

**Town of Sunderland Selectboard Meeting
Monday October 23rd, 2023 7:00 PM**

Members in Attendance:

Bruce Mattison
Alex Bresnick
Andrew McKeever
Dixie Zens
Marty Nadler

Others in Attendance:

Mia Smith- Secretary
Todd Lawrence- Emergency MGMT Director
Larry Leshe
Roy Holton
James Ennis
Brenda Holton
Richard Holton

1. Call to Order by Dixie Zens at 7:00pm.
2. Introduction of Board Members; Alex Bresnick, Andrew McKeever, Bruce Mattison, Marty Nadler, Chair Dixie Zens. Secretary Mia Smith. Emergency MGMT coordinator Todd Lawrence.
3. Approval of the minutes of the October 9, 2023 Selectboard Meeting

Mover: Andrew McKeever

2nd: Marty Nadler

Result: Passed, with one abstention due to absence from 10/9 meeting.

4. Public Comment

- Four residents on Kelley Stand that can't reach cabins in the winter. Previously have been able to access with ATVs, state law passed in 2020, [Title 23](#), to end ATV use on maintained roads, has disallowed access with ATVs.
- Residences are 5 miles past where plowing ends. 8 landowners on 140 acres. 6-7 residents use ATVs to access.
- Between deer and snowmobile season, can't access with a truck or snowmobile.
- In winter, not safe to navigate in truck/vehicle because of ice.
- Kelley Stand is not on the VAST system. Although the town allows grooming and use.

- Class II road, unmaintained in winter. Police and Game Wardens residents have communicated with are unsure of road class.
- Residents received a warning from Game Warden on Stratton-Arlington Road for riding side-by-side.
- 5 year logging job, logging company responsible for plowing and road mgmt from where town management ends.
- James Ennis describes risks of snow mobiles moving at speed, the only deaths over 50 years up Kelley Stand. Logging trucks will be at risk with snowmobiles driving fast, potential collisions are a concern.

4A. Emergency management update

- Have met with individuals around town to build network.
- Confirming shelter information- contacts and capabilities.
- Met with Sunderland Elementary (secondary) and Arlington HS (primary) as shelters.
- Up to date to send over to Dara Zink at BCRC.
- Between Town Meeting Day and May 1st, plans are due.
- To make it official, has to be at a warned meeting for the selectboard to adopt.
- Marty Nadler asks if the hazard mitigation plan should be reviewed. 5 year plan, last done in 2019, Todd says after this plan is adopted they will work on that, still have time.
- County shelter at Mount Anthony HS, with generators, etc.
- Discussion about if there is a plan for livestock/domestic animals? Where are at risk populations? Where are flooding risk/low points on roads?

5. ARPA Funds

- Alex Bresnik says that having four volunteers from the selectboard would make a problematic number for a special committee/working group, basically making another selectboard.
- Andrew McKeever volunteers to drop out.
- Todd Lawrence offers to join committee/working group.
- Bruce Mattison clarifies point of working group, to use ideas from public meetings, or to brainstorm new ideas.
- Dixie Zens says working group should decide if new ideas need to be solicited.
- Marty Nadler asks if there is a list of ideas, Alex Bresnik says they are in meeting minutes from May 8, 2022 public meeting.

- Andrew McKeever brings up cemetery commission asking for funds to manage headstones and digitizing info. They'd like to start work before winter, is there anyway \$700-800 be fast-tracked?
- Alex Bresnik recollects money being approved for their work already.
- Bruce Mattison says there's legality in releasing funds, forms can be found to request funds from Town Clerk office, Dixie Zens is going to confirm necessary paperwork.
- Bruce Mattison asks if gazebo or shed for road machinery need engineer/permitting, etc.
- Alex Bresnik says idea for working group is to make plans for potential project to bring to selectboard as a place to start, Dixie Zens includes joint funds with Arlington Fire Dept.

6. Road Liaison Report

- Marc (road foreman) got approval for bike path extension, won't be starting until the spring. Needed approval from the state to extend to Bacon Hollow Road.
- Grading happening.
- Salt needs chloride.

7. Energy Committee

- Thursday Oct 26, Forum at Manchester Community Library about transition from Fossil Fuels to Renewable energy. ([Link for more info](#))
- Goal to bring together a variety of views.

8. BCRC, SWIP

- Dixie Zens explains summary of annual expenses for Benn Co. solid waste alliance broken down by town
- \$5923 spent by Sunderland, about 3% of the county total.

9. CUD Update

- Board met last week, named new chairman Terry Dorsy replacing Eric Hatch as chair of CUD.

10. Old Business-

1. Review "Welcome to Sunderland" Signage

- Requested elementary school to come up with concepts for the sign.
- Specs from Planning Board about square footage allowances.
- Andrew McKeever asks if there should be signs on Sunderland Hill Road as well, by the dump on one end, covered bridge on the other.
- Dixie Zens says it should be looked into, Marty Nadler says one by the covered bridge would be really nice.

2. Review "Sunderland's Village Center Designation.

- Dixie Zens reads quote from town plan that Sunderland Hill rd, at Borough Rd, is Sunderland's oldest built land cluster, shared an original water source.
- Discussion of potential areas where village center could/should be based on retail, gathering, and residences.
- Andrew McKeever wonders if Sunderland Union Church is part of the town center. State grants would help to maintain the church, through restoration funding, since Hill Farm is included in town center designation.
- Andrew McKeever is looking into ownership to make a plan for church maintenance.
- Todd Lawrence mentioned using ARPA money to hire a structural engineer to repoint foundation, etc.
- Marty Nadler asks if municipalities are entitled to services through the state re: structural engineer.
- Bruce Mattison mentions using grants that become available by having village center.

3. Policy for funding citizen requests-

- Dixie Zens reviews policy of residents requesting funds for training. Asks for motion to accept policy.

Mover: Marty Nadler

2nd: Alex Bresnik

Result: Passed

- Insurance renewal application not sent in, due Oct 13th. Policy upgrade must be reviewed and accepted.
- Vermont League of Cities and Towns requesting information- all updated and info supplied.

- Dixie Zens asks for a motion to submit updated insurance policy.

Mover: Andrew McKeever
2nd: Bruce Mattison
Result: Passed

11. Executive session entered 8:04, exit 8:32

- Dixie Zens asks for motion.

Mover: Andrew McKeever
2nd: Bruce Mattison
Result: Passed

- Motion to contact lawyer to discuss Sunderland Hill Rd property in question.

Mover: Marty Nadler
2nd: Andrew McKeever
Result: Passed

11. New Business-

- Current outstanding taxes approx. \$69,000 this year, about \$10,000 more than last year.

12. Review of Correspondence/Signing of Warrants-

13. Next Meeting November 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM

14. Adjourned at 8:32 pm

Mover: Alex Bresnik
2nd: Andrew McKeever
Result: Passed