

SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - JANUARY 6, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Board members: Joe Nolan, Charlie Pike, Linda Schmidt, Karen Tendrup. Also present: Jack Blandford, Jeanne Blandford, Elizabeth Daut, Shelley Finn, Jim Henderson, Sheila Kearns. Minute taker: Sandy Reidy.

CURRENT PROJECTS WITH BENNINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL COMMISSION: Jim Henderson says Janet Hurley is leaving the BCRC to take a job with the state. Jim will take over Janet's responsibilities in implementing Sandgate's **Municipal Technical Assistance grant**, currently looking at the condition of the well at Town Hall. Joe Nolan will contact two well drillers for their advice. The grant deadline has been extended to June. Jim will also assume Janet's role in working with the Cemetery Commission on a possible **Municipal Planning Grant**, to develop a management plan for the Town's cemeteries.

CITIZEN CONCERNS: Elizabeth Daut asks about potential **listers** to fill the seats that will become vacant in March, and suggests the vacancies be posted on Front Porch Forum. Sheila Kearns suggests that any positions open for election this year be posted through the Sandgate account on Front Porch Forum. Sandy Reidy will look into this. Elizabeth says the Sandgate Community Table has now had nearly 100 residents attend at least one monthly event. She says the SCT wants to compile a **local phone book**, so residents who give their permission can share contact information. She asks if this can be brought up at Town Meeting. Sheila, who will be the moderator at Town Meeting, says this can be raised in the "Other Business" portion of Town Meeting. Joe suggests using Front Porch Forum for this as well. Charlie Pike and Joe ask how the phone book would be funded; Elizabeth explains that the SCT would pay for this out of its grant budget. It is not a Town expense.

ROAD REPORT: Joe says **Jay Wilson broke his ankle** while at work and is scheduled for surgery tomorrow. Sandy is filing the necessary workers-compensation paperwork. Karen Tendrup asks who will help Skipper while Jay is recovering, and Joe says he will help and that the Arlington and Rupert Road crews have offered to help as well. Joe wants the Town to know there could be delays in plowing and other road work while the Road Crew is short-staffed. Jim says Tom Santelli has often offered to help in the past. Jim applied for a **Better Road Grant** for ditching and other work to be done next summer on Woodcock Road. Jeanne Blandford says the **Road Crew** is doing a great job, and she and others thank them. Joe says the Arlington and Sandgate Road Crews are helping each other in many ways: for example, Arlington helped install the box culvert on West Sandgate Road recently, and in return Sandgate is plowing Arlington's portion of Sandgate Road, from the yellow farmhouse to 313.

OTHER BUSINESS: Charlie asks about the **Sandgate school bus**. Joe says the Sandgate and West Arlington bus routes are now combined. Sandy was contacted recently by the Arlington School District about the purchase of an electric bus. All agree that more details are needed on both issues, and that the Sandgate School Board should report to the Selectboard. Joe will contact Allan Tschorn for information. Linda Schmidt says the former **dry hydrant** that was removed when the box culvert was installed on West Sandgate Road must be replaced. She has spoken with the Arlington Fire Department about a new location for the hydrant and has also contacted Troy Dare, of Rural Fire Protection, who would design and oversee any substantial work on dry hydrants. Work will resume this spring. Preliminary paperwork has already been filed for a grant for this work. The hydrant at Zoppels' pond must also be repaired, and the hydrant on Sandgate Road at Southeast Corners Road must be cleared of silt. Elizabeth asks what water source was used to fight the fire at the Grogan house; Joe says water was pumped from the brook. The dry hydrant there was not used because, per the fire department, the water is contaminated. Karen says she contacted Dee Myrvang of the Department of Health about setting up a **CPR/AED class** for the Town. Linda says she is already scheduling a class in January with Dee, for which nearly 30 people have signed up through the Sandgate Community Table. There will be a separate class at a later date for **Stop the Bleed** and **Narcan training**. Town Hall recently received a supply of Narcan.

SIGN ORDERS.

BUDGET REVIEW: The Treasurer and the Board do a preliminary review of the current and upcoming budgets. This review will be continued at a future meeting.

REVIEW OF DECEMBER 16 MINUTES: Joe points out one error in the Road Report, where "excavator" should be changed to "backhoe." Revised minutes will be brought to the next meeting for approval.

ADJOURN: Joe motions to adjourn; Charlie seconds; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:01.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY JANUARY 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.