

**Town of Sunderland Selectboard Meeting
Monday June 10, 2024, at 7:00 PM**

Members in Attendance:

Dixie Zens
Todd Lawrence
Marty Nadler
Andrew McKeever
Bruce Mattison

Others in Attendance:

Mia Smith
Dave Kiernan

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

2. Introduction of Board Members: Todd Lawrence, Marty Nadler, Dixie Zens, Bruce Mattison, Andrew McKeever. Secretary Mia Smith, Zoning Administrator (ZA) David Kiernan.

3. Approval of the minutes of May 13th, Selectboard Meeting

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

4. Public Comment-none.

5. Sunderland Church Restoration Update – Marty

- Northshire Community Land Trust voting to assume responsibility of property.
- Waiting to hear from Town Council if she's made contact with heir, if not, town will advertise in paper.
- Land Trust and BCRC are moving forward with engineering and environmental studies.

- Lyman Orton has chosen to withdraw support from the project, as it will not be commercially developed.
- A full rehab may cost nearly \$1 million.
- Dixie Zens had discussion with the Planning Commission and they'd like to be kept in the loop. Asks for an update on MOU.
- Marty Nadler says Rob Zeif and himself are working on MOU, trying to get agreement onto one document, all other stakeholders are waiting on that.

6. ARPA Funds Update – Marty

- Meeting scheduled for June 30th, will be creating a final presentation to bring to the Selectboard in July.
- New request from Jeff Dexter for one time funding of \$500, for window inserts project (aka window dressers).
- Bruce Mattison asks if the board had agreed to avoid putting funds toward the church. Marty Nadler says the agreement was to not commit to any recurring funds.
- Another request from Jeff Dexter for \$1500 for environmental/engineering report “summary letter” (by wetland scientists from DuBois and King) of Town Hall land for building of proposed gazebo (proposed ARPA project).
- Dave Kiernan says that the land was surveyed in 2013 and considered wetlands, report lasts 5 years.
- Delineation study costs ~\$8,000 (says Dave Kiernan based on project by Chris Heinz done in Shaftesbury.)
- Dixie Zens asks for motion to pursue \$1500 fee for “summary letter.”
- Todd Lawrence brings up prioritizing towns' vote on use of ARPA funds, before they start chipping away at the ARPA funds.
- Board decides to table all votes on ARPA funds, so that the ARPA committee can make a plan/list of projects.
- Village Trust Initiative grant has been submitted.

7. Road Liaison Report – Bruce

- Marc and crew have been hauling gravel and fixing up back roads.
- Town awarded grant for paving, will be starting 1/3 mile past town garage all the way to Bacon Hollow.
- Mowing, grading.
- Todd Lawrence asks if the meeting with Jim Henderson from BCRC has happened. Bruce Mattison says it is a coming up.

8. Emergency Management Coordinator's Report – Todd

- Attended quarterly regional management meeting since last Selectboard.
- Vermont Emergency MGMT announces FEMA funds, with 25% local matching, about \$70 million for VT floods in 2023. President has removed the need for matching so projects will be 100% funded.
- Todd Lawrence recommends board and road crew to use this opportunity for some of the big price tag projects identified in plan/meeting with Jim Henderson from BCRC.

9. Energy Committee – Andrew

- Last meeting May 29th, discussed Arlington Energy Fair.
- Possible forum in 2024, about \$3k left, so debating what topics might be (an idea is success stories with transition to renewable).
- 600# litter/90 bags collected on Green Up Day.
- Two members from the energy committee will be moving away, so looking to fill those seats.
- Manchester Energy Fair, June 15, at Manchester Town Hall.

10. CUD Update – Andrew

- Election of new officers, Terrance Dorsey made board chair.
- Discussed working with Lamoille and Otter Valley CUD's.
- Vermont Communication Union District Association (VCUDA), membership is expensive so discussion on whether they should remain members.

11. Community Visit - Andrew

- VT Council of Rural Development (VCRD) visit to occur in 2025, does the town want that to happen in January, or in spring around April?
- Opening meeting/community dinner is the main event, hopefully with a large turn out from the town to discuss vision and initiatives for the future.
- VCRD would be paying for mailings, and the town would pay for dinner.
- Todd Lawrence asks what the VCRD role in the process, Andrew McKeever says that they facilitate meetings, bring in experts, etc.

- VCRD is currently working with 4 other towns the remainder of this year, Sunderland would be the only Bennington County project.
- Bruce Mattison says he doesn't know the point as the town is so small, without a gas station or grocery store, what is the vision?
- Andrew McKeever says he initiated this because he felt that the town has changed significantly in the last year or so and this might encourage folks to take action and be involved. Potential to discuss future vision and town needs (e.g. grocery store, fixing culverts, planning for solar field, climate change planning, etc).
- Dixie Zens says he thinks it's a great idea, trying to get folks together is important. Marty Nadler says creating a sense of community is good for the town. Todd Lawrence says that the cost is a concern.
- Andrew McKeever says that cost is roughly \$2k for community dinner, out of the ARPA funds, but that is the only expense.

12. BCRC, BCSWA Update – Dixie

- Meeting was on June 5th, in Arlington.
- Alliance of all towns in Bennington CO., vote on budget which increased about \$300
- Hazardous Waste facility open, schedule online, make appointments online or call.

13. Zoning Administrator Report – David Kiernan

- Before next meeting, will make a list of permits.
- 3 new permits in last few weeks.
- Project on 7A, access road still being built.
- Will look at town plan about energy source, in case the town wants a solar field, will need an enhanced energy plan. Dixie Zens asks ZA to talk to the Planning Commission about this as well.
- Update on STR bylaw, may switch it to an ordinance based on communication with Town Council, which will just delay schedule by two weeks. Ordinance might be more applicable in Sunderland.
- Asked Town Clerk if anyone in town has a judicial code which will impact choice between bylaw and ordinance..

- Casella is expanding its maintenance depot, nearly doubling the size of the current one (closing Shaftbury facility). Original permit required subsequent hearing for expansion. Hearing June 26th.
- Marty Nadler asks if there will be any tax implications, ZA says it will go through town listers. First assessment was over \$1 million.
- Orvis doing research on zoning and land use of property. ZA informed Orvis' attorney group to use Act 250 as guideline.
- Bylaw rewrites ongoing, creating index, incorporating new home act.

14. Old Business-

- Dog Issue has been thrown out of court, could be appealed.
- Town sign approved, 5 to be made, Mike Pugliese having them made and installed. Need to identify exact locations for placement. (7A north and south, Sunderland Hill north and South, and Kansas Rd by Arlington line).
- Board would like an estimate.
- Sheriff's contract changes are 9.2 hours per week (down from ~13 hours), 15% of service will occur nights and weekends, patrols will happen on main town roads.
- Dixie Zens asks for motion to sign new contract that fits new proposed budget.
- Bruce Mattison clarifies if contract goes from July1-July1, Marty Nadler says yes.

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

- The Secretary position is open, please be in touch with the Town Clerk if interested.

15. New Business-

- Asks for motion to sign contract for bridge repair/paving for work in Covered Bridge

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

- VLTC provides no insurance coverage for covered bridge repairs because damage wasn't caused by crash, etc.
- Diesel price estimate from Irving.

- Gary Lieb from Irving Oil speaks up from Zoom to clarify the difference between clear and dyed diesel. That there would be tax on road diesel. He says the town is currently with Orr/Dead River.
- ZA mentioned that there is a state tax exemption town has applied for in the past, and Marc Johnston can look into again.
- Excess Weight permit for Woodard to be signed by Bruce Mattison

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

- Ed Pike Tree Service, \$1,400/day for tree work in town. Dixie Zens asks for motion:

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

16. Executive session, if necessary

- Entered at 8:04pm

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

- Exited at 8:30pm

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

17. Review of Correspondence/Signing of warrants.

18. Next Business Meeting for the Sunderland Selectboard will be June 24, 2024 7PM

19. Adjourn at 8:31 pm.

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