

**Town of Sunderland Selectboard Meeting
Monday March 25, 2024, 7:00 PM**

Members in Attendance:

Dixie Zens
Todd Lawrence
Marty Nadler
Andrew McKeever
Bruce Mattison

Others in Attendance:

Mia Smith
Susan Whitney
Marc Johnston
Kim Knapp
Brenna Warren
Tai Warren
Janet Hurley, BCRC
Rick Timmerman
Maria Timmerman
Alex Bresnick

1. Call to Order by Dixie Zens at 7:00 pm.

2. Introduction of Board Members: Todd Lawrence, Marty Nadler, Dixie Zens, Andrew McKeever, Bruce Mattison. Secretary Mia Smith, Road Foreman Marc Johnston, Town Clerk Susan Whitney, Janet Hurley from BCRC.

3. Approval of the minutes of March 11th, Selectboard Meeting

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

4. Public Comment- none.

5. BCRC – Sunderland Church Restoration
 - Janet Hurley congratulates town on Village Center Designation!
 - Designation program will be undergoing statutory changes, possibly allowing village designation extension in the future.
 - Designation includes Sunderland Church, Ira Allen house, cemetery, to River House.

- Designation gives points when applying for grants/funding, support for historic restoration, tax incentives for development.
- Looking to restore the church under Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP).
- Andrew McKeever asks for an update on MTAP, Janet Hurley says approval has occurred. State will set aside money after assessing deficiencies in church/work required.
- Once town and church Trustees have solidified the relationship and plan, BCRC can help develop the plan and implement it.
- \$10k for legal work, \$20k for engineering upfront by MTAP. If more is needed than an amendment can be made.
- Andrew McKeever asks how the status of ownership for the church stands. Dixie Zens says the town council is still working through it, town clerks are trying to ID names/addresses of heirs.
- Marty Nadler recommends the board choose a liaison to interface with town council, BCRC and trustees. First order of business is to figure out ownership and relationship with town/funding.

Mover: Andrew McKeever

2nd: Todd Lawrence

Result: Passed

- Marty Nadler will be liaison to church.
- Janet Hurley says that future legal council re:ownership discovery can be billed to MTAP.
- Bruce Mattison asks Andrew McKeever about getting in touch with Trustees about ownership, Andrew says they aren't interested.
- Todd Lawrence asks if there are any penalties if the town decides not to go forward with MTAP funding, Janet Hurley responds no.
- Board thanks Janet Hurley for work on Town Designation.

6. ARPA Funds

- Marty Nadler says the next meeting is April 7th, 7pm. Surveys will be tabulated.
- Dixie Zens proposes a pavilion, to be built by residents.
- Maria Zimmerman asks if land has been surveyed for the pavilion. Has board looking into VOREC grant program, for recreational uses in towns.
- Residents and board discuss the burden of insurance building their own pavillion.
- DIY quote is \$25k, including materials, pouring slab, and running electric.

7. Road Liaison Report

- Bruce Mattison reports that Susan Whitney, Marc Johnston and he sat down with Vermont Transit. Discussed certification of compliance, Emergency Disaster Contact, Kelly Stand ATV access.
- Marty Nadler is trying to get Vermont Transit to consider Kansas Rd and North Rd as the same, which would change North Rd into a class II road, allowing the town to access state grant money (currently Kansas Rd is considered to be part of Kelly Stand, a class III road).
- Board needs to pick a contact for VTrans, Bruce Mattison recommends Todd Lawrence as he is Emergency Manager.
- Marc Johnston reports that they inspected the covered bridge, it needs repaving. Marc asks for board to approve 150'x12' of paving for \$10,250, could come out of bridge funds. James Hawley came in with the lowest quote. Recommends doing it over April break to lessen traffic.

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

- Bridge by Casella hit by a tree, insurance only covered bridge, cost is \$17k to fix the guard rails. Guard rail fund is \$15k, the remaining could come out of the bridge fund. Marc Johnston asks for board to approve funding.

Mover: Bruce Mattison
 2nd: Todd Lawrence
 Result: Passed

- Paving from about 3/10th mile past garage to Bacon Hollow Rd, would cost \$228,410 (with grant). \$28,410 out of paving reserve, plus match 20% of grant.
- Dixie Zens asks for a motion to pave, contingent on grant.

Mover: Marty Nadler
 2nd: Bruce Mattison
 Result: Passed

- Structure grant by Cobbs rd that washed out during Hurricane Irene, hydraulic study recently redone, needs 14'x7' box culvert, bottom 2' filled with material (structure sized based on flood width). Town pays 10% of grant and for cost of permit.
- Roads took a beating from soft snow, gravel was plowed into ditches. There is \$72,000 in reserve, would be ideal to pay for gravel and put it down before July (when budget funding usually comes in). This will help the gravel grow in/set in so it doesn't get plowed as easily. \$35,000/annually for gravel.
- Motion to take \$35,000 out of road projects reserve to purchase gravel

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

- Rick Timmerman clarifies how the funding schedule and gravel allocation change will occur.

8. Emergency Management Coordinator's Report

- Todd Lawrence updates that between Town Meeting day and May 1st, Emergency MGMT plan has to be updated.
- By April 22nd, Todd Lawrence plans to have final changes to present to the board for approval, to send to state by May 1st.
- Solar Eclipse, Sunderland will be in 95% coverage, on the afternoon of April 8th.
- Recommends to prepare as if a snow/winter event is approaching.
- School gets let out at 1pm.
- Glasses available at town hall, Stewarts, State Welcome Centers.
- Still haven't heard back from the Emergency Management Coordinator/Assistant, looking for an alternate. Andrew McKeever Volunteers.

9. Energy Committee

- Meeting Tues March 26th, on zoom.
- Energy and Resilience Fair in Arlington, June 1st.
- Green Up Day, Saturday May 4th.
- Going to tour the energy efficient building at Williams soon.
- Will be going over survey from Town Meeting.

10. BCRC,

- BCSWA Meeting March 13th – Household Hazardous Waste Facility
- In 2023, Sunderland dropped off 9% of total, Population only 3%.
- Opens May 20th, 2024.
- A list of Solid Waste Haulers for each town will be prepared and published.
- 1st & 2nd Quarters Cost \$119,870, Sunderland's portion = \$3,642.
- Todd Lawrence asks about programs for low cost trash disposal for low income individuals/managing for trash ordinance.

11. CUD Update

- Todd Lawrence new alternate.
- Next meeting Weds March 27th.
- Will begin planning for what is next once all the fiber optic wiring is done (about 20 “hard to reach” residences remaining in county)

12. Old Business-

– a. Review “Welcome to Sunderland” Signage

- Board debates decision making process

– b. Dog Issue

- Lawyer soliciting the hearing has not gotten back in touch with Sunderland Town Council with details, still waiting.

– c. ATV on Kelly Stand Rd

- Bruce Mattison talked to VTrans, the two posted signs at various points on the road vary.
- Vtrans recommends giving seasonal permits specially from parking lot to camp, and notifying sheriff/game warden/law enforcement about agreement. Town council should look into wording.
- Dixie Zens asks Bruce Mattison to look into Vermont League of Cities and Towns and town council about making specific permits.
- Alex Bresnick asks what residents are doing up there during mud/snow season, assuming camps are primitive. Board responds that they are like second homes.
- Dixie Zens asks for motion for Bruce Mattison to sign excess weight permits

Mover: Marty Nadler

2nd: Todd Lawrence

Result: Passed

13. New Business-

- 250th anniversary of the beginning of the Revolutionary War, there will be a march from Bennington to Manchester in the summer of 2025.
- Bennington Battle Day in August, thinking about working with Arlington and Sandgate to make a float.

14. Review of Correspondence/Signing of Warrants

- Open meeting laws April 17th, 10-11:30, through Vermont League of Cities and Towns. (Dixie, Marty and Todd attended this past weekend)
- Dixie Zens shares a recommendation for a statement to treat people fairly, he reads an example.
- Discussion about selectboard emails being forwarded to boards personal emails, personal vs business issue.
- Liability and Risk for Leaders Webinar, Vermont League of Cities and Towns
- Letter from resident about garbage on surrounding properties on Sunderland Hill Rd. Will communicate with the Zoning Admin.
- Bruce Mattison asks follow-up about deed for other Sunderland Hill Property, waiting on town council.

15. Executive session, if needed.

16. Next Regular Business Meeting for the Sunderland Selectboard will be April 8, 2024
7PM

17. Adjourn at 8:34 pm.

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