

**Town of Sunderland Selectboard Meeting  
Monday July 22, 2024, at 7:00 PM**

Members in Attendance:

Dixie Zens  
Todd Lawrence  
Marty Nadler  
Andrew McKeever  
Bruce Mattison

Others in Attendance:

Kim Knapp  
Monica Finan  
Ray Finan  
Janet Hurley (BCRC)  
Jeff Dexter  
Rick Timmerman  
Maria Timmerman

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.
3. Approval of the minutes of June 22nd, Selectboard Meeting
  - Mover: Marty
  - 2nd: Bruce
  - Result: Pass
4. Public Comment- Rick Timmerman inquired about the current balance in the Special Projects Fund. Marty provided that there is roughly a \$262,500 balance.
5. Sunderland Church Restoration Update – Marty and Janet Hurley (BCRC)
  - Janet Hurley provides update on project status
  - Discussion on a potential agreement with Stevens and Associates for conditions assessment and limited feasibility study
    - Funded fully by existing MTAP grant
    - Assessment costs \$20,000
    - Current MTAP Allocation:
      - \$15,000 BCRC project administration
      - \$10,000 Legal
      - \$20,000 Stevens and Associates for assessments

- Northshire Land Trust is still interested in taking over project
- Current ownership still undetermined per legal counsel
  - Legal search continues from the 1890 deed conveyance
  - A court order is possibly needed to name Northshire Land Trust as owner if no clear owner found
- Maria Timmerman raised questions on church ownership and town moving forward. Janet Hurley provided answer:
  - One possible heir located in California but communication not successfully established at this time
  - Legally ok to move forward with conditions assessment and studies
  - No funds coming out of town budget
- Ray Finan question regarding Northshire Land Trust intentions with church. Marty provided an answer of possible Northshire Land Trust future uses to fund rehabilitation and included that a memorandum still needs to be completed.

Motion to authorize Dixie to sign proposal to forward with Steven & Associates for Conditions Assessment and limited feasibility study on Union Church

Mover: Marty  
 2nd: Andrew  
 Result: Passed

- BCRC will keep Dixie and Rob Zeif from Planning advised

#### 6. ARPA Funds Update – Marty

- Marty presented findings of the ARPA committee to Selectboard for future discussion and possible action
- Todd presented a draft of a Funding Allocation Matrix for review and consideration. Matrix could provide some structure to funding requests

#### 7. Road Liaison Report – Bruce

- Paving work done and painting partially completed
- Culvert work on Kelley Stand Rd
- Gravel work along shoulders throughout town
- Comcast estimate for garage telecom needs to be discussed with Road Forman
- Todd inquired on if recent storms have impacted our gravel usage. Bruce was not aware of any substantial gravel repairs needed due to storms

#### 8. Emergency Management Coordinator's Report – Todd

- Update on latest storm event. No observed major damage
- Social media is still being explored to get emergency management related messaging out to the town
- REMC quarterly meeting at Arlington High School August 13th

#### 9. Energy Committee – Jeff Dexter

- Committee needs two new members due to former member departures from town
- Energy assessments results expected mid/late August
  - Assessments unlock potential funding opportunities
- Working meeting to discuss survey results and committee
- Window Dressers Oct 18th-23rd at First Congregational Church in Manchester
- Bruce inquired about Town Garage energy audit
  - Jeff Dexter informed the audit process

#### 10. CUD Update – Andrew

- Longer term sustainability discussions and potential partnerships or mergers with other CUDs in the state
- Next meeting Wednesday July 24th via zoom

#### 11. Community Visit - Andrew

- Andrew still in discussion with members of Vermont Council on Rural Development
  - Spring community meal after town meeting possibly in April 2025
  - Discussion on whether Selectboard would like to continue moving forward
  - After discussion, Andrew will move forward with VCRD

#### 12. BCRC, BCSWA Update – Dixie

- State inspecting water quality in southern Vermont
  - Sunderland has a good environment and no major water quality projects required

#### 13. Old Business- None

#### 14. New Business-

- Internal Financial Control Checklist provided by Town Treasurer to Selectboard

Motion for Dixie to sign Internal Financial Control Checklist

Mover: Bruce

2nd: Marty

Result: Pass

- Irving Energy diesel and propane unsolicited proposal
- Primary voting August 13th 10am-7pm at Town Hall
- Jeff Dexter brought up 'Lost Nation' viewing at Arlington Common August 13th
  - Lost Nation highlights local historical figures Lucy Prince and Ethan Allen
- Updated Open Meeting Law posted on town website
- Andrew advised that Sunderland's 250th commemoration committee has been provided a \$1000 grant from Vermont Forward.
  - Bennington County 250th Kickoff Gala August 17th at Equinox Hotel

- Visit <https://www.bennington250.org/> for more information

15. Executive session- None

16. Review of Correspondence/Signing of warrants.

- Next Business Meeting for the Sunderland Selectboard will be August 5th, 2024 7PM

17. Adjourn at: 8:28pm

Mover: Marty

2nd: Bruce

Result: Passed