

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - APRIL 15, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Board members: Joe Nolan, Charlie Pike, Linda Schmidt, Karen Tendrup. Also present: Jeanne Blandford, John Blandford, Jim Henderson, Sheila Kearns, Brandon Perra, Mike Perra. Minute taker: Sandy Reidy.

Mike Perra asks about progress in creating better **access to West Sandgate Cemetery**. Joe Nolan has discussed this with the Road Crew, who say the only viable option is to create a small pull-off across the road from the cemetery. Mike asks also about mowing; Joe says this must be done with a push mower because of the steep incline. Lawn crews have been accessing the cemetery through Mike's driveway; he says this is all right for this year but should then be remedied. Joe points out that the Town's cemetery-maintenance budget, which had been cut in half in recent years, was reinstated to \$12K this year.

John Blandford asks about the **bridge on Sandgate Road near the intersection with West Sandgate Road**. He says there are cracks in the concrete on the bridge. Joe has spoken to the Road Crew about this and believes bridges are the responsibility of the state. Jay Wilson will check with his state contact; Jim Henderson will look into this as well.

ANIMAL-FEED ORDINANCE: Sandy Reidy will post the new ordinance in a local newspaper, as required for adoption, and Linda Schmidt will post in at least five conspicuous places in and around Sandgate. The ordinance is also appended to the April 1, 2024, Selectboard meeting minutes. Unless a petition is filed within 60 days of today's date, the ordinance will go into effect at that point.

CITIZEN CONCERNS: Sheila Kearns says the **Town message boards at Southeast Corners Road and West Road** are broken and need repair. Sheila presents a form to be signed by the Board reinstating her as Sandgate's representative on the **Southern Vermont Communications Union District Board** for this year. The Board and Town Clerk sign the form.

ROAD REPORT: Joe says Sandgate got the winning bid (\$16,830) for purchase of the tandem truck the Road Crew has been renting from Washington County for the past several months. The truck will be helpful for large projects to be completed this summer. The Road Crew has been grading and cutting wood from roadside trees. Jay will return to filling out a weekly report of work completed. Karen Tendrup says Jay and Skipper helped many people in the recent storm. Jim says the VTrans Municipal Grants In Aid Program letter of intent sent recently to Town Hall must be signed and returned by May 15. He says upcoming work through this program includes projects on Rupert Road, West Road, and possibly Wilcox Road. Jim has almost completed an inventory of all culverts in Town, including driveway culverts. Jim says Tom Santelli asks to be considered to help the Road Crew, particularly with grading. He can be available anytime for \$25 per hour.

April 15, 2024

EGG MOUNTAIN: Jim says the BCRC, Conservation Fund, and Vermont Department of Parks and Recreation have prepared additional information about a potential sale to the state for creation of a state forest. He says these agencies ask to again make a **presentation to Sandgate**. This presentation will take place at the **May 20 Selectboard meeting**. The agencies will also schedule presentations to Rupert and Salem. Joe says this piece of land has always been in logging. Linda and Sheila ask for additional context surrounding the sale, with Sheila suggesting an independent speaker, from another town for example, who has experience with this type of sale to the state.

OTHER BUSINESS: Linda has filed the required quarterly update for progress on the **Hazard Mitigation Plan** currently being written with the help of the BCRC. She will also file the required **Local Emergency Management Plan** due May 1; there are no changes from last year's LEMP. Linda contacted engineer Frank Parent, who will test **water quality and the septic system at Town Hall** as part of the effort to equip Town Hall as an emergency shelter. Linda asks about the proposed **reclassification of the end of Campbell Road** from Class 4 to Class 3; the Board approves this change. She asks about **dry-hydrant testing**; Joe says the Arlington Fire Department and Arlington Town Manager are still deciding what to charge for this service. In the meantime the Town Road Crew will clear what silting they can around dry hydrants. Sheila and Jim say the Town should require the Arlington FD to include the cost of dry-hydrant testing in its appropriation for the next Town budget. Linda asks if the Board is ready to sign the resolution recently presented by Bill Budde that the Town will show support for celebrations of the upcoming **250th state anniversary**. Karen volunteers to be the liaison for this effort; Linda will confirm this for Bill. The Board signs the form.

REVIEW OF APRIL 1 MINUTES: Karen makes a motion to approve; Linda seconds; all in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The report is presented to the Board.

SIGN ORDERS.

ADJOURN: Charlie makes a motion to adjourn; Joe seconds; all in favor. Meeting is adjourned at 7:09.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY MAY 6 AT 6:00 IN SANDGATE TOWN HALL.

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Reidy and Linda Schmidt.

A complete recording is available by request at Sandgate Town Hall.