

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

September 13, 2022 Selectboard Meeting

The Eden Selectboard met at the Town Office on September 13, 2022. Present: Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Tim Bullard, Freeda Powers, Candace Vear. Also present: Eden Energy Committee Members Craig Kneeland and Matt Mitchell, Town Auditor & Trustee of Public Funds Leslie White, Town Health Officer Christopher Donahue and Lake Eden Association President Art Curcillo.

1. Open Meeting: Ricky opened the meeting at 6:02pm.
2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda:
Under #7) Animal Bite Report from UVM Medical Center
3. Citizens Input: Eden Energy Committee members Craig and Matt came before the Board with a proposed use for the LERA property across from the beach. This small portion of the parcel, on the opposite side of VT Rte. 100, is .55 acre and currently being underutilized. Deed language prevents subdivision of the parcel and requires any use to be beneficial to the community. The EEC would like to recommend a solar array installation at this site; energy generated would go towards powering LERA and possibly other municipal buildings such as the Town Garage. Currently, expense of utilities at LERA is borne entirely by the Town; that cost is not passed on to the campers or visitors to LERA. Any electricity generated via a solar array at this site would offset those expenses to the tax payers. Net metering would be ideal--a program that allows members to connect small-scale, renewable energy systems to the grid and receive credit on their electric bills for the power that system generates. Possible funding sources were discussed. The Board thanked the EEC members for presenting the idea and encouraged them to continue looking into the details; get in touch with the Co-Op, get quotes together and learn what the options for net metering are. This item will be revisited at a future meeting.

Art Curcillo, president of the Lake Eden Association, came before the Board to offer an update on the invasive Eurasian water milfoil in Lake Eden and efforts to manage it. He reiterated the importance and value of the lake to the entire town and encouraged the Board to continue participating in the LCBP Greeter Program as part of outreach and education at the VT Fishing Access.

4. Trustee of Public Funds: Leslie White came back to the Board to continue discussion on possible investment options for town funds. The Board thanked Leslie for her time and consideration in this matter. Discussion included investment timelines, rates and sums.

Leslie will continue exploring options according to the discussion and feedback from the Board. This item will be revisited at a future meeting.

5. Sign orders: Seven (7) orders were reviewed and signed.

6. Minutes: Ricky made a motion to approve the minutes of the 8/23/22 meeting as amended. Tim seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

7. Town Health Officer: Christopher Donahue presented the Board with his August Report and a follow-up housing inspection report completed on 9/12/22. Ricky made a motion to go into executive session under 1 V.S.A. § 313. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board entered executive session at 8:02pm. The Board exited executive session at 8:06pm. Ricky reported that no decisions were made in executive session.

8. Grants:

a.) Letter of Interest for LCBP Grant: The Board declined to sign a letter of interest for the grant used to educate boaters at the State Fishing Access for 2023. We will instead seek out grants for managing and reducing the established invasive watermilfoil that has now been identified in Lake Eden. The Board requested that Freeda put together numbers for their next meeting to demonstrate the total cost of the greeter program at Lake Eden; this will help determine the best use of town funds in addressing the milfoil going forward.

b.) Structures Grant: The Board reviewed the grant award for FY23 Structures Grant from AOT. This grant will help offset costs associated with a culvert replacement project at Boy Scout Camp Road to address regular flooding in that area. Tim made a motion to approve and sign the Structures Grant Agreement for FY23 in the award amount of \$200,000.00. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0. Clayton asked Freeda to inquire with the Trustees of the remaining G1 funds to see if those funds can be applied to this project to cover the town share of overall costs.

c.) MRPG: The Board reviewed the FY22 MRPG notice of approval indicating the Highway Department may officially begin the grant funded work to get selected hydrologically connected road segments on South Pond Road into compliance.

9. LERA:

a.) 2023 Swim Lessons: The Board reviewed the contract with Teach America to Swim (now called the Aquatic Connection) for two weeks of swim lessons at Lake Eden in August of 2023. Ricky made a motion to approve and sign the 2023 contract for swim lessons at Lake Eden. Tim seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

b.) The Board received the Eurasian Water Milfoil Inventory Report from the State; this report is a result of the initial response to the invasive water plant, found in Lake Eden in July. A copy of this report will be available at the Town office and on the Town website.

c.) Greeter Program Expenses: The Lake Eden Association received a donation of \$22,000 to run the Greeter Program at the lake this year as we were not awarded the LCBP grant that we have received in the past. To date, that program has incurred expenses in port-a-potty rental, payroll and associated costs such as Medicaid and social security. The Board was asked if they wished for those costs to be paid entirely by the funds available to

the LEA or in part by Town funds. The Board discussed and agreed that the funds donated to cover the costs of the program should be used, so long as they are adequate to cover them. Any remaining funds available at the close of the season should be returned to the Lake Eden Prevention Fund within the Town accounts.

10. FEMA: Freeda reported that an important meeting with FEMA and State reps went very well this week. We have submitted requests for reimbursement of expenses to date for the Blakeville Road and Paronto Road large projects.

11. Set Tax Rate: The Selectboard reviewed the spreadsheet used to calculate the tax rate for FY22-23 which included amounts voted at town meeting and estimated revenue. Tim made a motion to set the tax rates for FY22-23 as: Resident: \$2.1433 (town .65257; local .00325; school 1.4875); Non-Resident: \$2.2207 (town .65257; local .00325; school 1.5649). Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

12. Personnel Policy review (ct'd): The Board agreed to table this item to a future meeting.

13. Road Commissioner's Report:

a.) Access Permits:

i. Warren Rd.

ii. Camp Rd.

iii. South Pond Rd.

The Board discussed each access permit and had no objection to them as presented in their applications. Tim made a motion to approve to Town specifications, access permits for applicants on Warren Road, Camp Road and S. Pond Road. Rick seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

b.) MRPG: Freeda offered the Board a comprehensive compliance status on this State mandated program which addresses hydrologically connected road segments. The program began five years ago and the first of the required deadlines to meet compliance will be December 31st of this year. For Eden to meet the first required threshold of 15% of noncompliant road segments being brought into compliance, 23 road segments will need to be addressed. Freeda has begun the process of capturing grant related and non-grant related road work done in the past five years which brings noncompliant segments into compliance. At this time, we feel confident that we will meet this first compliance deadline and threshold.

c.) VTrans: The Board received an invitation to join the Sept. 27th meeting of the State Traffic Committee meeting where Eden's concerns regarding traffic safety on Rte. 100 by the Fishing Access will be on the agenda.

d.) Excess Weight Permit: The Board received and reviewed an excess weight permit request from Kilburn Transport. The Board declined to sign this application as it was sent without a detailed fleet list. Freeda will request this from the applicant and the Board will review this at their 9/27/22 meeting.

e.) Other activities of Hwy. Dept.: Ricky presented the Board with quotes for cold planning and further paving on East Hill Road. This quote goes beyond contracted and grant funded paving of a portion of East Hill Road already due to be completed by the end

of this year. Additional paving, at a cost of \$66,649.00 was reviewed by the Board. Other work, including cold planning, would be done in 2023 but prices would be locked in with this quote. The Board had no objection and asked Ricky to get a contract together from Pike to lock in the prices for next year's work. Tim made a motion to approve the additional paving on East Hill road at a cost of \$66,649.00, bringing the total cost of the project to 251,075.00. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

14. Ratify Additions and Deletions of 8/23:

- a.) Leslie White: Trustee of Public Funds
- b.) Dog Officer pamphlet & request
- c.) Under #12: Access Permits for Camp Rd. & Warren Rd.
- d.) Under #15: EYSC Letter of resignation & Letter of interest

Ricky made a motion to ratify the additions and deletions from the August 23, 2022 meeting as listed above in #14. Tim seconded the motion. Approved.

15. Other Business:

a.) LCPC is seeking input on regionally significant ridgelines as they update the 2015 regional plan. The Board indicated no interest in identifying regionally significant ridgelines in Eden not yet listed in the regional plan.

b.) Outside Audit Outcome/Report: Candace provided the Board with her response to the outside auditors, Kittel Branagan & Sargent in regards to the recent audit. No fraud was found in the audit outcome.

c.) Candace shared with the Board that Assistant Clerk Beth Spaulding has given her notice; her last day working for the Town will be November 10th, following the election. The ad for the position will be placed in the paper this coming week.

16. FYI:

a.) 2022 Eden Contacts List: The Board received a current contact list.

b.) State change to Tobacco Licenses: Tobacco licenses will go before the local board for review, just like liquor licenses do.

c.) LFCUD: The Board received a broadband status update from Val Davis, head of the Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District. Recent discussions in the works with Google Fiber have yielded no agreement.

17. Adjourn: Ricky made a motion to adjourn. Tim seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Minutes Approved as amended on 9/27/22 by Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Tim Bullard.

Freedra Powers, Town Administrative Assistant