Draft Minutes Wednesday November 20, 2019
Town of Brookline Selectboard Agenda

Present:
Selectboard: Gwen Tanza, Joseph Dutton, Bruce Mello, Shelby Brimmer, David Jones -Chair
Members of the public: Mark Bills, Guy Tanza (Town Clerk, Videographer), Dot Maggio (Recorder), Sara Wiswald (Treasurer), Deb Luskin and Sam Farwell

Call the meeting to order:
The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by selectboard chair David Jones

Review changes to agenda if any
Bruce Mello asked to add a few minutes to discuss Town Meeting early on in the meeting. David Jones asked to add a few minutes to discuss new business relating to the Windham County Solid Waste Management District.

Approve minutes from the November 6, 2019 meeting
David Jones moved to approve the minutes from the November 6, 2019 meeting as amended. Seconded by Gwen Tanza. All in favor.

Scheduled members of the public:
David Jones introduced Deb Luskin and Sam Farwell.

6. New Business:

A. Deb Luskin and Sam Farwell represent the Green Mountain Conservancy and wanted to inform the selectboard about the Deer Run Nature Preserve plans and its upcoming meeting on December 4th 2019 at 7 pm in the Williamsville Hall.

In summary - Phase 1 of the Deer Run Nature Preserve which was started almost exactly one year ago was about to have it's closing. This land belonged to the Wilson family and ¾ was paid for by the Vermont Housing and Conservation board in addition to several small grants. Phase 2 of the Deer Run Nature Preserve is land owned by the Mercede family and includes about 626 acres, most of which is in Brookline. The Phase 2 purchase of sale has been signed and the funds for this purchase expect to be available in July of fiscal yer 2020-21. Deb Luskin and Sam Farwell passed out photos of the area and spoke of the need for community support in addition to letters from the planning committee of Brookline and the Selectboard. The Green Mountain Conservancy would like to encourage a Brookline resident to volunteer to be on the board of directors since much of the land in Phase 2 is in Brookline. At this time there is not access to the land or trails from the Brookline is river frontage (2.5 miles). The land can be hunted. Access is via Camp Arden road.

There was a discussion about the hold harmless payments for taxes that the town would receive going forward for this land when it is a part of the conservation project. The project does conform to the town's plan. Further discussion covered wildlife, recreational land use, abbutting land owners, hay fields, sugar bush operations, agricultural uses, taxpayer monies being used (in the form of state grants), future revenues from the land, hiker education, as well as signage and making landowners aware of the proper way to post and register their land with updated signs every year.

A letter of support sent to Karen Freeman is requested by December 31st.

B. Town Report:
Bruce Mello handed out copies of an article written by Deb Luskin in The Commons newspaper about finding the best time to hold and attend the annual town meeting. Deb was commended on her thoughtful article. Brookline has voted to hold the 2020 town meeting on Monday evening March 2 so that more employed residents can participate.

David Jones reviewed the changes that were implemented with last years Town Report. It was reduced in size eliminating non essential reports while maintaining the warning, auditor report and fininational reports as obligated. This reduced the cost for production and mailing. A binder for appropriations will be available during the town meeting as in the past. It was agreed to keep this format for the 2019 report.

C. David Jones will be submitting his resignation to the Windham County Solid Waste Management District after attending the December meeting. The WCSWMD has received an offer from Casella Waste Management about buying back the bins that we and other towns use for recycling purposes. If that were to happen, we will be renting bins adding about $1,000 or so a year to the recycling costs. There are a handful of towns using the recycling bins. December 12th is the last meeting of 2019 that David will attend

7. Old Business
A. Road Equipment Purchase Update
Joseph Dutton discussed the meeting held on November 19th by the Road Equipment Purchasing Committee. The next meeting will be on December 12th. Two machines were priced out including a 2017 model. It was suggested that a brand new model should also be evaluated to see what is on the market.

B. Building Commissioner position
David Jones reviewed what was initially brought up back on April 17th. A description for the position was put together then but was tabled. Mr. Jones noted that he is not opposed to having the position as it would provide a framework for the future - a point person that would still report directly to the selectboard. A redraft of the position will be developed and added to the December 18th agenda for discussion. Gwen Tanza added that she believes that it is important to consider this position going forward. Shelby Brimmer raised her concerns about how many

hats people wear - she is concerned with conflicts of interest and a lack of diversity in Brookline for multiple positions. A discussion about volunteers and the lack there of ensued. Mr. Dutton is optimistic that more people will be willing to get involved in the future.

C. Budget Discussion
The selectboard discussed revenues to the town in the form of expected fees to be collected in the next budgeted year.
The selectboard discussed expenditures for Fund 1. Mr. Dutton questioned how stipends are arrived at. A discussion ensued followed by a request to have the Town Clerk check with VLCT protocol for setting stipends/salaries. Mr. Tanza will email the selectboard the communication he gets from the VLCT lawyer.
Selectboard members continued to review the line items of the budget before them.

D. Special meeting
David Jones hopes that the selectboard will be able to finish the budget during the December 4th regular meeting. If this is not possible, a special meeting will be held.

E.Daycare Building Report
Bruce Mello announced that he is confident that the To-Do Lists for the Day Care building is just about done for 2019. He commended the volunteers who came out to clean up the damage done by the bears near the dumpsters behind the school. Bruce also would like to recognize the craftsmanship and dedication of David Zelesco who did all of the repairs on the building this year.

8 Town Clerk Report
A. Guy Tanza reported the the town of Brookline has only $600 in delinquent taxes yet to be collected. Gwen Tanza is continuing to work on the volumes in the vault.

9 Highways & Roads
A. Mark Bills reported that the road salt account is set up and the bay is full. He will install a delivery ticket box near the shed.
Mark has scheduled the rental of the over the rail mower for next summer in July at a cost of $3,300.00 for a one week rental of 40 plus hours. (it can be run 24 hours a day for 7 days for no additional cost) If the town decides not to rent the machine, the rental company would like to be notified in May.
The Better Back Roads grant has an extended deadline so David would like to identify areas in town that the grant money could be used for.

10. Communications
A. Email
David Jones re: email from Dot Maggio about the Brookline Health Department concerns for the McLain property was discussed. No action other than a mailed letter is anticipated at this time.

David Jones re: email from the Planning Commission which met with the Deer Run Nature Preserve Phase 2 group. Tom Kavat has drafted a letter to the preserve supporting its actions. David Jones will reach out to abutting property owners in town and encourage them to attend the December 4th presentation in Williamsville. Discuss drafting a letter during the December 18th meeting to be sent before December 31st.

B. Regular mail
Vermont Land Trust - Letter from the Green Mountain Conservancy applying for a grant
Letter from Southern Vermont Therapeutic riding center requesting a $500 appropriation
Letter from Southern Vermont Watershed alliance for a $110 appropriation
Letter from the Vermont Department of Health - Notice that the Health officer and Deputy health officer terms expire on December 31 and two new appointments need to be made.

11. Pay orders
David Jones moved that payroll warrant 2020-20 Dated November 9, 2019 in the amount of #1313.15 be approved. Seconded by Shelby Brimmer. All in favor

David Jones moved that account payable warrant 2020-19A dated November 20, 2019 in the amount of $233,274.35 be approved. Seconded by Joseph Dutton All in favor

David Jones moved that accounts payable warrant 2020-19 dated November 9 2019 in the amount of $14, 072.04 be approved. Seconded by Bruce Melllo. All in favor

12. Set agenda for Wednesday December 4
    1- Open bids for window replacement - repair/paint
    2-Budget
13. Shelby Brimmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Joseph Dutton. All in favor.
The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM

Submitted by recording clerk; Dorothy Maggio
November 25, 2019