

**Town of Sunderland Selectboard Meeting
Monday May 13, 2024, at 7:00 PM**

Members in Attendance:

Dixie Zens
Todd Lawrence
Marty Nadler
Andrew McKeever
Bruce Mattison

Others in Attendance:

Mia Smith
Jim Henderson
Kim Knapp
David Kiernan
Lorien Alvarnaz

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, Jim Henderson from BCRC, Zoning Administrator David Kiernan.

3. Approval of the minutes of April 22nd, Selectboard Meeting

Mover: Marty Nadler
2nd: Todd Lawrence
Result: Passed

- Approval of minutes of May 7th, Special STR Meeting

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

- Correction on page 2, Wilson Beebe instead of Wilson David.

4. Public Comment-none

5. Upgrading Culverts and Storm Water Containment – Jim Henderson – BCRC

- Stormwater master plan created in 2017 by Jim Henderson and Shelley Styles (now retired), then apply for grants for towns to use in hiring engineers.
- Identify areas throughout the town where there are ongoing erosion issues, consulting with selectboard and then working closely with road foreman.
- Projects must go to bid because of procurement policy. BCRC often works with the same engineering company (Fitzgerald Environmental), supporting requirements of the clean water act, and on hydrologically connected roads.
- State of Vermont provides grants for towns to participate, a 20% matching grant.
- BCRC's current plan is from 2017, but wants to bring it up to date working with current town boards and employees to address issues.
- Intend to identify a couple projects, to then apply grant and aid from the state. Or identify a larger project to apply for better roads grant in the fall.
- Dixie Zens introduces Bruce Mattison as liaison with the road crew, and asks to keep him abreast with projects.
- Bruce Mattison says that Marc Johnston is waiting on BCRC to come back to town with potential projects.
- Jim Henderson says that the town currently has a grant through VTRANS from last year, with a letter of intent from the town to take part (recalls its amount being about \$20k, which town has to match by 20%). An extension was made from July 2023 flooding, but Jim Henderson encourages Marc Johnston and the town to identify projects (e.g. 15" culvert that needs to be updated to 18", stone-line ditching, etc).
- In the next week or so, VTRANS will again award grant and aid, which will provide more funding that should be taken advantage of.
- Jim Hendersons remembers Marc Johnston saying that there are many 15" culverts around town that can be updated.
- Kelly Stand has received two of the last grants. Bentley Hill Road, Prouty Hill Road- all have received aid as high priority projects identified through the 2017 BCRC plan.
- Bruce Mattison says that Jim Henderson and Marc Johnston should meet and make decisions, then report back to town.
- Jim Henderson says that projects already in the pipeline often qualify, and then grant money can be easily applied. Encourages the town to go after higher amount grants so they can plan ahead for bigger work projects/road updates if needed.

- Bruce Mattison says that most of the projects identified in 2017 report have mostly been completed, save some of the big dollar amount projects (often due to cost, but also time, materials, and labor).
- Jim Henderson and Bruce Mattison discuss whether issues from Hurricane Irene have been replaced or repaired.

6. Sunderland Church Restoration Update – Marty

- Northshire Community Land Trust had a meeting at church, interested in assuming responsibility of the Sunderland church.
- Marty Nadler and Janet Hurley have composed an intake form for the Village Trust application, which will be submitted under the Northshire Community Land Trust name, as a 501c3.
- Meeting with Marty Nadler, Rob Zeif, board members from Land Trust, and Town Council to make a Memorandum of Understanding so that all parties can move forward to manage church as a community asset.
- Dixie Zens asks for status of finding heirs. The Town Council may have to get a court order, but is pursuing a potential heir in California. Eventually hope to clear ownership so the church can transfer to Northshire as a 501c3.
- Bruce Mattison asks if the current church trustees have any documentation that entitle them as trustees/managers. Marty Nadler says that there is paperwork from the last 40 years or so that have identified them, but nothing official before then.

7. ARPA Funds Update – Marty

- Marty Nadler reports that a copy of the agenda will be posted for the next meeting on June 30th, in preparation for the July Selectboard meeting.
- Plan to present survey and identify project priorities at the Selectboard meeting.

8. Road Liaison Report – Bruce

- Bridge is fixed! Board has rave reviews for excellent work done.
- Bike path work is about to get going, waiting to find out about a grant for paving.
- Doing repairs up at Kelly Stand.
- Waiting for guard rail over river near Casella.

- Discussion about cost of guard rails and where they are sourced/being transported from.

9. Emergency Management Coordinator's Report – Todd

- Recent plan was submitted to BCRC, which submits it to the state.
- Todd Lawrence will attend the regional emergency management committee in Manchester on May 14th.
- Incident Command course in Bennington recently.

10. Energy Committee & Green Up Day Report– Andrew

- Andrew McKeever says many residents came out to help, road crew came and picked up bags.
- Energy Fair at Arlington Rec Park on Sat, June 1st.
- Next October, window dressers project, help at First congregational church in Manchester Village. Oct 18-23rd. If you are interested, orders are being taken now.
- Considering putting an energy dashboard to measure town energy expenditure (similar to Shaftbury's).
- Next Meeting May 29th at 7pm, on Zoom.
- Bruce Mattison asks if an energy audit happens every year at Town Hall. Dixie Zens says that no, they are just doing an in depth audit to see if the building qualifies for grants for heat pumps.

11. CUD Update – Andrew

- About 17 households in Bennington County remain unconnected, accessible only from out of state. Need financing for RFP to hire out of state companies to run the internet to the last few households.

12. BCRC, BCSWA Update – Dixie

- Facility in Bennington opens next week, call/go online to make an appointment.
- BCRC has their annual meeting on Thursday at Arlington Inn.

13. The Planning Commission “Short Term Rental” ordinance for the Selectboard’s consideration. Review May 7th Special Meeting and Public Comments.

- See below.

14. Zoning Administrator Report – David Kiernan

- Dave Kiernan will follow up on last week's special STR meeting, need another public hearing, potentially June 24th.
- Considering Roaring Branch cabin owners requests for exemption.
- Continue to do research and consider insights from both special meetings.
- With greater than 4BR limit that the Selectboard just passed, David Kiernan says he has seen across the state that a full fire inspection and certification are necessary.
- Marty Nadler clarifies what exemption from Roaring Branch David Kiernan referred to. David Kiernan says the point about sleeping lofts, but the Planning Commission will read over the bylaw and review other towns to see what level of specificity they will use.
- The other exemption about deeded use is so specific, the town could likely just add that to the bylaw.
- Any room being rented is considered a public dwelling and will still need a certificate of occupancy for fire safety, which David Kiernan says might be too specific for Sunderland but they are reviewing it.

– a. Existing and new permits status

- David Kiernan says that property outside of town hall had a permit inquiry from ARPA committee. Will call Elijah who does wetland management in the area, to find out any new information and inform the committee and board.
- Marty Nadler says if a wetland engineering study is needed, they could apply ARPA funds.
- Public hearing for Casella coming up, they want to expand the maintenance shop. Because of Act 250 it needs a warned hearing.
- Because more trucks are in Sunderland Casella operation, the operation permit will have to be updated.
- Board and ZA decide that David Kiernan will give an update every first meeting of the month.

15. Old Business-

– a. Dog Issue- no update.

– b. Summer Town Gathering for a luncheon – suggested by the Planning Commission discussed at the special meeting on May 7th.

- Considering possible locations, then will devise more plans.

16. New Business-

- Caitlyn Hawley applied for Secretary of Selectboard, Dixie Zens will contact her and ask her to come to the next meeting.
- Dixie Zens asks for motion to sign contract for Woodward for work on bike path. Compensation was \$10,959 (grant funded, with some matched funds).

Mover: Bruce Mattison

2nd: Todd Lawrence

Result: Passed

- Susan Whitney will be out of the office 5/17-5/27.

17. Executive session, if necessary

- Entered 7:59 pm. Discussing contract with Sheriff's department.

Mover: Marty Nadler

2nd: Bruce Mattison

Result: Passed

- Exited 8:14 pm.

Mover: Marty Nadler

2nd: Bruce Mattison

Result: Passed

18. Review of Correspondence/Signing of warrants.

19. Next Business Meeting for the Sunderland Selectboard will be June 10th, 2024 at 7PM.

20. Adjourn at 8:15 pm.

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

Join Selectboard Zoom Meeting Topic: Town of Sunderland Vermont's Zoom Meeting

Time: May 13, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98587163449?pwd=ZFpqVUREK2J5cHBwNnd0aHVBaFIHQ09>

Meeting ID: 985 8716 3449

Passcode: 068348