

Town of Danville
Selectboard Minutes
August 24, 2021
Danville Town Hall (6:00 pm)

Board Members Using Microsoft Teams: Eric Bach, Kellie Merrell, Kristin Franson (6:49 pm) and Peter Griffin

Board Members Present: Ken Linsley

Others Present Using Microsoft Teams: Greg Prior

Others Present: Audrey DeProspero, Barb Fontaine, Gary Fontaine, Michael Hogue, Walter McNeil, Jenni Lavoie, Alison Low and Libby Hillhouse

Meeting was called to order by Chair Ken Linsley at 6:00 pm.

1. *Motion by Kellie Merrell, 2nd by Eric Bach to approve **minutes** of the **Regular meeting of August 5, 2021** as written. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.*

2. **Visitor:**

- a) Barbara Fontaine – Donation of Granite Bench to the North Danville Community Center – a donation of a granite bench or a metal bench (similar to ones outside St. Johnsbury Courthouse) in memory of Hap and Betty Hutchins (mother and father to Barbara Fontaine) was requested to be placed at the North Danville School grounds around the flag pole.

Location of the bench was discussed along with dimensions, sizes and types. Noted was the location had to be agreed upon by the Highway Foreman.

The North Danville Community Club and the School Association have reviewed the request and are on board with the donation and placement.

Keith Gadapee was okay with the placement and location of either type of bench chosen as plowing could be done around the bench.

Consensus is in favor of bench donation to be placed at the North Danville Community Center.

- b) Libby Hillhouse (arrival 7:22pm) – Target Practice Concern – seeking an ordinance for gun shooting. Concern is for the safety of individuals. Discussed was close proximity of houses in the Village area.

Eric Bach discussed ordinance having areas listed such as Village Residential and Village Center and then working the zoning area outwards along with time limit.

Kristin Franson discussed public areas and range of shooting distance being established.

Peter Griffin spoke of density and zoning levels.

Ken Linsley spoke of noise and the state statute for noise being an issue handled by the State Police.

Libby Hillhouse noted noise was not a major issue to her property as she only heard it twice. Her concern was more of a safety issue.

Kellie Merrell spoke of Montpelier's ordinance regarding Use of Arms.

Ken Linsley discussed addressing distance but the discharging of fire arms is addressed under hunting.

Discussed was contacting Fish and Game and the Fish and Game Warden along with the specific individual who was doing the shooting.

Ken Linsley discussed the ordinance process.

c) Walter McNeil – NEKWMD:

- The District meeting was held Tuesday, August 10th.
- Plastic and cardboard is still going up in value.
- The District now has three trucks.
- The District is preparing for next year's budget.
- They are awaiting approval for two of the four groups for composting.
- An eight hour Mediation Session with Town of Lyndon was held with persons from the District but no decisions were made.

d) Jenni Lavoie, Planning Commission Chair – Grant Administrator and VOREC Project –

Letter of Interest for Vermont Outdoor Recreation Grant (VOREC)

Jenni Lavoie discussed letter of intent, wayfinding signage and feasibility study for freight side of train station. The VOREC does not require a match from the Town and will move forward the recommendations from the Village to Village project. The VOREC program funds community projects that go beyond trails. The focus is on projects that connect outdoor recreation and a community's greater economic vitality and other co-benefits such as health and wellness.

Alison Low noted she would be attending a Zoom meeting at 11am tomorrow with Belmont Hut's Initiative to establish recreation huts along the rail trail. The company is working with host towns around the area.

Motion by Kellie Merrell, 2nd by Peter Griffin to support the Letter of Interest for Vermont Outdoor Recreation Grant (VOREC). Vote 4-0-0. (Kristin Franson absent) Motion carries.

Grant Administrator

Jenni Lavoie discussed proposal for hiring a Part Time Grant Administrator Coordinator. There are a lot of opportunities going on with State grants and volunteer groups are at capacity to take on new projects, so grant opportunities might be missed. If the position works with ARPA funds, then this position may be funded by ARPA money.

Ken Linsley noted this would not be a long term commitment. The person/position could be more focused on what the Town should go after or the Town could hire someone to go after all funds however the position description would need a purpose and intent.

Peter Griffin thought the position would be helpful and wondered if there was some way to contour the position to be on a contract.

Ken Linsley noted the Selectboard would need to provide direction for this position.

Eric Bach discussed knowledge of a grant contractor who was paid an hourly rate and a portion of the grants received, they were a subcontractor.

Ken Linsley noted NVDA sends out newsletters along with VLCT and the state, so the person could match Town desires and needs to these publications.

Kellie Merrell favors hiring a Grant Coordinator and noted the benefits would outweigh the cost.

Ken Linsley suggested to put out feelers for persons with this type of capabilities and put an agreement together.

Consensus was to move forward with Grant Administrator search.

3. **Town Clerk** (Wendy Somers)

- Liquor Permit - Eden Ice Cider Company - Special Events Permit for Autumn on the Green.

Motion by Kellie Merrell, 2nd by Peter Griffin to approve the Special Events Permit for Eden Ice Cider for Autumn on the Green. Vote 3-0-1. (Eric Bach abstained) (Kristin Franson absent) Motion carries.

Selectboard discussed having participants of Autumn on the Green submit their Special Events Permits to Selectboard before September 16th.

- Town Internship Program – has not heard from Selectboard.

Selectboard suggested for Wendy Somers to fill out the form and submit information.

- Sewer Permit inquiry – are sewer permits still on hold.

Ken Linsley noted yes.

4. **Highway Foreman** (Keith Gadapee)

- Peacham Road paving 100% complete.
- Advisory Lane on Peacham Road – other towns have done this on their own but the area is not MUTCD compliant. There is concern for liability of the Town. The Town can apply to extend the experiment for another season but we do not know what the FHWA extension application process is at this point.

Ken Linsley thought the Town should keep the advisory lane but the Town should not take on the liability and suggested to check with PACIF the Town's liability carrier.

Peter Griffin sought recommendation of Keith Gadapee.

Keith Gadapee supports the bike lane but feels that the one year test period has been completed. He did not know what extending the experimental lane would prove other than what it already had. He feels the experiment shows the need for a more permanent solution down the Peacham Road for the mix of pedestrians, bicycles and vehicle traffic.

Kellie Merrell thought conducting it would get them ultimate approval but investigation has shown that it would take years. She favors going with the temporary bike lane.

Selectboard favored bike lane but suggested checking with VLCT regarding liability concerns.

5. **Issues and Information** (All) *(Kristin Franson entered the meeting at 6:49 pm)*

- (a) **Proposals for Concrete Work for MMIG for new Recycle Building** – one proposal received from Ross Page Foundations LLC in the amount of \$11,300 with various suggestions which would increase the price slightly.

Keith Gadapee to review the submitted information.

Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Kellie Merrell to accept the submitted proposal contingent upon getting approval to build and Keith Gadapee's review. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.

- (b) **Use of Town Hall 2nd Floor – Movie Night** – at the August 5th Selectboard meeting, Chelsea Hewitt requested the use of the 2nd floor of Town Hall on Saturday, October 23rd from 6:30 pm until 11:00 pm for two back to back movies. Selectboard deferred the vote as there were three members present and one was abstaining.

Eric Bach spoke of the event being a nonprofit Chamber sponsored event.
Peter Griffin discussed the event having a caterer and if a precedent was being set.

Eric Bach spoke of Holiday on the Green whereas the Chamber sponsored event used the 2nd floor and the vendors sold goods.

Kellie Merrill was concerned about COVID but favored the community event. Suggested was to allow the event, waive the fee and suggest mask wearing.

Motion by Kristin Franson, 2nd by Peter Griffin to approve the use of Town Hall's 2nd floor for Movie Night on October 23rd subject to COVID current restrictions, CDC and VT Health Department rules, and with fees waived. Vote 4-0-1 (Eric Bach abstained). Motion carries.

- (c) **Autumn on the Green – Vote** – at the August 5th Selectboard meeting, Dawn Pastula and Wendy Larrabee requested use of Town Green from October 1st through the 3rd for set up of Autumn on the Green which will take place on Sunday, October 3rd from 10am until 4pm.

Motion by Kellie Merrell, 2nd by Peter Griffin to approve the Use of the Town Green for Autumn on the Green as in prior years. Vote 4-0-1 (Eric Bach abstained). Motion carries.

- (d) **Sewer Update** – Ken Linsley – no new information. Mike Sullivan has not gotten back to Ken Linsley with regards to what could be done with capacity.
- (e) **Sheriff Report posting** – Ken Linsley – the Town receives information on tickets violations from the Sheriff's Department. A suggestion was to post this information to the Town's website to let people know that the Town is working on enforcing speed limits.

Consensus is to post to home page of Town's website.

Informational Items – Ken Linsley

The State has requested towns to report special events from December 2021 until November 2022 that have 1,000 attendees. This criteria limits the items in Danville to the Town Fair and Autumn on the Green.

Consensus is for Ken to report the information to the State.

VT Digger – Nine counties in Vermont use masks inside public meetings. The Governor's Emergency Order has expired. The Town can do a Town wide mask mandate but there is no enforcement. The Selectboard can require people whether vaccinated or not to wear a mask upon entry to Town buildings.

Recommendation was to protect employees and people coming in to Town buildings. Also recommended was to publish information on the Town's website based on the CDC's recommendation that both vaccinated and unvaccinated people wear masks in indoor public settings, the Selectboard has opted to recommend face masks be worn upon entry to Town buildings.

Consensus is to recommend people whether vaccinated or not wear face mask in doors while in Town owned buildings.

6. **Financials:** Orders to review and sign

Motion by Kellie Merrell, 2nd by Kristin Franson to authorize Chair Ken Linsley to review and sign the Financial Orders on behalf of the Selectboard. Vote 5-0-0. All in favor.

7. **Adjourn** – *Motion by Kristin Franson, 2nd by Kellie Merrell to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. All in favor.*

Minutes taken by Audrey DeProspero submitted August 30, 2021 at 3:00 pm.