

**Town of Sunderland Selectboard Meeting  
Monday August 26th, 2024, at 7:00 PM**

Members in Attendance:

Dixie Zens  
Todd Lawrence  
Andrew McKeever  
Bruce Mattison  
Marty Nadler

Others in Attendance:

David Kiernan - Zoning Administrator  
Melanie Virgilio - Taconic and Green School Board Rep for Sunderland  
Rob Zeif - Planning Commission  
Irene Nadler  
Kim Knapp  
Rick Timmerman  
Maria Timmerman

1. Call to Order by Dixie Zens at 7:00 pm.
2. Introduction of Board Members: Todd Lawrence, Dixie Zens, Bruce Mattison, Andrew McKeever, Marty Nadler
3. Approval of the minutes for August 6th, Selectboard Meeting

Mover: Andrew  
2nd: Dixie  
Result: Pass

4. Public Comment- Melanie Virgilio
  - T&G provided an update on the fiscal feasibility of operating 5 schools in the district. Cites costs and low enrollment. T&G will be meeting Monday Sept 9th at 6:30pm at Sunderland Elementary School regarding the future of the school and consolidation. Initial meeting only and will not be a final vote. Informs board that if the school did close, the town could possibly buy back the property for \$1
  - Todd inquired if other schools in the district are at risk
    - Melanie informed that Sunderland is the school that is at the bottom of the list
    - One other school has same challenges in district
5. Review and discussion on the proposed Short Term Rental Ordinance – David Kiernan
  - Switch from proposed bylaw to ordinance was mainly for enforceability
    - Ordinance allows for violations to be reported by residents
    - Bylaw required violations to be witnessed by Zoning Administrator

- STR units are also regulated under the VT Division of Fire Safety
  - Operators have health and safety responsibilities to their guests
  - Requirements for fire/life/safety (FLS) are separate from ordinance
- Proposed Ordinance is posted on town website
- Next steps in Ordinance adoption:
  - Selectboard will need to adopt ordinance
  - 15 day notice is required so looking at 2nd Selectboard meeting in September

6. Sunderland Church Restoration Update - Rob Zeif

- Northshire Community Land Trust (NCLT) has requested changes and comments to proposed MOU
  - If ownership transfer moves forward, the Sunderland Church under Northshire Community Land Trust would ask Town of Sunderland for assistance seeking grants
  - Town of Sunderland still would not be required to contribute town funds
  - Town requests for no fee and reasonable use of structure and property
- BCRC will be attending Planning Commission meeting on 08/28
- Stephens and Associates beginning survey Wednesday 08/28
- State will be paying for environmental studies
  - If NCLT interest falls through then having studies completed might help town for future use with other parties
- Town Attorney Conflict of Interest Form
  - Woolmington, Campbell, Bent, & Stasny, P.C. represents both Sunderland and NCLT
  - Attorney requesting Selectboard Chair to sign form and waive any potential conflict of interest claims arising out of Woolmington, Campbell, Bent, & Stasny, P.C. representing NCLT
  - Motion made for Selectboard Chair to sign and submit form

Mover: Marty

2nd: Andrew

Result: Pass

7. Special Projects Funds Update - Marty

- Selectboard still needs to decide on spending allocation
- Motion to hold future public meeting on a weekday to discuss Special Project Fund allocation planning

Mover: Marty

2nd: Bruce

Result: Pass

#### 8. Road Liaison Report – Bruce

- No new updates
- Crews working on backroads
- White edge markings on newly paved portion of Sunderland Hill Rd are completed
- Mowing still in progress

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

- Bennington County Regional Emergency Management Committee held meeting last week
- Toured Arlington Memorial High School
  - Viewed emergency shelter supplies and facilities
  - Discussed how emergency shelter would be setup if needed

#### 10. Energy Committee – Andrew

- Upcoming zoom meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 08/28
- Window dressers project for Northshire 10/17-10/23 at 1st Congregational Church in Manchester Village
- Bruce inquired about the status of recently conducted town building energy audits
  - Report needs to be reviewed for next Selectboard meeting

#### 11. CUD Update – Andrew

- No new updates
- Meeting on Google Meet this Wednesday 08/28 6pm
  - Long term fiscal sustainability will be discussed
  - Potential merging or partnerships with other CUD's
  - Looking for Treasurer and bookkeeping
- Dixie inquired about status of local fiber completion
  - Fiber install in town now depends on residents inquiring about home/business hookup. Individuals can find that info on Fidium website
- Rob Zeif inquires about long term goal of all residents getting fiber
  - CUD mandate is if a town resident would like high speed internet they can get it. Resident will need to make request on Fidium website

#### 12. Community Visit – Andrew

- No new updates
- Vermont Council on Rural Development conference was attended and VCRD reps will plan on presenting info at a Selectboard meeting in November or December
- Community visit still proposed for April or May

#### 13. BCRC, BCSWA Update – Dixie

- Next meeting mid September
- BCRC working on Union Church project

14. Welcome to Sunderland Signs - Rob Zeif

- No new updates
- 1 proposed sign location will need to be adjusted before install
- Rick Timmerman mentions flashing bridge height sign inoperative near town garage
  - Bruce will follow-up with highway crew
- Discussion will attendees on covered bridge being struck by vehicles and possible methods to try and limit

15. Old Business -

- Todd discussed information provided by State Rep. James on Local Option Tax and location following previous Selectboard meeting

16. New Business- Reappointment of Town Health Officer

- State advised that Town Health Officer needs to be appointed
- Current Health Officer Kevin Hewes wishes to remain in position
- Motion made to reappoint Kevin Hewes as Town Health Officer

Mover: Bruce

2nd: Marty

Result: Pass

17. Executive session was not necessary

18. Review of Correspondence/Signing of warrants

**Next Business Meeting for the Sunderland Selectboard will be Monday September 23, 2024 at 7pm**

- Discussion on canceling scheduled 9/9 meeting due to conflict with T&G Special Meeting on Sunderland Elementary School and school reorganization

Mover: Todd

2nd: Bruce

Result: Pass

19. Adjourn at: 8:07pm

Mover: Marty

2nd: Andrew

Result: Pass