

**Town of Sunderland Selectboard Meeting  
Monday November 13, 2023, 7:00 PM**

Members in Attendance:

Alex Bresnick  
Andrew McKeever  
Dixie Zens  
Marty Nadler

Others in Attendance:

Mia Smith- Secretary  
April Hewes  
Kevin Hewes- Constable  
Marc Johnston- Road Foreman  
Todd Lawrence- Emergency MGMT Coordinator  
Travis Buttle- VT State Game Warden

1. Call to Order by Dixie Zens at 7:00 pm.
2. Introduction of Board Members; Alex Bresnick, Andrew McKeever, Marty Nadler, Chair Dixie Zens. Absent Bruce Mattison. Secretary Mia Smith, Emergency Manager Todd Lawrence, Constable Kevin Hewes, Road Foreman Marc Johnston.
3. Approval of the minutes of the October 23th, 2023 Selectboard Meeting

Mover: Marty  
2nd: Andrew  
Result: Passed

5. Public Comment- none.

6. ARPA Funds

- Alex reports that he has been speaking with Jeff Dexter, coordinating time to meet.

7. Road Liaison Report from Marc Johnston

- Plows and sanders on and tested.
- Keegan working out well, learning quickly.

## 8. Energy Committee

### – 1. Adoption of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Green Procurement

- Dixie Zens explains that MOU for Green Procurement means that the town would emphasize trying to purchase “Green”/efficient items (as discussed at 10/9 Selectboard Meeting).
- If it is a large purchase, Selectboard will bring in the Energy Committee to do research and get quotes (e.g. a new heat pump for Town Offices).
- Alex reads a section in MOU about procuring vehicles that reduce emissions without putting undue burden on town through use of alternative fuels, reduced idling, etc.
- Proposed acceptance of MOU for Green Procurement.

Mover: Andrew McKeever

2nd: Marty Nadler

Result: Passed

## 9. BCRC, SWIP

- BCRC has their next meeting on Thursday 11/16 at 5pm at Sandgate Town Hall, with light dinner at 5:30!
- Discussion of partial acquisition of Egg Mountain in Rupert, to create State Forest.

## 10. CUD Update

- New Chairman, Terry Dorsey.
- Meeting Wednesday to appoint a new Treasurer.

## 11. Old Business-

### – 1. Review “Welcome to Sunderland” Signage

- Working with elementary school for sign ideas.
- Marty offers that the winner of the sign idea could receive an award to motivate them.
- Andrew clarifies if the final design will be from the childrens art, Dixie responds that his idea is to take elementary school ideas and have an artist/professional create a rendering.
- April and Kevin Hewes ask what potential awards could be, Marty responds maybe a bond or a certificate.

– 2. Review “ Sunderland’s Village Center Designation.

- Marty asks if there is a difference between town center versus village designation, Dixie responds that there is, but the language is very clear and BCRC has helped with that through the process.
- Dixie Zens says the Planning Board is working with BCRC on moving it forward.
- Alex discusses criteria that could have been used to justify the town center, and that BCRC helped to choose which to use for designation.

– 3. Sunderland Hill Road Properties

- Dixie says that there is interest in having some of the properties comply with town rules.
- Constable Hewes has helped residents in area with information to help them comply.

4. Travis Buttle – Discuss 2020 H942 Rule Changes for ATV’s

- Properties on Kelley Stand Road have been restricted by law passed in 2020 to travel by ATV.
- Travis Buttle explains that pre-2020, any unmaintained or Class IV road was open to ATV use.
- State found that these roads were creating conduits to other areas, connecting to [VASA](#) (VT ATV Sportsman's Association) trails, which was creating problems.
- Law says that towns can open up any roads they want to ATVs as long as it becomes part of an official trail system.
- Anyone passing on the trail system needs a sticker to then use the road.
- Dixie Zens asks if they could designate the road for ATV use to help residents on Kelley Stand Road, differentiating between allowing residents and not illegal riding.
- Travis Buttle explains that Stanford, VT is having a similar problem managing roads.
- Pre-COVID, VT became a destination for UTV and ATV users which created tension between users and non-users of machines, or local residents who had been using them to access their camps.
- Kevin Hewes offers that the road should only be open to ATV use by landowners.

- Marc Johnson asks clarifying questions about whether the class of the road was changed. And the challenge of opening Kelly Stand road to ATV which would encourage users to go over to Stratton.
- Travis Buttle offers a “personal idea” of making a right of way from land down the road with a Specific Use Permit.
- Alex Bresnick asks about impact on roadways by ATVs, Travis says it depends on the road based on turns, etc.
- Travis explains that the definition of UTV and ATV have tried to be altered and the VAST club resisted to avoid sharing trails.
- Dixie Zens asks Marc Johnson if he sees adverse effects from use, Marc responds that most people know not to use it, the only time it's a challenge is stick season.
- Travis Buttle says burden of proof for misuse is on Game Wardens, but if you are carrying a special permit then you have permission and then it isn't a concern.
- Marc Johnson asks if there is a Special Permit, then there would have to be insurance. Travis responds that that already exists if you are riding on someone else's property, and often part of a club (VASA or VAST)
- VASA had a hard time getting bonded and insured until they adopted the states regulations.
- Dixie Zens says they will talk to the League of Cities and Towns, and VASA, to figure out how to regulate the road.

## 12. New Business-

- Todd Lawrence on Emergency Management- met with Dara Zinc from BCRC, VT Emergency MGMT Coordinators, and Arlington Coordinator.
- Recommends that the current short-form Local Emergency Management Plan, that meets the minimum standards, is adopted as a transitional document since the deadline was May 2023.
- If passed, then Todd Lawrence will add data and annexes for the new edition, submit for the due date between Town Meeting Day and May 1, 2024.
- Andrew McKeever says that he talked to Andy Hallsman and Neil Jacobson, who have been trying to keep The Sunderland Church from disintegrating.
- Asked Andy Hallsman to come into the next meeting to give details.
- Sounds like there is an immediate need to do shingles on the roof, repair broken windows, and some structural repairs.
- Robert Graves, from 1892, owned the last title.

- ARPA funds for mapping and clean up of three cemeteries. Cemetery committee requested \$750.
- Andrew McKeever asked if the board could fast-track that money.
- Alex Bresnick moves that the board grants funding of \$750 for the grave mapping project.

Mover: Alex Bresnick  
 2nd: Marty Nadler  
 Result: Passed

- New truck body for Road Crew costs \$99,950, built in Canada, vote to order now for delivery in about two years.
- Dixie asks for a motion to order a new truck body.

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

- Vermont's 250th Anniversary Commission. Plan, acknowledge, coordinate and promote the commemoration of the Declaration of Independence. State asking towns to adopt a resolution to support acknowledgment and celebration.
- Hopes to engage all 252 cities and towns in Vermont, to inspire future leaders and celebrate Vermonters contribution over the past 250 years.
- Asks for town to establish a committee or liaison to work with the anniversary commission (a voluntary role, no compensation).
- Town may fund plans and activities in acknowledgement of the anniversary.
- Alex Bresnick moves to adopt the resolution with optional rider of funding activities.

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

- Board to make the Anniversary Commission at future meeting. Plan to reach out to the resident that received funding for training previously.
- Constable Hewes says he can't get service with ATT while patrolling in town. Requesting a radio to be in touch with Troopers, Road Foreman, etc.
- Dixie Zens needs to check with Town Clerk about where the funding comes from, to vote on next meeting.
- Marty Nadler asks if there is state funding.
- Alex Bresnick says that Constable has not taken salary for that position or Animal Control Officer position.

- Marty Nadler moves that the board takes action to purchase radio through town or state funding.

Mover: Marty Nadler  
2nd: Alex Bresnick  
Result: Passed

- Appropriation request from GreenUP Vermont for \$50 (0-1000 residents), \$100 (1000+).
- 2021 census was for 1029 residents in Sunderland.
- Dixie Zens asks for motion to pay \$100 to GreenUP Vermont.

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

- Dixie Zens cites notice about adding town property on northern part of Sunderland Hill Road to insurance.
- \$61,800 is value of the house, not including the mobile home.
- Andrew McKeever makes a motion to add property to town insurance.

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

- Updated report from Winhall about designated village district, to be reviewed by the board at the next meeting.

Entering Executive Session at 8:24 pm.

Mover: Dixie Zens  
2nd: Marty Nadler  
Result: Passed

Exit Executive Session at 8:50 pm.

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

13. Review of Correspondence/Signing of Warrants-

14. Next Meeting November 27, 2023, at 7:00 PM

15. Adjourn at 8:50 pm.

