

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES – JANUARY 2, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Board members: Joe Nolan, John Phelps, Charlie Pike, Linda Schmidt, Karen Tendrup. Also present: Elizabeth Daut, Jim Henderson, Melissa Mattison, Margaret Phelps. Minute taker: Sandy Reidy.

GROGAN UPDATE: Joe Nolan says all Board members have driven by the property in the past few days and have seen the pile of bread in front of the house. He says Karen Tendrup spoke with Vonda Grogan, who said the pile had been cleaned up, but it had not. Melissa Mattison says she and her neighbors want to make clear to the Board that complaints surrounding the property are ongoing: conditions have not improved. Karen says she talked with Lisa Brassard, of the Waste Management and Prevention Division of the DEC, who advised Karen to call Patrick Lowkes (802-747-8127), the Environmental Enforcement Officer assigned to the Town's DEC complaint. Karen called him five times today and got no response. Karen says she received phone messages from the McMurray and La Penta households over the weekend, and she went to the property to investigate. Melissa says Nicole Tafoya has sent Karen more photos of the property; Karen says she did not receive them. Karen has asked her DEC contacts repeatedly for an update on the complaint she filed last summer and has been told the agency is not required to update the complainant once a complaint has been filed. The problem of rats is discussed. Karen says she has been told by Lisa Brassard that she [Karen] must see rats in order to file a complaint, and Karen has not seen them. Elizabeth Daut says there must at least be evidence of rats and adds that serious pathogens can be spread by other animals (raccoons, for example) attracted to garbage. Karen has told Patrick Lowkes that rats have been seen. She will file a new DEC complaint to address the new refuse on the property. Linda Schmidt says she also received calls from the McMurrays and the LaPentas. Linda then went back through the last several months of meeting minutes, plus did some web searching, and compiled a spreadsheet of contact information for all the agency representatives who have visited the property recently, along with the status of issues raised and complaints filed, and she will continue to keep this updated as issues are addressed.

This will help the Board track developments. Linda says Vincent Chiorgno of the Waste Management Division of the DEC and Wendy Houston-Anderson of the Agency of Agriculture visited the property last fall. Karen says she will contact them for updates. Jim Henderson says both the Board and he himself (as a contractor with the DEC for water quality) should submit complaints to the DEC and Agency of Agriculture. John Phelps agrees that all applicable forms must be filed. Linda says she talked with Town officials in Rupert to see if they have advice in situations like this, and they said Vincent Chiorgno visited one such site in Rupert and that action was eventually taken by a state attorney with the Agency of Natural Resources, after a long initial silence from the agencies involved. Delinquent taxes on the property are discussed; the tax due in October 2023 has not been paid. Linda reads the decision made by the Vermont Superior Court on May 13, 2020, regarding removal of junk cars from the property: "The Order required defendants to remove all inoperable vehicles from the Property within thirty (30) days and to maintain the Property in full and complete compliance with the Bylaws thereafter." Linda suggests the Board consult Merrill Bent, the Town's legal counsel, on this matter. Sheila says the Selectboard can direct the Zoning Board to pursue another violation for the cars. Joe makes a motion to do so; Linda seconds; all in favor. Sheila requests and the Board agrees that the Board will accompany her when she serves the violation order. Sheila explains the protocol involved: she will first send a certified letter to the owner, saying the Selectboard has authorized her to inspect the property. She will consult Merrill as needed. Melissa asks again why large-animal fines have not been imposed in the past and how they can be imposed going forward. Sheila says any fines, whether for animals or cars, must be carefully tracked by the Board, which must also decide when a backlog of fines becomes a lien on the property. Sheila points out that there are other properties in Town with unregistered cars, and the Board should be prepared to hear more such complaints if fines are now enforced. Jim says this particular situation is dire, and the existence of other situations should not prevent the Town from acting on this one. Sheila says she is not suggesting the Board should not act in this case; she is only saying the Board should be prepared for other inquiries. Joe summarizes: the Board as well as Jim will file additional complaints with the DEC and Agency of Agriculture. Elizabeth emphasizes the issue of animal health and proper feeding; she has offered to write to the state veterinarian about the problem. Linda says there are many issues that could be addressed in this situation and that the work should not all fall on the Health Officer but should be shared among the Board members when that is helpful.

CITIZEN CONCERNS/OTHER BUSINESS: Sheila notifies the Board that the **newly drafted zoning bylaws** will be discussed at a **public meeting on Wednesday, January 17 at 6 p.m.** in Town Hall. A final version of the bylaws will be sent to the Selectboard by February 5th, after which date the Selectboard will schedule its own public meeting. The main changes are (1) inclusion of subdivision regulations in the zoning regulations, (2) addition of river-corridor to existing flood-corridor protections, (3) addition of duplex housing as a possibility within Rural Residential zoning.

Linda asks about installation of the **generator at Town Hall**. Joe says the excavator is parked behind Town Hall and work will be completed soon.

Jim says Diane O'Brien offered to help the Town better equip Town Hall to shelter citizens in the event of an emergency. Potable water is a particular need. There is general discussion about improving the Town's **emergency preparedness**, in conjunction with (1) current rewriting of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, and (2) the grant received recently for building informal community networks. Sheila suggests to Linda that a project plan be drawn up specifically for equipping Town Hall as an emergency shelter. Linda mentions the potential availability of help through the Municipal Technical Assistance project with the BCRC.

DRAFT OF TOWN WARNING: Sandy Reidy shares a draft of the warning, which the Board members will review. Sheila and Sandy review which annual appropriation requests have been received by Town Hall for inclusion in the Town Report. Jim offers to write a summary for the Town Report of the traffic studies done early last year.

ROAD REPORT: Joe says no plowing or sanding has been needed. Sheila asks that the Road Crew begin again to do regular activity reports, for the Board and the Auditors, on what work is completed in a given week.

SIGN ORDERS.

REVIEW OF DECEMBER 18 MINUTES: Joe makes a motion to approve the minutes (with one correction to Joseph Gajewski's name in the Attendance list); Linda seconds; all in favor.

ADJOURN: Charlie makes motion to adjourn; Joe seconds; all in favor.

January 2, 2024

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON TUESDAY JANUARY 16 AT 6:00
IN THE SANDGATE TOWN HALL.**

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Reidy and Linda Schmidt.

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

January 2, 2024

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - JANUARY 22, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Board members: Joe Nolan, John Phelps (by phone), Charlie Pike, Linda Schmidt, Karen Tendrup. Also present: Elizabeth Daut, Sheila Kearns. Minute taker: Sandy Reidy.

TECH-WORK ESTIMATES: Linda Schmidt says Mike Oltedal, the tech consultant hired to help Town Hall, visited on January 4 to determine what work is needed. Sandy Reidy received an estimate for the wiring required and is looking into the cost of a few pieces of hardware. These costs should be available to discuss in the next Selectboard meeting. Mike found malware on the listers' computer and removed it, which should make their work easier. Sandy will pursue moving NEMRC to the cloud when preparations for Town Meeting are done and her load is lighter.

MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Linda says Janet Hurley of the BCRC explored an idea floated at the last Selectboard meeting, of equipping Town Hall as an emergency shelter (including remedying the lack of potable water), and she received preliminary approval on the idea as the Town's MTAP project. Joe Nolan, Karen Tendrup, and Sandy agree the water situation in particular must be remedied. Linda makes a motion to move forward with emergency-shelter preparation as the Town's MTAP project; Karen seconds; all in favor. Linda will let Janet know.

ROAD REPORT: Joe says little sanding or plowing have been needed recently.

OTHER BUSINESS: Sheila Kearns says the Zoning Board held its public meeting on the **revised zoning bylaws** on January 17. The ZBA received good feedback, and Sheila is making updates accordingly. The Planning Commission will review the final draft and submit it to the Selectboard in February. Sheila says the Town's proposal for the **Municipal Energy Resilience Program** has been accepted. The next step will be an energy-efficiency review for Town Hall and the Town Garage. She is working with the BCRC on this. Sheila asks if the Zoning Board should pursue a violation letter regarding unregistered vehicles at the **Grogan property** on Chunks Brook Road. Karen says that violation can be pursued but that the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Agency of Agriculture found no violations at the property regarding garbage or runoff from cars or animals. Karen has asked Patrick Lowkes, the Environmental Enforcement Officer assigned to the Town's complaint, for written confirmation of this decision, but he has so far not provided it. The decision was given to her in a phone message, which she has. Sheila says a letter will be sent to the property owner, inviting him to discuss the vehicle issue with the Zoning Board.

Linda says the **survey that will gather public input for the rewriting of Sandgate's Hazard Mitigation Plan** is ready and available to all residents, neighbors, and organizations connected to Sandgate. The survey can be taken online, and paper copies are available in Town Hall. Details and a link to the survey are on the Town website, and Linda posted flyers on all the Town message boards. Deadline for the survey is March 5. Linda says she filed the required online update of the Town's progress on the grant for rewriting the HMP. She also says the Town will receive a reimbursement of about \$800 from the **Bennington County Solid Waste Administration**, related to the new hazardous-waste facility in Bennington. Sandy asks that this reimbursement be given to the Town as a check rather than a credit toward 2024 BCSWA charges.

Joe says **John Phelps's** work schedule has changed and will prevent him from attending the next few meetings in person, but he will call in. Joe asks the Board if this is acceptable, and the Board says it is. Joe also says installation of the automatic **generator in Town Hall** is almost finished.

Karen will be taking a **CPR/AED** course.

WARNING FOR TOWN MEETING: Joe makes a motion to add an article on rolling over any excess funds in the pavement-budget line item into the reserve pavement fund. Karen seconds; all in favor. The warning is signed by the Board.

REVIEW OF JANUARY 2 MINUTES: Karen makes a motion to approve the minutes with one correction, to the spelling of Diane O'Brien's name. Linda seconds; all in favor.

ADJOURN: Joe makes a motion to adjourn; Karen seconds; all in favor.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 5 AT 6:00 IN SANDGATE TOWN HALL.

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Reidy and Linda Schmidt.

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

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - FEBRUARY 5, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Board members: Joe Nolan, John Phelps (by phone), Charlie Pike, Linda Schmidt, Karen Tendrup. Minute taker: Sandy Reidy.

GROGAN PROPERTY: Karen Tendrup says she has tried again to obtain written confirmation from the DEC of resolution of the complaint regarding the property but has not received the confirmation. Joe Nolan and Linda Schmidt say they were called by neighbors on Chunks Brook Road about a rat problem. Linda points out that Karen had earlier suggested the Town write an ordinance regarding locked storage of animal feed, to deter rats and other vermin. The Board will collaborate on language for a new ordinance.

OTHER BUSINESS: Sandy Reidy says Eleanor LaCross said the **mailbox at Town Hall** was hit by a car and must be replaced and the person who damaged it billed for the replacement. Sandy says the Road Crew fixed the post and remounted the box, but the latter is broken and must be replaced. Charlie Pike asks if the **generator at Town Hall** will be covered. Joe says it is designed to be outdoors and uncovered, and the work is complete or nearly so. Linda asks if Sandy has time this week to set up an account for the **tech hardware needed for Town Hall**. Once this is done, hardware can be approved and ordered, and rewiring can be scheduled. Linda says the **meeting for public comment on the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan** will be held at **Town Hall on Monday February 26 at 6:00**.

ROAD REPORT: Joe says the Road Crew **power washed and gave an oil undercoat to all Town trucks** last week. The Board reviews the Road Crew's report of work done this week. The Town received three bids for eight hours of **tree work** (including on a tree by the mailboxes at West Road), from Dan Buck, Ed Pike, and Blake Pike. The latter gave the best price. Joe excuses himself from the decision because some of the bidders are friends of his. Karen makes a motion to nominate Blake Pike to do the work; Linda seconds; all in favor.

Linda asks about **sick time for the Road Crew** for three days taken in 2023 after the final pay period closed on December 27. Sandy will record the three days as a Christmas bonus. Linda makes a motion to reinstate the sick time for 2024; Joe seconds; all in favor.

ORDERS WERE SIGNED.

ADJOURN: Karen makes a motion to adjourn; Charlie seconds; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:35.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 19 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.

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - FEBRUARY 19, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:05 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Board members: Joe Nolan, John Phelps (by phone), Charlie Pike, Linda Schmidt, Karen Tendrup. Also present: Elizabeth Daut, Sheila Kearns, Julie Robertson & minute taker, Sandy Reidy.

CITIZEN CONCERNS: Sheila Kearns says she has reached her term limit on the **board of the Martha Canfield Library**, and the library is looking for a new board member. She is the only board member from Sandgate.

The Select Board received a query about the condition of the **bridge near 3010 Sandgate Road**. Joe Nolan says the state is responsible for bridges: he will look into this question.

ROAD REPORT: Joe says the Road Crew has been burning brush and cutting trees (including on Wuerslin Road) and has plowed as needed. More substantial tree work, including by the mailboxes at West Road, will begin soon. The initial work will be done by Blake Pike, then the Road Crew will handle. Sheila asks if neighboring homeowners are notified of tree work beforehand. Joe says work will be done only in the Town right-of-way.

OTHER BUSINESS: Karen Tendrup says she has visited Heath Grogan to remind him of the need, per Vermont Department of Health guidelines, to keep animal feed securely contained. She along with Sandy Reidy will visit the Grogan property again on Friday. Linda Schmidt shows the Board a draft of a **Town ordinance concerning animal-feed containment**. Karen will review the language alongside the language she has from the Department of Health so the Town ordinance can move forward, Julie Robertson asks if this pertains to compost. The ordinance will be written so as to allow for compost.

Linda says the state Agency of Administration has approved Sandgate's proposal for a project to **outfit Town Hall as an emergency shelter** as part of the Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP). The work will be done with the help of the BCRC and will include a potable water source for Town Hall. Linda gives Joe the Statement of Work from the BCRC that will need his signature; he will review.

Linda says the **Bennington County Regional Emergency Management Committee** has asked for two representatives from Sandgate to meet quarterly with the committee, which coordinates emergency planning and preparedness activities to improve the region's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. Karen and Linda volunteer to be the representatives.

February 18, 2024

Linda mentions the grant that was recently received to establish **monthly community gatherings** for Sandgate residents. Karen asks the purpose of the gatherings, and Elizabeth Daut says the hope is to connect neighbors and build cohesion that could help the Town be more resilient in the event of emergencies.

Linda says there is a bill before the state legislature that would require towns to hold **hybrid meetings** for official business, as opposed to leaving it up to the towns to choose in-person, remote, or hybrid meetings. Hybrid meetings would require training and the purchase of audiovisual equipment. She says there is a survey on the website of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) where people can express their opinions on this.

Bill Budde of the Martha Canfield Library was to attend this meeting to discuss grants available for towns to commemorate the **250th anniversary of the state**, but he did not attend the meeting. The deadline is March 1, so there might not be enough time to apply. Linda will contact Bill again.

REVIEW OF JANUARY 22 AND FEBRUARY 5 MINUTES: Before being signed, both sets of minutes will be revised to reflect the fact that John Phelps has called in to participate and is available by phone. His work schedule prevents him from attending Board meetings in person for the time being.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Sandy presents the report to the Board.

SIGN ORDERS.

ADJOURN: Charlie Pike makes a motion to adjourn; Karen seconds; all in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 6:54.

THE NEXT MEETING IS THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, TO BE HELD ON MONDAY MARCH 4 AT 7:00 IN SANDGATE TOWN HALL.

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Reidy and Linda Schmidt.

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

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - MARCH 6, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Board members: Joe Nolan, John Phelps (by phone), Charlie Pike, Linda Schmidt, Karen Tendrup. Also present: Debra Alford, Wesley Reynolds, John Zak & minute taker, Sandy Reidy.

APPOINTMENT OF SELECTMEN'S POSITIONS: Karen Tendrup proposes that Linda Schmidt be made Selectboard Chair, saying she thinks change is needed and that someone else should have the chance to chair the Board. Linda says she does not feel she has enough Town experience at this time. The Board decides Joe Nolan remains Chair, with Karen objecting. Selectmen remain John Phelps, Charlie Pike, Linda Schmidt, Karen Tendrup. Sandy Reidy remains Secretary.

CITIZEN CONCERNS: Debra Alford asks how **Campbell Road** is classified. She, John Zak, and Wesley Reynolds ask why their road is no longer plowed to the end, as it was for many years previously. Recently it has not been plowed all the way to the Alford/Zak property. Debra presents a record of classification changes to the road; the State and the Town seem to disagree on whether it is Class 3 or Class 4. Karen will call the State for clarification, and Joe will instruct the Road Crew to plow all the way to the end of Campbell Road going forward, a difference of 100 or so feet.

APPOINTMENT OF OTHER TOWN POSITIONS: Joe reads the list of Appointed Officers from the 2023 Fiscal Year Town Report. None is changing, except that Linda Schmidt now represents Sandgate to the Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance, with Karen Tendrup as alternate.

OTHER BUSINESS: Karen has called and attempted to visit Heath Grogan to tell him that his animal feed must be properly contained. Karen reiterates the need for a **Town ordinance on proper containment of animal feed**. Linda has drafted an ordinance; she will send it to Karen for review and bring it back to the Board. Karen says that in order for rats to be documented as coming from the Grogan property, they must be photographed *on the property*, not on neighbors' property. Karen asks how animal feed will be differentiated from compost in any new Town ordinance. Linda will work on this language.

At Town Meeting on March 4, it was pointed out that some **organizations that receive annual appropriations from the Town** might not have submitted the required 2023 documentation to the Selectboard explaining how each appropriation is spent. Karen called the four organizations in question to resolve this: it seems that some did submit their documentation on time but possibly to the wrong person. This issue will be resolved and the missing documentation posted on the Town website.

Karen states the **need for younger people to run for Town office and participate in Town work** in other ways.

Linda asks if Joe is ready to sign the Statement of Work authorizing the BCRC (through the Municipal Technical Assistance Program, or MTAP) to move forward with helping the Town outfit **Town Hall as an emergency shelter** (including arranging for potable water). Joe has questions about the funding. Linda will ask Janet Hurley of the BCRC to attend the March 18 Board meeting to answer questions.

Linda asks Sandy if she has been able to set up an account with a computer hardware supplier, so work can begin on improving the **tech setup at Town Hall**. Sandy has not been able to reach the right person but will try again this week.

REVIEW OF FEBRUARY 19, REVISED JANUARY 22, AND REVISED FEBRUARY 5 MINUTES. All three sets of minutes are approved.

SIGN ORDERS. Orders are signed. The Auditors will be contacted to add the Selectmen to an order so the latter can be paid.

ADJOURN: Linda makes a motion to adjourn; Joe seconds; all in favor.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY MARCH 18 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.

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - MARCH 18, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Board members: Joe Nolan, John Phelps, Linda Schmidt, Karen Tendrup. Also present: Bill Budde, Jim Henderson, Janet Hurley, Sheila Kearns. Minute taker: Sandy Reidy.

TOWN HALL AS AN EMERGENCY SHELTER: Janet Hurley answers the Board's questions about using the Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP) to equip Town Hall as a shelter, including addressing the lack of potable water. Janet explains that the \$25K set aside by the state Agency of Administration for this project will not be a Town expense and might not all be needed, depending on what is found when the current well and wastewater situation is assessed by an engineer. If that assessment determines that *more* funds are needed, the BCRC will help the Town find funding. Joe Nolan asks if the first step will be retesting the existing well water, and Janet confirms. With this information, Joe signs the Statement of Work pertaining to this project. Linda Schmidt will be the point of contact for the BCRC with the Board. Sheila Kearns asks about the fund-release process for MTAP projects; Janet explains that any contractors hired will bill the Agency of Administration directly.

SUBMISSION OF REVISED ZONING BYLAWS TO THE BOARD: On behalf of the Planning Commission and Zoning Board, Sheila presents revised bylaws to the Selectboard, along with a timeline for public hearings, public comment, revision, and adoption. The revised bylaws must be adopted by February 2025. Janet, who helped write the revisions, offers to attend the future public meeting on the revised bylaws and answer questions.

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE: Bill Budde presents information on planning being done by the Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission for celebrations in 2025. Towns are determining how to collaborate, including on re-enactments, floats, and distribution of information at events such as Bennington Battle Day. Volunteers are needed. Karen Tendrup suggests including the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and 4-H in the request for help. Bill asks that the Board sign a resolution that Sandgate will participate in the celebration and also asks for a liaison for the celebration in Sandgate.

ANIMAL-FEED STORAGE ORDINANCE: Linda presents a revised draft of a new ordinance to the Board. John Phelps asks that language be added explaining who will enforce the ordinance. Karen says the Town Health Officer and Town Constable will enforce. Linda will add that language and bring the finished draft to the Board at the next meeting.

GROGAN PROPERTY: Karen presents to the Board written confirmation of the Department of Environmental Conservation's investigation of the Town's complaint against the property, regarding potential burying of garbage, and vehicles leaking gasoline and other fluids into the waterway. The DEC found no violations. The written report will be on file at Town Hall and available upon request.

CITIZENS CONCERNS: Jim Henderson says **payment from FEMA** for recent projects in Sandgate is still pending, both to the Town for its initial outlay on the work, and to the BCRC for Jim's administrative time. Joe says Jay Wilson has submitted all required documentation to FEMA and has been pursuing this with the agency but so far reimbursement has not arrived. Sheila suggests contacting our Senators and Representatives, as FEMA is a federal agency. Jim proposes that he and Jay contact Ben Rose at Vermont Emergency Management one last time to escalate with FEMA, before the Town contacts our Senators and Representatives. Jim will copy the Selectboard on his query to VEM.

Jim thanks Sheila and congratulates her on doing an excellent job as **moderator at Town Meeting** on March 4.

ROAD REPORT: Joe reports that the Road Crew has been busy hauling gravel and doing tree work. They are preparing for this summer's work on the culvert near Erthein on West Sandgate Road. That can be started once Washington County finishes work on two bridges on Camden Valley Road. Joe says the Road Crew is looking at buying the tandem truck the Town has been renting from Washington County. Sandgate is second in line to have a chance to purchase the truck at a reduced price. Joe says mud season has not been bad so far. Jim says the roads are better than ever.

OTHER BUSINESS: Linda says the Town's revised **Local Emergency Management Plan** is due May 1st. She will bring the current version to the next Board meeting for any changes. Linda asks Sheila about the State Climate Action Office's **Greenhouse Gas Emission Survey**, which Sheila filled out on behalf of the Town. Sheila specified the weatherization of municipal buildings as the highest priority; the Board has no items to add. Linda asks Sandy Reidy if we are ready to schedule **tech renovations at Town Hall**; Sandy has created the needed account with the hardware supplier and will schedule the work soon. Linda attended the recent meeting of the **Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance** and reports that (1) the annual cost to the Town from the Alliance

will remain basically the same this year, (2) the **hazardous waste facility** in Bennington will increase its open days from 13 to 21 this year and will open on May 20, (3) another **Fix-It Fair** will be scheduled for November. Sandy states that once Eleanor consults the Town's tax lawyer, she will schedule several **tax sales** for next spring. John asks if any **office furniture** should be replaced in the Town Office; Sandy doesn't think it is needed. After the discussion at the last meeting on the **classification of Campbell Road**, Karen checked with the state and was told the state would not reclassify a road: that is a Town function. Joe has spoken with Jay, who will plow to the end of Campbell Road going forward.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer presents the report to the Board.

SIGN ORDERS: The Board signs the orders.

REVIEW OF MARCH 6 MINUTES: John makes a motion to approve the minutes; Karen seconds; all in favor.

ADJOURN: John makes a motion to adjourn; Linda seconds; all in favor.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY, APRIL 1 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.

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - APRIL 1, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Board members: Joe Nolan, John Phelps, Charlie Pike, Linda Schmidt, Karen Tendrup. Also present: Debra Alford, John Zak and Minute taker, Sandy Reidy.

CITIZEN CONCERNS: Debra Alford and John Zak ask if the last stretch of **Campbell Road** can be reclassified from Class 4 to Class 3 (to match the rest of Campbell Road). Joe Nolan and Karen Tendrup explain that reclassification is a town (not a state) function. The Selectboard will begin the reclassification process for this stretch of Campbell Road. In the meantime, the Road Crew will continue to plow to the end of Campbell Road, as agreed in the March 18 Selectboard meeting.

DRY HYDRANTS: Joe says that dry hydrants throughout Sandgate that draw from moving water (rivers, streams) rather than ponds are subject to silting, which can make them nonfunctional. The Arlington Fire Department is due to inspect dry hydrants throughout Town but will not begin inspection until the clogged hydrants are cleared. The Road Crew would do the work of clearing. Hydrant inspection is being delayed also because of a disagreement between the Arlington Town Manager and the Arlington Fire Department about charging Sandgate for inspection, which until now has been covered by Sandgate's annual appropriation to the Arlington FD. Karen will look into this issue and bring information back to the Board.

PUBLIC MEETING FOR REVIEW OF REVISED ZONING BYLAWS: The meeting for public review of the revised zoning bylaws will be held on **Monday May 6 at 6:00 at Town Hall**. Sandy Reidy will post the revised bylaws beforehand on the Town website and will post a warning for the meeting, as required by the state.

ROAD REPORT: Joe says a couple of minor breakdowns have been fixed, and the Road Crew is ready for the predicted storm. He says the Town is second in line to bid on a **tandem truck** that Washington County has put up for sale (and that Sandgate has recently been renting). Jay Wilson has told Joe that the truck is needed at least for work this summer to replace the culvert at Erthein Road. John Phelps asks about the condition of the truck, and Joe says it is sufficient for the work. Linda Schmidt makes a motion to allow Jay to bid on the truck; Joe seconds; all in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS: Linda presents the final version of the proposed new **animal-feed storage ordinance. (Text of the ordinance follows these minutes.)** Sandy will post the ordinance as required by the state, to begin the process of public review and ultimate adoption. Linda says the Town's revised **Local Emergency Management Plan** is due May 1. She will update the current plan and bring it to the next Board meeting for review and approval. Linda says Janet Hurley has provided a list of engineers who can assess the state of the well and wastewater systems at Town Hall, as part of the MTAP program being used to outfit **Town Hall as an emergency shelter**. Linda will contact the engineers to see who is available to do the assessment. Joe asks Linda about the March 30 **Sandgate Community Table** event: Linda says it was a success, with at least 30 people attending. The next event will be held Saturday April 27 at 10:00 in Town Hall. John says he will not be at the next Selectboard meeting (April 15) but will be reachable by phone.

SIGN ORDERS.

REVIEW OF MARCH 18 MINUTES: The minutes are approved.

ADJOURN: Linda makes a motion to adjourn; Joe seconds; all in favor.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY APRIL 15 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.

TOWN OF SANDGATE
Sandgate, VT 05250
TITLE: Storage of Animal Feed

Document Type: Ordinance
Document Number / Revision:
Original Issue:
Reissue:

SECTION I. PURPOSE: The purpose of this ordinance is to reduce the chance of vermin and other wild animals gaining access to improperly stored animal feed, thereby creating a health hazard.

SECTION II. RESPONSIBILITY: All owners, lessees, bailees, and caretakers of animals must ensure that food for animals is stored in facilities that adequately protect such supplies against spoilage or deterioration and infestation or contamination by vermin. Food supplies shall be stored in containers with tightly fitting lids or covers or in the original containers as received from the commercial sources of supply.

SECTION III. PENALTIES:

- A. In the event of a violation of this ordinance, there shall be a civil fine of \$50.00 for a first offense, and a civil fine \$100.00 for each subsequent offense.
- B. Each instance of unsecured animal food on a given day shall constitute a separate offense.

SECTION IV. ENFORCEMENT: This ordinance will be enforced by the Town Health Officer and Town Constable.

SECTION V. RIGHT TO A HEARING: The property owner, lessee, bailee, or caretaker of the property shall upon 48 hours notice to the Selectboard be entitled to a hearing before the Board on whether animal food is now adequately secured per this ordinance.

SECTION VI. SEVERABILITY: In the event that a Court of competent jurisdiction declares a provision of this ordinance or portion thereof void or unenforceable, the remaining portions and provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

Revision History:

Document Number	Date	Actions
		Approved by Selectboard

April 1, 2024

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.

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - MAY 6, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Board members: Joe Nolan, John Phelps, Charlie Pike, Linda Schmidt, Karen Tendrup. Also present: Elizabeth Daut, Jessica Grover, John Grover, Sheila Kearns, Richard Zoppel and minute taker, Sandy Reidy.

CITIZEN CONCERNS: John Grover says that on April 29 he turned off West Sandgate Road onto Rupert Road, pulling his work trailer, and saw the road was being graded but assumed it was just spot grading. A large section of the road was being graded, however, and he says that as he drove on, his trailer was damaged when he tried to straddle the gravel in the middle of the road and avoid a hole to one side. He shows pictures to the Board of damage to the floor of the trailer. He says there were no road work signs posted. He has received an estimate of \$1,500 to \$2,200 for repairs to the trailer and wants to be reimbursed by the Town. He will hire a lawyer if necessary. He and Jessica Grover say the larger stone being used on the roads lately has caused flats on their tires and those of others they've spoken with. Joe Nolan says no one has come to the Board this year to complain about flats. Sandy Reidy says she has received calls about this at Town Hall. Charlie Pike says the larger stone is being used to prevent problems with mud. Joe summarizes the issues—the lack of signage, the damage to the trailer, and the material being used on the roads—and says the Board will investigate and respond.

REVIEW OF REVISED ZONING BYLAWS: Sheila Kearns asks if anyone has questions about the revised bylaws. She summarizes the most important changes: (1) two-family houses are now allowed in Rural Residential zones, and (2) river corridor protections are being extended to smaller streams. Linda Schmidt asks if any concerns regarding the revisions have been raised to the Zoning Board or Planning Commission, and Sheila says none have. Richard Zoppel says other towns appreciate the straightforward language of Sandgate's revisions and want to use them as an example. Joe asks how much land is affected by the revised protections to streams. Sheila says more area around Terry Brook and Chunks Brook will now be covered. Later in the meeting, the Board decides to vote immediately on the revised bylaws: Joe makes a motion to approve; Linda seconds; all in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS: Linda says the new **animal-feed ordinance** has been posted online and on message boards around Town, and a copy is available in Town Hall. The ordinance will go into effect 60 days from its adoption date, which was April 15. Linda says all **tech hardware for Town Hall** has now been received, and a date for the necessary rewiring will be scheduled within the next week if possible. Linda asks about the next steps on **reclassification of Campbell Road**; Joe says a portion of **Tate Hill Road** should be reclassified at the same time. Linda will gather the documentation required by the state. Joe and Linda sign the adoption form for the revised **Local Emergency Management Plan** for 2024, which is now complete. The Board signs a revised resolution in support of local celebrations for the **250th anniversary of the state**.

The Board thanks everyone who helped on **Green-Up Day**.

Linda says the **May 20 Board meeting will include a presentation by Jim Henderson, the Conservation Fund, and others on the potential sale of Egg Mountain to the state**. This is a follow-up to the meeting that was held at Town Hall on November 16.

ROAD REPORT: Joe says the Road Crew has been hauling gravel and working on Beebe Hill. They will then move onto Wuerslin Road. Joe says it is time to give the Road Crew their semi-annual clothing allowance of \$400 per person.

SIGN ORDERS: The Board signs orders.

REVIEW OF APRIL 15 MINUTES: Linda makes a motion to approve the minutes; Karen seconds; all in favor.

ADJOURN: Karen makes a motion to adjourn; Linda seconds; all in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 6:48.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY MAY 20 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.

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - MAY 20, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Board members: Joe Nolan, John Phelps, Charlie Pike, Linda Schmidt, Karen Tendrup and minute taker, Sandy Reidy. Also present: 34 members of the community.

EGG MOUNTAIN: Jim Henderson introduces Samantha Page (of the Bennington County Regional Commission), the first speaker in a 90-minute presentation on Egg Mountain and its possible future as a state forest. Donald Campbell (of the Vermont Land Trust), Gannon Osborne (of the VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation), Ethan Crumley (VT State Lands Forester), and Sally Manikian (of the Conservation Fund) also speak.

The following is a link to a story map for the presentation:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b958609f304c45679706e6fcbb1d4117>

A recording of the discussion, including questions from and responses to the Selectboard and audience, is available at Town Hall.

The Selectboard will discuss Egg Mountain again at the June 3rd Selectboard meeting.

CITIZEN CONCERNS: Suzy dePeyster asks about **dry-hydrant testing** and says the Town should contact Troy Dare, Rural Fire Protection Program Manager, for help in fixing and testing the hydrants.

The Board decides unanimously not to reimburse John Grover for damage to his trailer he says was sustained when he drove Rupert Road while it was being graded. John said in the May 6 Selectboard meeting that signs were not posted when he drove the road. Karen Tendrup stresses that road signs must be posted when work is being done.

ROAD REPORT: Joe Nolan says the Road Crew has been working on Wuerslin Road. He notes that a recent payment by the Town to Woodard Construction was for the renting of a roller, not for road work itself. Jim says the Town should receive word soon, if it hasn't already, on a new Better Back Roads Grant.

May 20, 2024

OTHER BUSINESS: Linda Schmidt says rewiring of the **tech setup at Town Hall** has been finished. On May 29, the Town's NEMRC information will be moved to the Cloud, and on June 5 the rest of the planned tech updates will be made in the Town Office.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer distributes the report.

SIGN ORDERS.

REVIEW OF MARCH 6 MINUTES: Linda makes a motion to approve the minutes, Charlie Pike seconds. All in favor.

ADJOURN: Charlie makes a motion to adjourn; Joe seconds; all in favor. The meeting is adjourned at 8:15.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY JUNE 3 AT 6:00 AT THE SANDGATE TOWN HALL.

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Reidy and Linda Schmidt.

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

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - JUNE 3, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Board members: Joe Nolan, John Phelps, Charlie Pike, Linda Schmidt, Karen Tendrup. Also present: Elizabeth Daut, Jim Henderson, Sheila Kearns. Minute taker: Sandy Reidy.

CORRECTION TO ZONING BYLAWS: Sheila Kearns points out a mathematical error regarding the dimensions of accessory buildings requiring a permit. The minimum size requiring a permit is 8 feet tall, 150 square feet (erroneously listed as 84 square feet). The Board votes to approve the correction; all in favor.

EGG MOUNTAIN: The Board discusses the potential purchase of 2,300+ acres (currently owned by the Conservation Fund) in Sandgate by the State of Vermont, to become a new state forest. Linda Schmidt proposes a Town-wide vote. More discussion follows on multiple aspects of a sale, to the state versus other types of buyers. Joe Nolan makes a motion for a Town-wide vote; John Phelps seconds; Joe, John, Charlie, and Linda in favor; Karen opposed. The Selectboard will write a referendum to be included on the ballot for the August 13 primary election, concerning whether Town voters do or do not want the Town to endorse a sale to the State.

CITIZEN CONCERNS: Jim Henderson says the Town has been awarded \$20K as a **Better Back Roads grant**, for culverts and ditching on West Road. More work on West Road is being considered for a Grant in Aid to follow this summer. Sheila says the **energy audit of Town Hall and the Town Garage** has been completed; results are to come. The only concern expressed initially is that there are dead mice in the heating system in Town Hall. This problem will be addressed before the heat is turned on in fall. Once energy-audit results arrive, the Town will work with the BCRC to address energy-related improvements.

OTHER BUSINESS: Linda has looked into the process of **road reclassification** (for portions of Campbell Road and Tate Hill Road) and will work with Sandy to schedule the necessary meeting for the Board at the sites involved. Joe says the Road Crew will begin cleaning debris from **dry hydrants**. Suzy dePeyster contacted Troy Dare to resolve the delay in getting dry hydrants in Town inspected but has not heard back. Karen Tendrup will contact Josh Carvajal for help.

ROAD REPORT: Joe says there have been requests for more **weed-eating** in Town. Sandy Reidy would like to weed-eat for \$25 per hour. Sandy and Karen will look for others interested in this work; Sandy will ensure that anyone doing the work will be old enough, will receive a 1099 form, and will be covered under the Town's insurance. Joe notes that, unlike Arlington, Sandgate does not use Roundup weed killer. Joe says the Road Crew is finishing work on **Wuerslin Road**. The Road Crew wants to buy a **grading bucket for the excavator**. This was discussed last year as a future purchase, and the Road Crew has found a used bucket for \$7,500 (it would be \$12K new). There is money in the equipment budget for this purchase. In addition, Sandy says some money will be drawn from the Rainy Day Fund (until the July rollover of the budget) to pay for a recent **purchase of gravel**.

SIGN ORDERS.

REVIEW OF MAY 20 MINUTES: Joe makes a motion to accept the minutes; Karen seconds; all in favor.

ADJOURN: Charlie makes a motion to adjourn; John seconds; all in favor.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY JUNE 17 AT 6:00 AT SANDGATE TOWN HALL.

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Reidy and Linda Schmidt.

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

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - JUNE 17, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Board members: Joe Nolan, John Phelps, Charlie Pike, Linda Schmidt, Karen Tendrup. Also present: Jim Henderson, Sheila Kearns, Ed Pike. Minute taker: Sandy Reidy.

CITIZEN CONCERNS: Sheila Kearns says Bill Henry has asked what the Selectboard requires as notification for a **new sign for the church**. She will ask Bill to send a mockup of the proposed sign to the Board for approval.

EGG MOUNTAIN VOTE: Linda Schmidt presents draft language for a ballot question regarding the Town's position on the potential sale of the Egg Mountain property by the Conservation Fund to the state as a new state forest. The Board reviews the draft. Linda makes a motion to approve the language; Karen Tendrup seconds; all in favor. The question will appear on the August 13 primary ballot.

ANIMAL-FEED STORAGE ORDINANCE: Linda says the required 60 days of review have passed since the ordinance was posted, and it is now in effect. It is posted on the Town website and is available in Town Hall.

WATER AND SEPTIC SYSTEMS AT TOWN HALL: Linda will meet with Frank Parent, the engineer chosen to assess these systems, at Town Hall on June 19. Dara Zink from the BCRC will join.

DRY FIRE HYDRANTS: Sheila took a message at Town Hall from Mike King, chief of the Arlington Fire Department. Mike spoke recently with Troy Dare of the Rural Fire Protection Task Force, who says Mike, members of the Selectboard, and Jay Wilson should tour and assess the condition of all dry hydrants in Town so a plan can be created for testing, repair as needed, and future routine maintenance. There is financial assistance available to the Town for this work. Linda will start an email thread with all involved to coordinate a meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS: Karen says there is another person at the **Grogan property** to help with cleanup. Karen presents to the Board the flag that Joey Gajewsky accepted on behalf of the Town at the **Flag Day ceremony** in Bennington on June 14. John Phelps asks about **repairs to the message boards** around Town. The boards at West Road and Southeast Corners Road need repair. Joe Nolan offers to fix them when time allows, and John offers to help. Jim Henderson asks if the recent **Better Back Roads grant contract for work on West Road** has been signed. Sandy and Joe will handle this. Linda attended the **Bennington County Solid Waste Administration** quarterly meeting on June 5 and says the BCSWA's annual charge to the Town will increase by 4.5% in 2025. Linda says the Town's application for a grant from the Vermont Historical Society to help celebrate the **250th anniversary of the state** was turned down.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer presents the report to the Board.

SIGN ORDERS.

REVIEW OF JUNE 3 MINUTES: Minutes are approved.

ADJOURN: Joe makes a motion to adjourn; John seconds; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:45.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY JULY 1 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.

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - JULY 1, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:05 p.m.

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

DRY-HYDRANT REVIEW: Linda Schmidt says she and John Phelps were on a call on June 23 with Troy Dare, Rural Fire Protection Manager, to discuss inspecting, evaluating, and if necessary, updating dry hydrants in Sandgate. Linda will call Mike King, Arlington Fire Chief, on July 2 to plan for back-flushing and inspection, the first steps in this process. Troy would redesign hydrants if necessary and will help with installation. Linda will be the contact with him going forward, and John will help with this project.

CITIZEN CONCERNS: None raised.

OTHER BUSINESS: Joe Nolan says the Town needs someone else to be Sandgate's **Emergency Management Director**, a role that defaults to the Selectboard Chair if no one else steps up. Joe says that Vermont State Police radios do not work in Sandgate, and this must be addressed. On the project to outfit **Town Hall as an emergency shelter**, Linda says she met with engineer Frank Parent, who is sending instructions on water testing to her, and who said nothing need be done to update the septic system in Town Hall.

ROAD REPORT: Joe says the Road Crew is getting the ditching bucket set up on the excavator and will weed-eat guardrails and mow in the next few days. Next, they will start the project on West Road that was recently approved for a Better Back Roads grant.

SIGN ORDERS: Orders are signed.

REVIEW OF JUNE 17 MINUTES: John motions to approve; Karen Tendrup seconds; all in favor.

ADJOURN: Charlie Pike motions to adjourn; John seconds; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:25.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY JULY 15 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.

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - JULY 15, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Board members: Joe Nolan, John Phelps, Charlie Pike, Linda Schmidt, Karen Tendrup. Also present: Jack Blandford, Jeanne Blandford, Andrew Brehm, Elizabeth Daut, Valerie dePeyster, Shelley Finn, Jim Henderson, Sheila Kearns, Dara Zink, Richard Zoppel. Minute taker: Sandy Reidy.

CITIZEN CONCERNS: Andrew Brehm, who recently bought the former Sheres' property on Woodcock Road, says he is interested in keeping the pond on his land healthy and would like to offer it as a location for a new dry fire hydrant.

DRY FIRE HYDRANTS: Linda Schmidt says she now has contact information for the new Arlington Fire Chief, Brian Hawley, and will call him this week to plan for backflushing and initial inspection of all dry hydrants in Town. That is the first step in working with Troy Dare, of the Rural Fire Protection Task Force, to assess and update hydrants as needed.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN: Dara Zink (Bennington County Regional Commission) says she has been working for the past year with members of the Selectboard and Road Crew plus Jim Henderson and others on the draft HMP, which contains 18 actions the Town will take to mitigate various hazards (floods, wildfires, high wind, invasive species, etc.). On or about August 1 the plan will be posted on the BCRC and Town websites for public review lasting one month, after which it will be reviewed by Vermont Emergency Management and FEMA. An approved and adopted plan makes the Town eligible for a higher level of FEMA and state relief in the event of an emergency. Final deadline for the adopted plan is the end of 2024.

Jim Henderson says a new **hazard-mitigation grant** is available and could be used for road improvements. Jim offers to fill out the application, which is due August 16. Jay and Skipper Wilson will be invited to the next Selectboard meeting (August 5) to help choose a project for this grant.

GRAND LIST REVIEW: Sandy Reidy presents the draft Grand List to the Board. She says there might be a few changes coming, and the tax rate will not be set tonight because there are grievance-related concerns to be settled.

ROAD REPORT: Jim says the Road Crew is working on grant-related projects and will soon start work on Rupert Road. Jim has suggested that this year's Grant-in-Aid project be used to extend work on West Road. Valerie dePeyster says the poison parsnip is springing up again and asks for mowing.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The report is presented to the Board. It reflects the final month of the fiscal-year budget.

OTHER BUSINESS: Linda says that on August 12th Advanced Water Works of Sunderland will **test the water at Town Hall**, as part of the Municipal Technical Assistance Program to update Town Hall as an emergency shelter. Sheila Kearns says an **energy assessment of Town Hall and the Town Garage** has been completed. She will work with Callie Fishburn of the BCRC to find upgrades that would pay for themselves in savings to the Town in the short term. Valerie asks about the road noise in Beartown around 3:00 Monday morning. Sandy and Joe Nolan attended the related **accident**, later on Southeast Corners Road. Joe says he was unable to call 911 from the scene. He says the **lack of reliable cell connection, along with the failure of Vermont State Police radios** within Sandgate, are fundamental problems that must be addressed. This issue will be added to the Hazard Mitigation Plan discussed earlier.

SIGN ORDERS.

REVIEW OF JULY 1 MINUTES: The minutes are approved.

ADJOURN: Karen motions to adjourn; Linda seconds; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:45.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY AUGUST 5 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.

July 15, 2024

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - AUGUST 5, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

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

DRY HYDRANTS: Linda Schmidt says two trucks from the Arlington Fire Department will be in Sandgate the evening of Tuesday August 13 to begin back-flushing and testing all dry hydrants. There will be no charge to the Town. Jay Wilson says he will repair the hydrant at the Zoppels' pond, which was damaged by a fallen tree, so the FD can test that. Richard Zoppel notes that the unusual design of that hydrant was intentional, given the depth of the pond. The FD will gather information to be sent to Troy Dare of the Rural Fire Protection Task Force, and he will advise on repairs and redesigns. Linda will fill out the paperwork necessary to get his help.

ROAD RECLASSIFICATION: Richard says **Tate Hill Road** is in very bad shape. The Board discusses the process of changing this road from Class IV to Class III and decides to schedule a site visit for approximately 30 days hence. Sandy Reidy will post a public warning on this. Jim Henderson says there are approximately 13 culverts that need repair. Jay says the process of going from Class IV to Class III is simpler than doing the reverse, which, as Jim explains, the previous Selectboard did on Tate Hill Road because of the number of culverts. Joe Nolan says the Town will receive state funds to help with this work when the road reverts to Class III. Richard suggests making this road an official historic road.

ROAD REPORT: Jim says he and Jay have discussed the next two Grant-in-Aid projects. A Better Roads Grant already covers the lower part of **West Road**. Jim has scoped the northern part of West Road, which is an important bypass when there is road damage in the Notch.

Gulleys should be repaired and gravel added so the northern section meets the minimum requirement for a class IV road. Jay says the Road Crew has been replacing culverts on **Rupert Road** and cleaning up brush. Joe says the Arlington and Sandgate Road Crews have collaborated recently on projects, which helps both towns.

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT: Jim says a large grant is available. He and Jay propose work on the **culvert by Matt Tudor's house** (on Sandgate Road between Swearing Hill Road and Tudor Road), which gets heavy traffic. Jim will complete this application.

CITIZEN CONCERNS: Richard says a few people in Town have asked him about the need for occasional **police patrols** in Sandgate, after the recent accident on Southeast Corners Road.

OTHER BUSINESS: Joe brings up the complaint **John Grover** made to the Town in the May 6 Selectboard meeting, regarding damage to his trailer he says happened when he drove on Rupert Road while it was being graded. Linda spoke this week with Kelly Kindestin, manager of property and casualty claims at the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, which holds the Town's insurance policy. Kelly said the Town should file a claim, after which the VLCT will assign an adjuster who will investigate the incident. Kelly made it clear that towns are not required to post signs when road grading is being done. Linda will fill out and submit the claim form.

John Phelps asks how the Town can improve **emergency communications** (with police, FDs, EMS, etc.). All agree this is a priority. It is now the first priority in the Town's updated Hazard Mitigation Plan. Linda says she plans to bring up this question at the next Regional Emergency Management Committee meeting, to be held August 20 in Arlington. This quarterly meeting brings together police, fire departments, EMS, other emergency personnel, road crews, selectboards, and emergency management directors to share ideas and concerns. John, Karen, Joe, Jim, and Richard say they are interested in attending the meeting. Linda will share

the invite. Jay says Fidium might be able to help with a solution for Sandgate. John asks if funding is available.

The Selectmen sign two access permits.

SIGN ORDERS.

REVIEW OF JULY 15 MINUTES: John motions to approve the minutes; Karen seconds; all in favor.

ADJOURN: Charlie motions to adjourn; Karen seconds; all in favor. Meeting is adjourned at 6:54.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY AUGUST 19 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.

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - AUGUST 19, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Board members: Joe Nolan, John Phelps, Charlie Pike, Linda Schmidt, Karen Tendrup. Also present: Elizabeth Daut, Jim Henderson, Sheila Kearns, Mike Miller. Minute taker: Sandy Reidy.

UPDATE ON MUNICIPAL ENERGY RESILIENCE PROGRAM (MERP): Linda Schmidt says the results of the energy assessment of Town Hall and the Town Garage have been received, and they indicate a wide range of potential improvements, from changing light bulbs to installing solar panels. Sheila Kearns, who has guided the assessment so far, says MERP grant money available from Vermont's Buildings and General Services Fund would likely cover all the suggested improvements, with no match required by the Town. It would be up to the Selectboard to decide which improvements to make and not make. Linda says this would be a good time to consider replacing the aging heat and hot-water systems with something more efficient. Sheila, with help from Richard Zoppel, will complete the necessary application. It is likely the potential grant would also cover the cost of a project manager if one is needed.

UPDATE ON MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MTAP): Linda says the water at Town Hall (already known to be non-potable) was tested on August 12 as part of the effort to better equip the building as a temporary emergency shelter. The water tested positive for E. coli and coliform, and the tester advised that it not be used even to wash hands. The tester also discovered the expansion tank is not working, which causes undue strain on the well pump. Full results of the water test and recommendations for a filter and repairs should be ready for the next Selectboard meeting, and with Board approval will be submitted for coverage under MTAP.

ROAD RECLASSIFICATION: Linda says she spoke with the Department of Transportation today and got confirmation that portions of roads can be changed from Class IV to Class III by a simple Board vote. The DOT will confirm one more detail on this process, and then the reclassification of portions of Tate Hill Road, Campbell Road, and West Road can move forward, as discussed in previous meetings.

DRY HYDRANTS: Joe Nolan says he has talked with Randy Novotny of the Arlington Fire Department, and dry hydrant testing has started. Linda drove with the FD the night of August 13, when the following hydrants were backflushed and tested, and all found to be functioning: Campbell Road, West Road (midway), West Road at Rupert Road, Rupert Road at Snow Road, Wuerslin Road, West Sandgate Road at Sandgate Road. The FD will return to Sandgate over the next several days to check the rest of the hydrants. Those at the intersection of Tate Hill Road and West Sandgate Road, and on Sandgate Road near Southeast Corners Road, definitely need repair. Brian Hawley, the Arlington Fire Chief, is compiling detailed test results to submit to the Board.

CITIZEN CONCERNS: Mike Miller, a Salem resident who lives at the end of Beattie Hollow Road, says he is concerned about what will happen with the **Egg Mountain** site and asks for more information. He says there is a lot of high-speed ATV traffic on the road now, and he asks about police coverage in general. He says he called police in New York some time ago when he heard shots fired on the property in the middle of the night. The police told him there was nothing they could do as the property is out of their jurisdiction. Mike asks about a timeline for the purchase by the State of Vermont. Jim Henderson says that, with the Town's endorsement via the August 13 vote, Vermont Forest, Parks, and Recreation (VTFPR) will apply for a federal Forest Legacy Grant to purchase the property. The grant deadline is September 12. Jim says that if the grant is approved, VTFPR will begin to develop a management plan for the new state forest, a public process that will take approximately two years. He says that, per state statute, motorized vehicles would be prohibited on the site, although snowmobile use would be considered as part of management planning. Jim also says an entrance point off Rupert Road will be discussed as the main access to the site. Joe asks who will enforce the rules on motorized use. Jim says law enforcement will be through the Vermont game wardens, state police, and sheriffs, but he says a mutual aid agreement with New York law enforcement as well as fire departments should be discussed. Joe asks if the Town will be responsible for emergency-response costs. Jim says the Beattie Hollow Hunting Club still leases the property and likely will through the upcoming hunting season; the trailers and other structures on the site are theirs, and the club will be asked to clear them from the site when the property is sold. Jim says a survey of the site will be done and easements addressed for those who own camps within the site. Sheila asks if all adjacent landowners, including those in New York, will be notified when the planning process begins, and Jim says they will. He says there will be further outreach to Salem and Rupert so their concerns can be addressed along with Sandgate's. Jim clarifies that VTFPR does not need Salem's approval on the purchase but says that if Salem is seriously concerned about traffic on Beattie Hollow Road, that access could be closed, and Rupert Road would become the only access. He says this would not be preferable, given the ease of access from the Salem side. Joe says the possibility of closing off Beattie Hollow access has not been mentioned before. Linda says she wants to work

to get as many people from Sandgate, Salem, and Rupert involved in the planning discussion as possible. Jim says the VTFPR and its commissioner definitely want public input.

Charlie Pike asks why so much **material is being cut back and moved on Rupert Road** near his house. He says a load of dirt was dropped on his property. Joe says he will ask the Road Crew to make sure they are within the right-of-way but says they are trying to create a wide shoulder, as they did recently below the Notch on West Sandgate Road. The shoulders will be seeded. Charlie says neighboring residents must be notified; Joe says they were contacted.

Sheila asks if two **access permits** recently submitted to Town Hall have been recorded. Sandy Reidy says she will do that.

ROAD REPORT: Jim says the Road Crew will work next on West Road, and on replacing the culvert on West Sandgate Road at Erthein Drive once work on the nearby bridge on Camden Valley Road is finished.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Board reviews the report.

SIGN ORDERS: The Board signs orders.

REVIEW OF AUGUST 5 MINUTES: Karen Tendrup motions to pass the minutes; Linda seconds; all in favor.

ADJOURN: Joe motions to adjourn; Charlie seconds; all in favor. Meeting is adjourned at 6:50.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 3 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.

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.

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:03 p.m.

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

MUNICIPAL ENERGY RESILIENCE PROGRAM (MERP): Sheila Kearns says she and Richard Zoppel have completed the application for a grant to the Town through this program. She gives the Board a printed summary of items covered in the application, all improvements that would increase energy efficiency at Town Hall and the Town Garage. Sheila says these improvements will not pay for themselves in energy-cost savings. However, no match is required from the Town, so the grant is an opportunity to replace, with no Town outlay, systems and materials (for example, HVAC equipment, windows, insulation, lighting) that will need replacement eventually. The grant would include money for a project manager/clerk to oversee the work and handle administrative duties. Linda Schmidt asks if the Town could decide after the fact not to do some of the improvements on the list; Sheila says yes. Joe Nolan asks what would happen with any surplus grant money; Sheila says the Town could choose something else to spend the surplus on. John Phelps points out that heat pumps do not provide enough heat at the coldest temperatures; Sheila says the propane heating system would be replaced, and heat pumps would supplement it. The grant is funded through the Vermont Agency of Administration, Buildings and General Services. Joe motions to submit the application; Linda seconds; all in favor.

CITIZENS CONCERNS: None raised.

OTHER BUSINESS: Linda says she is waiting to hear back from Brian Hawley, Arlington Fire Chief, on final documentation of the **dry-hydrant testing**, which must be sent to Troy Dare, so any repair/replacement work can be planned. Joe says he will contact Brian as well.

Linda recently asked the Rupert Selectboard Chair and the Arlington Town Administrator if they have advice on finding **Listers**, as Jeanne Zoppel will leave her post at the end of February and will not run for re-election. Linda asks if the Town should consider hiring someone to assist Listers with administrative work, and if multiple towns could jointly hire this help, since it seems many towns are having trouble finding Listers. Sheila says Listers are elected to perform certain duties and that the role of any non-elected assistant must be carefully defined and would require some professional knowledge. Joe asks about progress on getting potable **water at Town Hall**; Linda says she received estimates for a new expansion tank and a water-treatment system to address contamination. She has passed these estimates to Janet Hurley of the BCRC and Frank Parent, the consulting engineer, and they are reviewing. Any work would be funded through the Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP).

ROAD REPORT: Joe says the Road Crew finished work on Rupert Road and will now turn to grading and weed whacking.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Board reviews the report.

SIGN ORDERS.

REVIEW OF SEPTEMBER 3 MINUTES: Karen Tendrup motions to approve the minutes; Joe seconds; all in favor.

ADJOURN: Charlie Pike motions to adjourn; Linda seconds; all in favor. The meeting is adjourned at 6:32.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY OCTOBER 7 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.

September 16, 2024

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - OCTOBER 7, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

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

DRY HYDRANT UPDATE: Linda Schmidt says the Arlington Fire Department returned to Sandgate on September 30 and tested two more hydrants—on Southeast Corners Road near the Jaffee house, and on Tate Hill Road near the West house—both of which passed. She says this brings the total of tested, functioning hydrants in Town to eight. Four have yet to be tested, as follows:

- West Sandgate Road near Erthein Drive: will be tested after the nearby culvert is replaced this fall
- West Sandgate Road near Tate Hill Road: the Road Crew must fix this hydrant (which was damaged by a falling tree) before it can be tested
- Sandgate Road near Southeast Corners Road: the Road Crew will try to clear silt from this hydrant so it can be tested
- Chunks Brook Road: the Fire Department is not testing this hydrant due to water contamination from upstream.

Linda says that if any of these remaining hydrants need redesign, that would be done in 2025.

MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MTAP) UPDATE: Linda says results of the water testing at Town Hall are being reviewed by Frank Parent, the engineer who has visited the site, and Janet Hurley of the Bennington County Regional Commission, so a plan for repairs can be created. Linda asks if anyone knows for sure where the leach field for the septic system is. Sandy Reidy says she thinks it is next to the well, but she will look in Town Hall for a map. Linda says the work on this MTAP project will likely extend into 2025.

CITIZEN CONCERNS: Karen Tendrup introduces Jacob Gajewsky, of Boy Scout Pack 330, and says he would like to ask questions of the Selectboard. He asks the following and is answered by the Board: How often does the Board meet? How many Board members are there? How do members get on the Board? Jacob then shakes the hands of the Board members, using the Cub Scout handshake.

John Phelps asks about **repair of the message board** on Sandgate Road near Southeast Corners Road. Joe Nolan says he checked the board yesterday to see what was needed. Sandy and Karen say they might have Plexiglass that can be used. John offers to help as well.

ROAD REPORT: Joe says that, after finishing work on Rupert Road last month, the Road Crew did not move to grading but instead began work on West Road (the September 16 meeting minutes will be corrected to reflect this). The Road Crew worked on washboarded spots around Town this past week. Jay Wilson asked about the clothing allowance for the Road Crew, and Joe says that will be made available. Joe says the Road Crew has found a mechanic to do a few oil changes and other routine maintenance on Town equipment on a part-time basis. Sandy says money is budgeted for this. Joe asks if FEMA money has come in; Sandy says she will check. Linda asks about the culvert work at Erthein Lane, and Joe says it will begin soon.

OTHER BUSINESS: Joe says Suzy DePeyster suggested planting a tree by the mailbox at Town Hall. She is ordering trees and offers to include that in her order; Sandy says there is money in the Town budget for this.

SIGN ORDERS.

REVIEW OF SEPTEMBER 16 MINUTES: The above correction regarding the Road Report will be made and the corrected minutes brought to the next meeting for review.

ADJOURN: Karen motions to adjourn; Charlie Pike seconds; all in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 6:20.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY OCTOBER 21 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.

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - OCTOBER 21, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

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

CITIZEN CONCERNS: None raised.

OTHER BUSINESS: Karen Tendrup says she and Charlie Pike will meet with Ed Hodges on October 23 to discuss the **cleaning of the floors in Town Hall** and get an estimate. John Phelps will also try to attend. Sandy Reidy asks if the **message board at Southeast Corners Road** is being fixed. Joe Nolan is cutting Plexiglas and will do the repairs. Linda Schmidt asks if anyone has suggestions on potential **listers**. John says he will not be able to attend the **November 4 Selectboard meeting**. He says also that his work schedule will change soon so that he will have to **attend Board meetings by phone** for several months, as he did last winter. He asks if this is acceptable to the Board, and the Board approves.

ROAD REPORT: Joe says **West Sandgate Road will be closed October 23 through November 1**, for replacement of the culvert at Erthein Road. Two people from the Arlington Fire Department will help with the work. A crane will arrive on October 28. He says the Road Crew has almost finished the current project on **West Road**. He says also that Skipper Wilson located an **uncashed paycheck** from June 2023 that is now too old to cash. A new check will be issued. Joe asks that **incoming FEMA money** be listed as a separate line item on the Treasurer's Report.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer distributes the report. Charlie asks the status of the **tax-abatement request from the Carthusian Monastery**; Sandy says the monks have been advised to contact the State for re-appraisal of their hydroelectric plant. Joe asks about the **timing of homestead rebates** for people who filed late. Sandy says money comes from the state in bursts, and she cuts checks for residents as rebate money comes in.

SIGN ORDERS.

REVIEW OF SEPT 16 AND OCT 7 MINUTES: Charlie motions to approve; Linda seconds; all in favor.

ADJOURN: Charlie motions; Karen seconds; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:20.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY NOVEMBER 4 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.

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - NOVEMBER 4, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Board members: Joe Nolan, Charlie Pike, Linda Schmidt, Karen Tendrup. Minute taker: Sandy Reidy.

CITIZEN CONCERNS: Linda Schmidt says she was asked by a resident that any future **road closings** be posted beforehand on the Town website.

OTHER BUSINESS: Karen Tendrup and Charlie Pike met Ed Hodges to decide what must be done to clean the **Town Hall floor**. Ed said it has deep gouges and must be stripped. Karen will gather at least two more quotes for the work. Joe Nolan asks to be added to the **highway orders** for his 40 hours of work on the box culvert near Erthein Drive. Linda says at least 20 Sandgate Community Table attendees have signed up for **CPR training**. Karen plans to be among the trainers. Attendees also compiled a list of **first-aid supplies** that would be helpful to have in Town Hall. Linda contacted Janet Hurley, who is working with the Town on the Municipal Technical Assistance Program to outfit Town Hall as a temporary emergency shelter. Janet has applied for an ancillary grant that could cover the cost of basic first-aid supplies. Sandy Reidy says Town Hall recently received a supply of Narcan. Joe signs a **revised Statement of Work for MTAP** that will extend that project through 2025. Linda says she attended the **Binary Blizzard emergency-planning exercise** at the Bennington Firehouse on October 23, where three points stood out: (1) the importance of the Town and individual residents signing up for the **VT-Alert system** (vem.vermont.gov/vtalert), which automatically notifies participants of emergencies, road closures, and other important events via email, text, and phone; (2) the importance of documentation of **mutual-aid agreements** between towns; and (3) most important, the necessity for **individual preparedness** (fuel, water, food, etc.) in advance of emergencies. Joe fixed the door frame on the **message board at Southeast Corners Road** and will replace the Plexiglas.

ROAD REPORT: Joe says the box culvert near Erthein Drive is largely done and the road is reopened. Starting when Jay Wilson is back, on November 11, the work will be completed. Meanwhile Skipper Wilson is grading roads. When that is complete, the Road Crew will begin to haul winter sand.

REVIEW OF OCTOBER 21 MINUTES: Joe moves to approve the minutes; Linda seconds; all in favor.

SIGN ORDERS.

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

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY NOVEMBER 18 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.

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - NOVEMBER 18, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Board members: Joe Nolan, John Phelps, Charlie Pike, Linda Schmidt. Also present: Elizabeth Daut, Jim Henderson, Sheila Kearns, Richard Zoppel. Minute taker: Sandy Reidy.

CITIZEN CONCERNS: Linda Schmidt says Richard Zoppel asked about repair of the **dry hydrant** near the pond at the intersection of West Sandgate and Tate Hill Roads. Linda contacted Jay Wilson, who is ordering parts this week for the repair.

BETTER ROADS GRANT: Jim Henderson says he has sent information to the Board on a grant to cover the cost of a **Road Erosion Inventory**, which is mandated by the State. The grant, plus a Town match of \$1,776, will cover the \$6,700 total cost of the survey. Joe Nolan signs the letter of intent, which Sandy Reidy will forward to the VTrans Municipal Assistance Program.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION: Jim says he has spoken with Jean Eisenhart, Chair of the Conservation Commission, about reviving the Commission's work and membership. Jean has suggested that Jim chair the Commission. She will contact the other members to discuss this. Sheila Kearns suggests, and Jim agrees, the Commission should hold regular meetings. Jim says he and others in Town are interested in helping the Archaeological Conservancy with stewardship at the Shays Settlement site. Joe questions the role of the Commission in helping the Archaeological Conservancy. Jim also wants to get more residents involved with the rivers and streams, and in combating invasive species. There is a discussion of whether or not the Commission should have a budget. Jim mentions Urban Forestry Grants as a source for trees for the Town, and Joe agrees this should be pursued. Jim will contact all members of the Conservation Commission to discuss how to move forward, and will then update the Selectboard.

MUNICIPAL ENERGY RESILIENCE PROGRAM (MERP): Sheila says a MERP grant has been awarded to the Town by the Buildings and General Services Department of the Vermont Agency of Administration. The amount is \$112,045 and will cover the complete scope of work applied for, including upgraded windows, insulation, lighting, heating, and other energy-related improvements for both Town Hall and the Town Garage. The cost of a Clerk of the Works, essentially a project manager to organize and oversee this work, is included in the grant amount. The Bennington County Regional Commission is interviewing candidates for this role. Richard says the Clerk of the Works will monitor how the grant money is spent, so the project does not run over budget. There is no Town financial match for this work. Sheila leaves the grant details for the Board to review and asks that the grant agreement be signed at the December 2nd Selectboard meeting.

November 18, 2024

OTHER BUSINESS: John Phelps says there will be a **holiday party—with potluck dinner and a visit from Santa—at Town Hall on Saturday December 7 at 5:00.**

Linda says Sandy has been paying for **food for poll workers** at all elections since she became Town Clerk. The Board says she should be reimbursed for this cost. The poll workers for the November 5 election did not take payment for their work, so that line item will be used to pay for food for that day. John says Sandy should gather information on all the money she has spent personally on this food, and the Board will determine which budget line item pertains. Linda says the Board should consider a separate line item for this in the next budget.

Joe says the solution being used to wash floors in Town Hall is damaging the floors. He says Eleanor LaCross pointed out that a more urgent problem in Town Hall is **lack of space in the vault**. Sandy says also that the floor leading into the vault is coming up. New storage options for records are discussed, including additional shelving, a gun safe, use of the firehouse, and the question of digitization of records. Linda says Rupert has recently dealt with this problem; she will contact the town clerk there for advice.

Joe says a resident expressed concern about an inquiry into using the dog license list to help gather names for a potential **Town phone directory** being organized by the Sandgate Community Table. Elizabeth Daut says the phone directory is being discussed as a way to help people connect with neighbors, especially in the event of an emergency. Linda says we must be careful about using information gathered for Town business for this private effort. Elizabeth says the SCT is looking for a complete list of residents in order to ask people if they would like to be included in the directory; no one will be included without giving express personal permission.

TREASURER’S REPORT: The Treasurer distributes the report.

SIGN ORDERS.

REVIEW OF NOVEMBER 4 MINUTES: Joe motions to approve the minutes.
Charlie Pike seconds. All in favor.

ADJOURN: Charlie motions to adjourn, Joe seconds. All in favor.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY DECEMBER 2 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.

November 18, 2024

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - DECEMBER 2, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

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

CITIZEN CONCERNS: Sheila Kearns asks if the Board is ready to sign the grant agreement for the **Municipal Energy Resilience Program**, acknowledging acceptance of the grant for energy-related improvements at Town Hall and the Town Garage. Joe Nolan signs the form. Jim Henderson explains the memo of agreement (MOA)—concerning the upcoming state-mandated **Road Erosion Inventory**—he recently shared with the Board. The MOA confirms that the BCRC will perform this work for the Town; Joe signs the memo. The Town has already received a grant to pay for this project.

MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MTAP): Linda Schmidt has been in touch with Janet Hurley, who has worked with the Town on this project, which is intended to better equip Town Hall as a temporary emergency shelter. Work so far has concerned the well, which has multiple contaminants including E. coli. Linda has asked that Janet and Frank Parent, the consulting engineer, attend a Board meeting to explain the Town’s options, which include drilling a new well. Jim has volunteered to take over from Janet as a more local BCRC contact for the project, and the Board endorses this. Joe suggests contacting the original well driller to ask his advice, and the Board agrees this should be pursued, to determine if the well can be repaired rather than replaced. Linda says Janet recently secured a Climate Catalyst grant, adjacent to MTAP, to fund improved first aid supplies at Town Hall.

OTHER BUSINESS: Charlie Pike asks about dwindling **space in the Town vault**. Linda says she asked the Rupert town clerk for advice and was told Rupert bought a gun safe to hold overflow from their vault. Linda asks about replacing the central table with shelves; Sandy will look into prices for this. Joe, Jim, Sandy Reidy, and Jay Wilson (by phone) discuss documentation of the pending **2024 Grant-in-Aid** for the work on West Road: Jim and Jay will meet to compile the invoices. Linda says the deadline for the Town’s **Hazard Mitigation Plan** has been extended through September 2025, due to a backlog in the state-review process. Karen Tendrup says she received no answer to her calls to several companies to refinish the **floors in Town Hall**. Joe suggests Erin MacDermott first try using a different cleaning solution. Karen will see if someone needing community-service hours could help with the floors. Linda says there will be a **wilderness first-aid class** at Town Hall on Saturday December 7 at 10:00, and a **piano concert** on Sunday December 15 at 3:30.

December 2, 2024

SIGN ORDERS.

ROAD REPORT: Joe says West Sandgate Road will be regraded. The Road Crew patched potholes in Beartown this week. Joe and Jay are taking a multiday class next week on tree-related issues municipalities must handle, particularly after storms.

REVIEW OF NOVEMBER 18 MINUTES: Charlie motions to approve; Karen seconds; all in favor.

ADJOURN: Karen motions to adjourn; Charlie seconds; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:58.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY DECEMBER 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.

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - DECEMBER 16, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Board members: Joe Nolan, John Phelps, Charlie Pike, Linda Schmidt. Also present: Julie Robertson. Minute taker: Sandy Reidy.

CITIZEN CONCERNS: None raised.

BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY: Julie Robertson says the question of a tax abatement relating to the inoperative power plant at the Carthusian monastery should be addressed before the end of the year. This requires a meeting of the Selectboard, all Justices of the Peace, and the Town Clerk. Timing is discussed; the meeting will be scheduled for December 30 at 6:00. John Phelps says he cannot attend.

OTHER BUSINESS: Linda Schmidt asks Julie about a **cemetery-related grant** the BCRC brought to the Town recently. Julie says she has been in touch with Janet Hurley, and a meeting of the Cemetery Commission will be scheduled to discuss this. Charlie Pike asks if anyone has been found to run as a **Lister**, to replace Jean Zoppel. At least two of the three Lister positions will be open for the next election. Julie asks if the new **box culvert on West Sandgate Road** is finished, and Joe Nolan says it is nearly done. He points out that virtually all the work on this very large project was done by our Road Crew. Sandy Reidy says there is one **broken gravestone** in the West Side Cemetery; Julie will look into this. Joe asks for the results of the **water test** run last summer at Town Hall. Linda will leave all documentation for Joe at Town Hall. Joe will contact Clarence Gould, the well driller, to talk about the condition of the well.

ROAD REPORT: Joe says all the Town's equipment has been serviced in the past few days. All winter sand has been hauled. Joe will talk with Jay Wilson about regrading West Sandgate Road, depending on weather. The Road Crew addressed ice that formed on Sandgate Road due to runoff below Lucas Pike's property. Joe says Jay asked why the Town received another charge for the backhoe, when he understood it was paid off. Sandy will investigate.

SIGN ORDERS.

REVIEW OF DECEMBER 2 MINUTES: Linda motions to approve; Charlie seconds; all in favor.

ADJOURN: Charlie motions to adjourn; Joe seconds; all in favor. Meeting is adjourned at 6:50.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY JANUARY 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.

December 16, 2024