

Georgia Selectboard Meeting
Monday, May 9, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Approved: May 23, 2016

Present: Selectboard: Chris Letourneau; Matt Crawford; Paul Jansen; Ric Nye; Tara Wright; Mike McCarthy, Town Administrator

Absent: None

Public Present: Mary Smolinski, Brian Wright, Tom Maroney, Mary Myers, Charlie & Janeece Leeuw, Abby Ledoux, Milton Independent, Ken Minck, Bob Heiser, Fred Grimm, Suzanna Brown, Nancy Volatile-Wood and Kent Henderson

Chris Letourneau, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mike McCarthy added the following to the agenda:

1. Add Check Warrants AP #34, AP #35 and PR #19.
2. Confirmation of a motion taken by email appointing Stitzel Page & Fletcher as representatives for the Town with the Vermont Labor Relations Board.

Public Appearance:

Georgia Conservation Commission and some concerned neighbors. Kent Henderson stated that a couple of weeks ago at the Conservation Commission's regular monthly meeting we had guests at the meeting that live on Silver Lake Road which adjoins the Mosely property that we talked to the Selectboard about pursuing the purchase of that property. The neighboring land owners have a few concerns and the Conservation Commission felt that it was best to bring these concerns to the Selectboard.

The State Grant process is in the works. We won't hear anything until the middle of June rather we received the grant or not. At the next Conservation meeting we will select a couple of volunteers to attend the meeting in June with Bob Heiser who will represent our interests at that meeting.

Brian Wright has a couple of points that he questions. First is the financial side of it, is the grant to cover the costs of the property? The grant will cover 50% of the costs of the property. The remaining of the funds will come out of the Conservation Commission budget (using the Conservation Commission Reserve Fund). Is there an escrowed fund to maintain the property after? The Conservation Commission has three funding sources. The Reserve Fund has \$12,000-\$15,000 funded annually; there is a definite mission and guidelines on how the money is to be used. Another fund comes from revenue from the repeater towers on Bovat Road. The final of the third is a line item from the Town Budget. That is where the money is coming from for the purchase and the maintenance will more than likely come from the general fund.

Brian has a few other questions. Do we have a long range and short range plan for the property? What is going to happen to the property, how it is going to be handled when dogs are running around without leashes, when there is hunters on the property, how do we control the people going up to Silver Lake and not ice fishing up there? Who is going to maintain the parking lot and if there is a problem on our behalf, the neighbors, who are we going to call? Where does that lie on the neighbors, we just have to deal with

that? Do we get to call the Conservation Commission at 11:00 at night to deal with that? There is a lot of concern for me with this and specifically hunting, how are we going to handle that. If this land is opened up, I am concerned there is going to be a lot of people up here hunting. So now we want to open this land back up in my back yard, Brian is not in favor of this.

The Town policy is that hunting is allowed on Town Property and we don't think it is in conflict with the Conservation Commission purchasing that property. Hunting is allowed on those properties by in large.

The Conservation Commission states that we haven't formulated any type of plan yet because it is all in the tentative stage as to whether we get funded or not. If this funding source doesn't get approved, then we do not have enough money in the reserve fund to purchase the property. So until we see what happens in June, putting a lot of time and energy into developing a plan, seems like a waste of time at this point until we know if we can go forward.

Brian Wright states, "I don't want it to be like the Health Care Reform, I don't want to push this thing forward and then try to figure it out along the way. Let's figure out what we are doing ahead of time before we put all the money into it." Paul states that one of the contingents that the Selectboard put on these folks when they first brought this to us is that we want a plan because it is easy to buy something and it is a lot harder to maintain and figure out what it looks like 5-10 years down the road. The Selectboards approval is conditional based on the Conservation Commission submitting a "plan" including how the parking is going to be handled because that is a big unknown. Brian also states, "We are also loosing that tax revenue, what plan do you have to make up that loss in tax revenue? The Town's portion of the taxes are like \$700, so taxpayers shouldn't really see a difference on that.

Mary Smolinski states that her property borders the Moseley property on two sides. I have experienced in the past, prior to it being posted, the parking issues and not being able to get out of my driveway often, and really there is nothing you can do. Who do you call? The other concerns that Mary has is overnight camping and poaching of deer. We have had a lot of problems with poaching in the past where the Game Wardens were involved. It is the monitoring and management that Mary is most concerned about.

The Conservation Commission states that the Deere Brooke property also had a lot of issues with squatters before we started working on the property. Once we put the trails in and people knew they were there and started using them on a regular basis, it was amazing how all of the rest of the stuff went away. Those people didn't want to be there because regular people were coming in often enough to keep them out.

Janece Leeuw states that "I appreciate the Moseley's wanting to sell this land to the Town for future generations going forward. I don't know what that area will look like in another 30 years but it is real bonus that we have this opportunity to preserve this land and keep it open, but having said that, to add to the detriment of the neighbors around to have to worry about who is up there and who is doing what. That would be a concern. We have lived there when it was not posted for many years, there were things going on up there, but if it becomes a busy place because of it being a Town property and the wrong kind of people are congregating there, it would be a detriment to the neighbors. I am encouraged that it can be handled in a way that it would be open and a benefit to the Town and future generations. I hope that a plan could be put in place to make it like that. You said at the first meeting that you weren't going to allow motorized vehicles up there, is that the case?"

The Conservation Commission plans on not allowing motorized vehicles on the property. No other properties allow motorized vehicles. Each property has its own individual plan. The Conservation Commission has taken note of the concerns of the citizens. Kent Henderson suggests perhaps a sub-

committee should be created to address these concerns when we know if we receive the grant. The sub-committee usually consists of Conservation Commission members and the public at large.

The land will also be held by the Conservation Land Trust and they have their own rules that everyone must abide by. This also includes a yearly inspection to make sure the land is being used properly.

The Selectboard thanked the Conservation Commission and the neighbors for coming in and discussing their concerns with them. Once we know if we receive the grant, then we will move forward from there. Thank you.

Review of Minutes:

Minutes of the April 25, 2016, regular meeting were reviewed and discussed. Motion made to approve the 4/25/16 regular meeting, as presented, made Matt, second by Ric. No further discussion. All in favor.

Review of Warrants:

Motion to approve Check Warrant Report PR #17 for period end 04/28/16; Check Warrant Report PR #18 for period end 5/05/16; Check Warrant Report PR #19 for period end 5/12/16; Check Warrant Report AP #30 for payroll transfers to Citizens Bank, VMERS DB and VT Dept. of Taxes; Check Warrant Report AP #31 for payment to Hinman Associates, Inc.; Check Warrant Report AP #32 for a payroll transfer to Citizens Bank; Check Warrant Report AP #34 for a payment to Stanton Combs; and Check Warrant Report AP #35 for a payroll transfer to Citizens Bank, made by Matt, second by Paul. No further discussion. All in favor.

Motion to approve Check Warrant Report AP #33, for the general fund, made by Matt, second by Paul. No further discussion. All in favor.

Selectboard Concerns:

None

Unfinished Business Report:

Unfinished

New Business:

None

Action Items:

1. Approve of Community Integration Program (CIP) to use beach pavilion on May 20, 2106.

Motion made to approve of waiving the rental fees for the beach for the CIP Program at BFA, made by Ric, second by Matt. No further discussion. All in favor.

2. Green Up day concern communication from Rob Meader.

3. Special Event Permit application – Boyden Valley Winery Memorial Day event at Homestead Campground.

Motion made to approve of the Boyden Valley Winery Event at Homestead Campground, made by Paul, second by Matt. No further discussion. All in favor.

Administrator's Correspondences and Tasks:

None

Treasurer's Correspondence:

1. Employee accrued time report through April 25, 2016.

General Correspondence:

1. Georgia Library trustees meeting Minutes from April 18, 2106 meeting. The Selectboard had a discussion regarding the minutes.

State of Vermont Correspondence:

1. Vermont DCF – notice of law eliminating town service officer position.

Brochures, Newsletters, Workshops, and Advertisements:

None

Items for Signature:

1. Special Permit – Boyden Valley Winery.

Legal Correspondence:

None

Confidential / Executive Session Items:

1. Legal.

2. Personnel.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m., is requested at this time to discuss Contracts, labor relations agreements with employees, Arbitration or mediation, grievances, other than tax, pending or probable litigation, or confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the Town of Georgia involving the Town, specifically finding that premature general public knowledge of the subject matter would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage, made by Paul, second by Matt. No further discussion. All in favor.

Motion to come out of Executive Session made at 8:31 p.m. by Matt, second by Paul. No further discussion. All in favor.

Motion made out of Executive Session to affirm the e-mail vote of 4-27-2016 to use Stitzel, Page and Fletcher for the purpose of responding to and defending against the charges of five former firefighters of an unfair labor practice and the filing of such with the Vermont Labor Relations Board, made by Paul, second by Matt. No further discussion. All in favor.

Motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. made by Ric, second by Paul. No further discussion. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by Krissy Jenkins.

Monday, May 23, 2016, regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.