

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

June 28, 2022 Selectboard Meeting

The Eden Selectboard met at the Town Office on June 28, 2022. Present: Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Tim Bullard, Candace Vear, Beth Spaulding, Freeda Powers. Also present: Kurt Salvas, Art Curcillo and Chris Donahue.

1. Open Meeting: Ricky opened the meeting at 6:06pm.
2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda:
 - a.) Under #8: FEMA reimbursement re-calculation & BR13 Traffic control plans
 - b.) Under #15: Dog Officer letter of interest
 - c.) Under #15: VT Community Leadership Summit 8/10/22
3. Citizens Input: Kurt Salvas came before the Board requesting to allow the residents of Parsonage Road, (Class 3, .10 mile) to take it over as a private road. Ricky indicated there is a process to follow which begins with getting a petition of 5% of registered voters' signatures. The Board voiced no objections to the idea at this time. Kurt said he will start getting the petition signatures together. On another note, Kurt told the Board that he will put a water bar in the newly installed driveway of his on Blakeville Road to address the steep slope and associated storm water runoff which was a concern for the Board when they did their site visit.

Art Curcillo, resident and president of the Lake Eden Association, came before the Board to report that the invasive Eurasian Watermilfoil has been identified in the waters of Lake Eden. Eurasian watermilfoil is a submersed, rooted perennial plant that form canopies which block light, inhibiting the growth of native plants. It can also reduce the abundance and diversity of invertebrates. Due to the high costs and continuous effort required, the best management option for milfoil is spread prevention.

In very shallow waterbodies, milfoil can grow from shore-to-shore and blanket the entire lake bottom and surface area of the waterbody, forming dense impenetrable stands with no open water. Only in these extreme and rare circumstances will recreational activities like swimming, boating, and fishing be impacted by Eurasian watermilfoil. Generally, this plant species has little negative impact on fish and wildlife with the greatest concern of this invasive species being on native aquatic plant diversity. Besides the ecological impacts, infestations of milfoil have economic impacts through the reduction of property values and the high costs of various treatment options.

Art has been in contact with Kimberly Jensen, an aquatic biologist with the VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation in the watershed management division. She came out to view the reported plants and took a sample to test for confirmation. Plans are being put in place to address this new infestation and we are grateful for the early detection. There will be a full lake bottom survey conducted in order to better ascertain the full scope of the infestation. A team of scuba divers will be coming to the beach area of Lake Eden in the following weeks to pull those plants which have been found and remove them. Art indicates that Kimberly will direct the Town in acquiring grant funds to assist with these efforts.

To accommodate those present, the Board moved to Agenda item #15 next:

15. Other Business:
 - a.) Chris Donahue came before the Board after submitting a letter of interest for the open position of Dog Officer. The Board spoke with Chris and he indicated he would like

some time to learn more about the role; he agreed to come before the Board again at their next meeting to further consider his interest in this position.

b.) There is a VT Community Leadership Summit in Randolph on 8/10/22.

Returning to the Agenda:

4. Sign orders: Five (5) orders were reviewed and signed.
5. Minutes: Tim made a motion to approve the minutes of 6/14/22 as written. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.
6. EYSC: The Board received a letter of resignation from Eden Youth Sports Committee member Wayne Demers. Clayton made a motion to accept the resignation of Wayne Demers from the EYSC. Tim seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0. The Board acknowledged Wayne's time and dedication to the youth sports committee and requested that a letter of thanks be sent. The vacant seat will be advertised on the town website and posted at the stores.
7. LERA update: Things are going well at LERA; they remain busy.
8. FEMA: Blakeville Road bridge replacement project will begin this week with installation of traffic control measures, removal of the guardrail and tree removal. Ricky reports that a contractor has agreed to do the concrete work in the Albany Road culvert replacement project so that will be taking place in the next couple of months as well; updates will be given as available. The Board reviewed forms from FEMA reflecting the revised reimbursement amounts based on changes to the Fed and State share of work related to this storm event. Tim made a motion to authorize Freeda to sign off for Eden receiving these adjusted funds. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.
9. ARPA Funds: The Board continued discussion of allocating funds of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds. A resolution to authorize spending of up to \$10,000 for computer upgrades in the town office was reviewed and discussed. Tim made a motion to approve and sign the resolution authorizing spending of up to \$10,000 from ARPA funds for computer upgrades in the town office. Ricky seconded the motion. The Board voted 2-1.
10. Grants: Eden received denial notice for the DHS grant we applied for to get new radios for our firefighters. The denial was based on an overwhelming number of applicants and lack of adequate funds to accommodate them all. We will reapply.
11. Road Commissioner's Report: Ricky reports the Highway Department will be working on culvert replacements along a portion of East Hill Road soon in anticipation of Pike Paving coming in to pave in August.
Manosh road sand prices have increased, but Ricky says they are still cheaper and closer to haul than Nadeau so we will stay with them for our sand at this time.
12. Personnel Policy review (ct'd): The Board agreed to table this agenda item to their next meeting.
13. Annual Salary Review (ct'd): The Board agreed to table this agenda item to their next meeting.
14. Ratify Additions and Deletions of 6/14/22:
 - Under #16a: LCPC Appointments due 7/1/22
 - Under #16b: Utility ROW request
 - Under #17b: FOIA request

Ricky made a motion to ratify the additions and deletions from the June 14, 2022 meeting as listed above in #14. Tim seconded the motion. Approved.

16. FYI:

- a.) The Board reviewed an ACT250 Permit Amendment for permit 5L0873-1B-1.
- b.) The Board received an overview from the recent Lamoille Housing Partnership Housing for Vibrant Communities forum.

17. Adjourn: Tim made a motion to adjourn. Clayton seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.

Minutes Approved as written on 7/12/22 by Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Tim Bullard.
Freedra Powers, Town Administrative Assistant