

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Board members: Joe Nolan, John Phelps, Charlie Pike, Linda Schmidt, Karen Tendrup. Also present: Jeanne Zoppel, Richard Zoppel. Minute taker: Sandy Reidy.

LISTER ERRORS, OMISSIONS, AND OTHER MATTERS: Jeanne Zoppel says the Carthusian monastery has asked for a tax-abatement hearing, as their power plant is no longer generating electricity. The Board agrees, and the Town Clerk will schedule a public hearing. Peter Peff's assessment will be lowered per the disabled veterans exemption. Finally, the Mangino property appeared twice on the grand list, and that has now been fixed.

LISTER RESIGNATION: Jeanne says she will not run for the Lister's office in 2025, so there will be a vacancy. She gives the Board an article explaining the Town's options: elect new Listers from the Town, or hire a professional assessor. The latter would significantly increase the annual cost to the Town, and important local knowledge and experience would be lost. A combined solution of local Listers and professional assessor could be considered. Anyone interested in the Lister position should contact Town Hall.

CITIZEN CONCERNS: Richard Zoppel says John Grover complained to him recently that work was being done on Rupert Road with no signs posted. Joe Nolan says the Road Crew explained to John that the road was blocked briefly and would be passable again in five minutes. Joe says a road can be closed for twenty minutes with no signs posted.

LETTER REGARDING EGG MOUNTAIN: After the August 13 election, Jim Henderson sent a letter to the Board that will accompany the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation's application to the federal Forest Legacy Program for a grant to purchase the Egg Mountain property. The letter states the results of the Town's vote on Egg Mountain. The Board again discusses issues surrounding the purchase, and individual Selectmen's stances on signing the letter. Karen Tendrup, Linda Schmidt, and John Phelps sign the letter, which Sandy Reidy will return to Jim Henderson.

ROAD RECLASSIFICATION: Linda says that, per Department of Transportation regulations, the Board can simply vote to turn the end of Campbell Road from Class IV to Class III, and can vote to return portions of Tate Hill Road that in 2020 were turned from Class III to Class IV, back to Class III. All in favor.

ROAD REPORT: Joe says the Road Crew has been working on Rupert Road.

SIGN ORDERS.

REVIEW OF AUGUST 19 MINUTES: Joe motions to approve the minutes; Karen seconds; all in favor.

ADJOURN: Karen motions to adjourn; Joe seconds; all in favor.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16 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.