

**Brandon Select Board Meeting
May 23, 2016**

NOTE: These are unapproved minutes, subject to amendment and/or approval at the subsequent board meeting.

In Attendance: Doug Bailey, Seth Hopkins, Tracy Wyman, Ethan Swift

Others In Attendance: Dave Atherton, Arlen Bloodworth, Dick Kirby, Warren Kimble, Jeff Stewart, Chris Brickell, Ray Jobst, Richard Baker, Bernie Carr, Ben Bolaski, Judi Bunde

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Doug Bailey, Chair at 7:02PM.

a) Agenda Adoption – Motion by Seth Hopkins/Tracy Wyman to adopt the agenda as presented. **The motion passed unanimously.**

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Tracy Wyman/Seth Hopkins to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2016 meeting as presented. **The motion passed unanimously.**

3. Town Manager's Report

Dave Atherton advised the Town Office will be closed on Memorial Day. The Town received the approval of the USDA PPG (Pre-development Planning Grant) in the amount of \$20,000.00 for the Champlain Street Pump Station, which covers the engineering up to the point of bidding it out. The Town received approval of the FLAP (Federal Land Access Program) Grant for the Churchill Road Bridge replacement. The Town will be working with the Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division and VTrans on a MOA to start the project. The Governor signed the Brandon Town Charter on 5/16/16. Mr. Atherton will be contacting the Department of Taxes to get specifics regarding the 1% option tax. A letter will be sent to the Department and there is a 90-day wait process and it is thought the Town should start receiving funds in October. The Town would start collecting from the merchants during the third tax quarter. The contract with Occupational Health Partners was signed on 5/17/16 in hopes that this helps with worker's compensation. Mr. Atherton attended the Vermont Town Manager's conference in Ludlow on May 12th and 13th. The Route 7 Relinquishment Agreement has been received. The Town now owns from Steinberg Road to the Fire Department. This will help with some of the right of way negotiations and Segment 6 work. The Town has received the proposed deed and documents for the Newton Road buyout. They will be reviewed by the State and a closing date will be set. There are 11 Segment 6 rights of ways left to negotiate. The majority of these are waiting for approval of changes from VTrans and two of them are awaiting reappraisal. So far there are 5 properties that will require condemnation hearings. Mr. Atherton attended the hearing for the

variance on the lift in the Town Office at the Fire Safety Office. The variance was granted and the Town will begin using the lift. Mr. Atherton advised the amount of the FLAP grant is not known at this time, but will not be something to consider until next budget season with the construction to start during 2017. Doug Bailey stated the merchants have had some questions regarding the 1% option tax and Mr. Atherton advised that additional information will be provided to the merchants regarding this tax. Doug Bailey suggested keeping track of the match information to assist with the budget process. Mr. Atherton suggested the Town consider including grant match money going forward in the budget so that the Town would have the funds when grant opportunities are available.

4. Comments for Items not on the Agenda

Warren Kimble advised that a local person recently questioned him as to who placed the blacktop on the sidewalk on Park Street. Mr. Kimble stated he had talked to the Town Manager and was told this is a temporary fix and noted he hopes he lives to see it changed back to a cement sidewalk. Devon Fuller had also advised Mr. Kimble that at the time, the Town had no money and this repair was better than nothing. Mr. Kimble stated many people utilize Park Street as tourists, walkers and joggers. Mr. Kimble questioned who authorized using blacktop on one side of the street and cement on the other, and why the residents were not informed. He noted this is one of the most picturesque streets in town. Mr. Kimble stated this is a Select Board that is doing great things and he is thankful for that. Mr. Kimble stated everyone in Town is in this together and people need to work together, whether they are new to the town or 5th generation families. He stated this Board has been one of the most successful boards the Town has had and he again thanked them. Doug Bailey questioned if the sidewalk was paved before and it was confirmed that it had been paved. Judi Bunde advised that her side of the street was done in cement and it was her understanding that the Town ran out of money and the other side was paved due to it being in bad shape. Ms. Bunde also hopes that it is a temporary fix. Dave Atherton stated it was a temporary fix because there were sidewalks that were unsafe. Mr. Kimble stated streets in Forestdale and Walnut Street have been done in concrete and it was a poor decision to do that and he hopes that it is a temporary fix. Ray Jobst stated there has been talk of doing all of Park Street with the Segment 6 project. He stated it was a good deal to have a fix until the project can be done. Seth Hopkins had communications with Mr. Burlett and asked how much the Town saved with asphalt instead of concrete and he was advised that VTrans' estimate was \$200 a linear foot which would be over \$200,000.00 and he is sure that is why the other side of Park Street had to be done over a three year period. The voters had appropriated \$20,000.00 for sidewalk repairs and Mr. Burlett stated for \$20,000.00 there was a safe surface placed on Park Street, Marble Street and Route 73 to the Neshobe School from the Senior Center. Mr. Hopkins understands and respects Mr. Kimble's aesthetic judgement, but the Town had to work with the funds available for safety. Mr. Bailey has received information that some of the sidewalk that had been done in cement is already showing pitting. Judi Bunde stated there were two contractors who did the sections of sidewalk and the section in front of her house is in much better shape than the other section. Mr. Bailey stated cement sidewalks are nice but they create a different problem. Mr. Atherton stated the Town needs to make the sidewalks safe and asphalt was only placed on those sidewalks that

already had asphalt. The Town will be discussing Park Street with the Route 7 project. Dick Kirby stated the sidewalk was in terrible shape and he thinks it was a great job to smooth it out. He stated the center of the street is also not in good shape.

Bernie Carr stated last night's showing of Kevin Thornton's' movie, Death in the Wilderness, was moving and he encouraged people to see it if they have the opportunity.

Ray Jobst stated there are some senior citizens that have difficulty taking care of their properties in the Town and suggested perhaps getting a group of youth together to assist them. Mr. Jobst offered to supply the tools and a barbeque at the end of the day for the people working. Dave Atherton will discuss this suggestion with Bill Moore. Mr. Atherton advised Foxcroft Farm used to assist people with these types of tasks. Judi Bunde stated once again flowers pots will be placed on the sidewalks in the downtown. Ms. Bunde thanked Art Doty and the Alternative Ed students for placing the flower pots on the street and she thanked the merchants and other individuals who have sponsored the flowers.

5. Presentation by The Carving Studio

Dave Atherton stated there is a bench that will be built for Kennedy Park and it was Mr. Atherton understands a donation is going to be requested from the Town to cover the costs. Mr. Moore has been discussing this item with the party and Mr. Atherton had thought the people would be attending the meeting to make a presentation. Mr. Atherton will follow-up with Mr. Moore. Mr. Atherton reported Foxcroft Farms will be donating a park bench for Green Park.

6. Presentation by Ben Bolaski, Solar Community Organizer - SunCommon

Ben Bolaski, Community Organizer for SunCommon in the Brandon area, was present to provide information on upcoming events in the Brandon area. He noted that SunCommon is a mission-driven solar company that believes everyone has the right to a healthy environment and a safer world. In the coming weeks, there will be an event at the Brandon Library on Tuesday, May 31st at 6:30PM and at Café Provence on June 9th from 6:00PM to 8:00PM. The events will provide information to people who may be interested in going solar. Mr. Bolaski advised that incentives through Green Mountain Power to go solar will be greater through 2016, as currently people are able to build up solar credits to cover their utility needs with a smaller system. At the end of this year, the incentives will decrease as much as 50%. Seth Hopkins asked if there will be a Community Solar Project for those people whose locations are not conducive to solar. Mr. Bolaski stated there are currently about 20 people in Brandon proper that have a roof-top system and some are participating in community solar. SunCommon may be putting a community solar project in Brandon in 2017, but they do have other community solar arrays in the state that people can be a part of, which equates to a guaranteed 7% savings on their electric bills. This is a 20 year model that is transferrable if someone is moving within the state or they can pass the membership to someone else in the event they move out of the state. For more information, people can contact them through

suncommon.com. They also have an office on West Street in downtown Rutland. Mr. Bolaski advised they also plan to be active at the July 4th celebration. Ray Jobst asked if there are any special interest groups in the state that are involved in placing restrictions on solar, as he has seen this in Arizona. Mr. Bolaski stated he is not aware of any group and advised that SunCommon does outreach in the towns where they are installing community solar arrays to obtain recommendations and feedback. Bernie Carr noted he is already a member with his business and home and questioned if current participants are welcome at the events. Mr. Bolaski stated SunCommon always encourages current customers to attend events in their area.

7. Consider Appointment of Green-up Day Organizer

Dave Atherton reported he has received a letter from Ms. Barr indicating that she is giving up the position of Green-up Day Organizer. Mr. Atherton also received an email from Jim Leary indicating he would accept the appointment of Green-up Day Organizer.

Motion by Seth Hopkins/Tracy Wyman to appoint Jim Leary as the Green-up Day Organizer for 2017 and direct the Town Manager to send a letter of thanks to Gail Barr for her service over the last three years. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Atherton advised there are more appointments that will be expiring as on June 30th which will be advertised and will require the Board's approval.

8. Segment 6/Bridge 114/Overflow Culvert

Dave Atherton reported Segment 6 rights of ways are very close to completion. The next step will be the condemnation hearing. Bridge 114 is ready to go with Segment 6 and possibly putting the project out to bid in October or November for completion at the end of the 2017 construction season. The Town is waiting for the Phase 2 approval for the overflow culvert. The Town received the draft deeds and restrictive covenants from the attorney for approval by the landowner's attorney for the Newton Road project. Once approved, the closing can be set and it can be put out to bid for demolition. Jeff Stewart asked about the overflow culvert and easement. Dave Atherton stated there is money in the grant to acquire the property and the Town has have been in contact with the landowner to discuss this matter. When we the project gets to that part of Phase 2, the Town will move forward with that.

9. Fiscal

b) Warrant – May 23, 2016 - \$1,214,854.02

Motion by Seth Hopkins/Tracy Wyman to approve the warrant of May 23, 2016 in the amount of \$1,214,854.02. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Seth Hopkins asked if the payment to the Fire District for \$2,162.00 was for abatement. Mr. Atherton advised this is for a deposit that is placed for lines that they will be installing and the Town is holding it.

Doug Bailey questioned the charge for Crossman Technology. Mr. Atherton reported this is for the systems in the police cars. The largest part of the warrant is the payment to the schools and the appropriation for the Fire District.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Seth Hopkins/Tracy Wyman to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 7:52PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary