vehicles over North Road. The impact will be for a long weekend in the construction season of 2024 or 2025. The Board was asked to complete and sign a form indicating the Town of Eden's response to the project. Tim made a motion to approve the project allowing the use of local roads for the detour with comments. Clayton seconded the motion. Approved with comments and signed.

6. EYSC: The Board received a letter of interest from resident Dan Lathrop to join the Eden Youth Sports Committee. The Committee currently has four members. The Board had no objections. Tim made a motion to appoint Dan Lathrop to the Eden Youth Sports Committee to fill the remainder of this year's term until Town Meeting 2023. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0. The Board requested the EYSC submit a budget status report to the Selectboard for review. The EYSC agreed to do so. Kristina suggested an app called Blue Sombrero, which allows kids to be easily registered for all available sports without paper forms. It was agreed to put a link to the app on the town website.

7. Eden Cemetery Commission: Jubal Durivage and Faye Cochran came to the Board with a request for funds towards purchase of a Veterans Memorial Bench. A quote was provided from Heritage Memorials, Inc. out of Newport. The Cemetery Commission is requesting funds not to exceed \$7,000 towards this purchase. There was no objection from the Board. Ricky made a motion to approve funds in the amount of \$7,000 from the American Gift Fund for a Veterans memorial bench and cemetery improvements. Tim seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

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

9. Liquor License Renewal Application: Tim made a motion to approve and sign the liquor license for the Eden General Store. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0. Approved and signed.

10. Minutes: The Board reviewed the draft minutes of their 4/12 special meeting and their 4/26 regular meeting. Tim made a motion to accept the minutes of 4/12/22 and 4/26/22 as written. So voted.

11. FEMA: The Board received and reviewed bids for the Blakeville Road BR13 replacement project and the Paronto Road culvert replacement project. After careful review, the Board selected the lowest bidder, CCS Construction for both projects. Tim made a motion to accept the bid of \$583,000.00 from CCS for the Blakeville Road BR13 replacement project. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0. Clayton made a motion to accept the bid of \$443,000.00 from CCS for the Paronto Road culvert replacement project. Tim seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

12. Health Officer: The Board received the Town Health Officer's monthly report.

13. LERA: Plumbing Solutions completed the annual water system start-up last week. John will also do the May and June drinking water tests as part of his contract with us. Campers will be moving in this coming weekend.

14. Dog Bite: The Board received a report from Copley Hospital regarding a dog bite that took place on 4/21/22. As anticipated, we have also received proof of euthanasia of the dog in question.

15. Road Commissioner's Report:

a.) Resolution to Lift Spring Road Postings: Clayton made a motion to approve and sign the lifting of the annual spring road posting as of May 15th. Tim seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

b.) Excavation Permit: The Board reviewed an excavation permit for property on Square Rd. The Board had no objections to the permit request as submitted. Tim made a motion to approve the excavation permit for property located on Square Road. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

c.) Excess Weight Permit: The Board reviewed an Excess Weight Permit for Blue Collar Septic Services, LLC. Ricky made a motion to approve the excess weight permit for Blue Collar Septic Services, LLC to town specs. Tim seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

d.) Highway Dept. Update: Ricky reports that the sweeper is not working at this time; he asked how the Board felt about the Highway Department's rental of a sweeper at a rate of \$4,500 per week, anticipating only one week needed to complete the work to be done. The Board had no objections. Ricky also reports they will be replacing some culverts on White Road this year.

16. Ratify Additions and Deletions of 4/26:

Under #10: LERA Request for funds to replace 3 tables

Under #12a: Documents from pre-bid site visits

Under #13b: G.W. Tatro rates

Under #15:

a.) ARPA Fund Report due 4/30/22; Elect for Standard Allowance?

b.) LFCUD Appointments

Under #16: Lamoille Housing Partnership workshop 6/3/22

Ricky made the motion to ratify the additions and deletions from the 4/26/22 meeting as listed in #16. Tim seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

17. Personnel Policy review (ct'd): The Board agreed to table this to their 5/24 meeting.

18. Other Business:

a.) VLCT response to funds to Church: The Board reached out to VT League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) for input on the recent request put before the Board for Town funds for a roof replacement on the Eden Congregational Church building. The response from the VLCT indicates the required separation of Church and State make this a sticky prospect to venture into. The VLCT cautioned use of any town funds towards religion or worship which is a violation of the separation of church and state. Further input was sought from local and regional partners who proposed alternative potential funding sources. Those have been shared with the Schmelzers who attended the 4/26/22 Selectboard meeting with the original request.

b.) Greeters as town employees: The Board received input from the Town Attorney regarding the employment status of stewards who work with the Lake Eden Association's Greeter Program. Per his review of the facts, the stewards are considered part time employees of the Town.

19. FYI:

a.) ACT250: The Board received and reviewed a proposed permit for Eden School's addition.

b.) VLCT is seeking Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF) Board of Directors candidates.

20. Adjourn: Tim made a motion to adjourn. Clayton seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:01pm.

Minutes Approved as ammended on 5/24/22 by Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Tim Bullard.

Freeda Powers, Town Administrative Assistant