



Regular Selectboard Meeting

March 27, 2022

Unapproved Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Cathcart, Diane O’Classen, and Thomasina Magoon

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Jason Lisai, Chris Mattrick, Jeff Whiting, Marci Hayes, Barb Walsh, Cecile Todd, Dave Sabatini, Galina Chernya, Madine Reed, Tammy Walsh, and Fran Viko.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER Jeff Cathcart called the meeting to order. 7:00pm

CHANGES TO AGENDA Add information from the Planning Commission. Marci stated that she received an email from Chad in which he is resuming his position as Chair, Annina will be vice-chair, Dick Conrad is the secretary. 1 min

Thomasina would like to recognize the passing of Tony Clark and Geryll Robinson, both of whom were long-time Goshen residents and amazing community members.

MEETING MINUTES Jeff Cathcart, motions to accept minutes as written, Thomsaina 2nd. 5 min
Motion

NEW BUSINESS Jason stated that Tom Brigan is absent tonight, as he will be retiring. Jason spoke of the project that is occurring at Goshen Dam. The first priority for the site is how to control the water level. FERC approved the approach for a concrete superstructure to house valving. There will be construction of a connection bridge. The dam will be automated, with a manual option. The purpose is to improve the safety of the site. They will be connecting the conduit with the existing pump, which will be challenging. They will also be improving the integrity of the concrete. A slow drawdown will happen
~Jason Lisai from Green Mountain Power 1hr 25 min



this April, weather permitting. The intent will be to start working shortly after. The bulk of the trucking was done last summer, but some equipment will be needed this year, such as a crane. There will be about ten people working on site. Jeff Cathcart inquired about the size of the crane, Jason stated it will be large but distribution on the trailer will help with less damage to the road. There will be bridge elements to come in resulting in considerable road travel for this. Thomasina inquired about a work timeline. Jason stated that April 12th will be the gravity drawdown. Late May, depending on roads posted, they will bring in needed equipment, then remobilizing by June 1st. Concrete connection between conduit and existing structure is to begin in July. Refilling the dam and restoration of the area is scheduled for September 15th. The hope is to be out of there by the end of September. Jeff Cathcart inquired about the projected end date for 2026. Jason stated there will be other projects that will occur in addition to what happens this year. The spillway is scheduled to be worked on later, but there will be a couple of years between this project and the beginning of the next project. Jeff Cathcart inquired about public use for swimming and fishing. Jason said this work is important for safety, this year the dam will be closed, however when they work on the spillway there will be public access. Jeff Whiting stated that three years ago, this project was proposed with an end date, now this is extended, this is an upset to a major recreation site. Jason sympathized with the concern and acknowledges the recreation site, however he stated it is a matter of safety and is to be prioritized over recreation. The age of the dam and the high flood risk makes this site necessary for changes for safety of the area. Thomasina inquired what FERC stands for, Jason stated it is Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Thomasina inquired about what the spillway will look like as she takes pictures there and aesthetics is important. Jason stated that there will be a difference with the way the dam will look. Jeff Whiting inquired about the lack of communication between Green Mountain and the Town. He requested that local people be better informed. Jason stated that the last meeting at the end of the year, in which he was present, was successful with stating the timeline and giving information to the public. Jason stated there was additional activity with poles and reclaiming



right of way that was done throughout town. Diane O'Classen inquired what roads will be used for travel. Jason stated that the same routes will be used as last year, Carlisle Hill and Goshen Ripton Rd. Galina stated that she lives on Carlisle Hill Road and last summer she experienced high amounts of disturbance due to many trucks, one after the other and coming, some starting trucking before 6am and running on Saturday. This left one day for a break. Galina further expressed concern with the dust that was created from all the trucking, which she found in her kitchen. Galina inquired if they can consider this factor. Jason said he would bring this up and see what he could do. Jason stated that last summer the weather was a factor, they would have to do the work on the good days, this resulted in running six days a week. This year the overall work will be much lighter. Galina inquired what is anticipated as the heaviest traffic, Jason stated that the fall will be the heaviest traffic, 150 trips over multiple days. In the spring 15-25 trips total, in the summer will be slightly increased from that. Last year the trips were around 20 trips a day. There will be a couple tractor trailer trips. Galina inquired about doing an alternate route for some of the runs, alleviating all trucks going by their house. Jason stated that 2,000 yards of concrete was poured last year, a few hundred is expected this year. The overall traffic will be much lighter than what was seen last summer. They pick the safest route for travel. Jeff Cathcart stated that the power company is able to go as needed through the Town. Jason stated that this site is regulated by FERC. Galina inquired about the dust. Jason will mention this to his people, a calendar will be given to the Town by the power company. Jeff Whiting stated that last summer that his wife, while traveling down Carlisle Hill Road, encountered a tractor trailer dangerously taking up a section of both sides of the road. Jason stated that he will get a schedule with work and traffic and will follow up on the dust aspect. Jeff Cathcart stated that there are bicycle races, and trail races that will be occurring at Blueberry Hill Inn. Jason stated that they encountered this last year, and knowing when the events are is something that they will look into. Thomasina inquired if Jason is the manager and the contact person. Jason said, yes. Madine Reed inquired if pilot cars could be used to help with large deliveries to avoid a person



meeting a large truck. Jason said yes, this is a good point to have an escort vehicle. Fran inquired if Jason goes up to the dam in the winter. Jason stated yes he has been up, Fran expressed concern with winter damage with heavy equipment on the roads. Jason inquired about contact with the Town, he has contacted Marci in the past. Jason would like the meeting minutes of tonight's meeting. Diane O'Classen stated that Marci can let Jason know of the events as they come in as well. Thomasina would like to be cc'd with all communications. Jason thanked the board and citizens present and will be in contact with the Town with a schedule.

~Chris Mattrick
from the US.
Forest Service

Chris is to discuss an update of what has happened in Goshen, past and future, and the money that Jeff Cathcart was concerned with. Last year the money (\$30,000) was thought to be obtainable over a two year period, everyone thought this, but it was found to be only obtainable for one year. Chris stated that the pull off areas were created, thanks to Jim Hayes and Jeff Cathcart, this has helped considerably with less roadside parking. Silver Lake parking lot was worked on, it is now a drive through parking set up instead of the one way for entering and exiting. This site gets school buses and this has made it easier for the parking in that area. Moosalamoo campground sites and parking lot were worked on. Mastication work was done. Thomasina inquired about what the timeline for mastication is. Chris stated that it was long overdue. Galina inquired about what the benefit is. Chris stated that it is to get more sunlight in the area for the blueberries. The wood chips from mastication get burned. Galina stated that there are markings on several trees along Flora White, she inquired what this was for. Chris stated he will get to this. Chris stated that new signs were obtained with the trail systems for skiing and hiking. There was one rescue of a Forest Service member on one of the trails. Brandon Rescue and the Game Wardens were all on site, the rescue went well though an injury occurred. 2022 is not yet budgeted, this will be obtained mid April. Senator Leahy made a direct appropriation to Moosalamoo Recreation, there is hope that this year there should be more money for Goshen because of this. Future projects include; all three toilets to be replaced at the campground with concrete toilets instead of the wooden



ones, these will be brought in through Ripton. Another smaller toilet will be changed over and this one will be coming from the Goshen side. This will be a smaller hauling and will occur towards the end of summer, early fall. Chris will let the Town know when these occur. There are plans to improve the Voter Brook area which include, resurfacing the pathway and putting in edging, this has not been done for 30 years and will demand equipment. A lean-to and small shed will be delivered to Moosalamoo, this will be for the campground host. There is a small timber sale plan around the blueberry management area, this will be with the Flora White area, there will be a small clearcut to get the sunlight in. This is why the trees are marked. This will also offer a buffer for the fire area. Galina inquired about who selects the trees, some are beautiful and healthy and are to be cut down. This is done with a forester, Chris stated that they try to avoid mastication of an area. Thomasina stated to Galina that it hurts her heart when these trees are cut, but it is beneficial for the area and blueberries. Galina inquired why some trees are selected and some are not, she saw some healthy trees marked where unhealthy ones are not to be cut down. Thomasina clarified this is also a timber sale so they will be cutting good trees for the sale. Chris stated that there will be a fire in April where there was mastication done last year. Additionally there will be the ordinary trail maintenance on the Blueberry Hill Inn trails. Chris stated that \$10-\$15,000 was allocated with the Goshen Road agreement last year, they would like to give the town \$15,000.00 to be used on Forest Road 32 and 27 for this year, but he will confirm as soon as a definite figure is obtained. Jeff Whiting inquired if there is a reason that other forest roads do not receive money. Chris stated that Fay Road and South Hill Rd do not get a lot of traffic. They want the money to go to high traffic roads. Thomasina inquired if Chittenden is getting money for their thrown up road. Chris stated that it is now a legal Town trail. Jim Hayes stated that he took a ride up South Hill with Dave Todd, and the GPS drops off, Jim stated that Dave Todd has a 911 address and the GPS doesn't run true. Jim inquired if this is something that they can work on. Chris stated that this is something for the State to deal with. Cecile inquired about the logging happening on South Hill (Churchill). Cecile inquired about what the middle road is, Chris stated that this is a



snowmobile trail and that the logging is being done with permission to access from the Forest Service.. Galina inquired if it is acceptable to have someone like her son help clear some of the trails down to Silver Lake. Chris stated that if someone does, they will not complain so long as it is only to clear the trail. Galina inquired about snowmobile use on Silver Lake. Chris stated that no snowmobiles are permitted on the Lake at any time. Galina stated that she has seen snowmobiles traveling high speeds on the lake. Thomasina stated that game wardens and state police have the ability to do traffic stops, however this is hard to monitor and be at the right place at the right time. Galina requested to have signs placed regarding this. Next year they will work with a Moosalomoo to Silverlake campground connector trail. There is money made available and an agreement through the VT Bicycle Association. Thomasina inquired if Silver Lake will be expanding the camp sites. Chris stated, no, but the Moosalomoo Recreation Association is looking at putting a year round cabin at Silver Lake. Galina stated they moved to Goshen because they love the Silver Lake area, she is not happy to hear of increased development of that area. She is opposed to this and any plans to have this area as a developed recreation site. Chris stated that this is projected to happen in the fiscal year 2023, it will hold 8-10 people and be a rustic structure. Thomasina stated that this will change the dynamic of garbage and waste. Chris stated that it will be a pack in, pack out system. The design will be different then what is seen at Chittenden Book, it will not be intermingled with the current sites. Chris stated that it will be between where the Goshen trail comes down and campsite 1. Galina stated that this is the most beautiful area and their favorite spot, she spoke again of her opposition with this. Chris stated this won't change what is seen from or around campsite 1. The structure will be located across the trail on the other side and further in the woods. Thomasina inquired if there had been opposition with these huts before. Chris stated the one at Chittenden Brook went through with no problem. Thomasina stated sometimes these things happen before people can recognize what is going on and thus had no time to oppose. Thomasina stated that she grew up here and knows the Silver Lake area, this will change what Silver Lake is. Madine stated that how we know Silver Lake as is, occurred



from a change from what it was, which was an area with no campsites, now it is a woody beach area. Chris mentioned that a long time ago Silver Lake was a major place of destination and there was a hotel there. Chris stated that if people are concerned about the project, either pro or against it, he will leave his card with a contact. Chris stated that the Fay road property has been sold that previously belonged to Andrew Marks, he inquired who the new owners are. Chris stated that they cut trees down on National Forest land and have not asked for permission or obtained a permit to do so. Jeff Cathcart looked up the property transfers in the Town Report, the name of the new owner was given to Chris. Marci stated that she walked the property with the new owner, who was working with a forester and it was thought that they had an agreement with the National Forest. Chris stated that any previous agreement would not have transferred when the property was sold. She needs to reapply for the permit. He will be contacting her. Thomasina inquired who would be paying for the cabin being built at Silver Lake. Chris said that Green Mountain National Forest is not paying for this. It is through the Moosalamoo Association. Thomasina inquires who makes sure that a non-profit business is not funding employees with money, where is the check on this. Chris stated that the National Forest does not look into the business of other people. Thomasina inquired what the benefit is for this cabin, Chris stated that it is for people that do not want to sleep at a traditional camp site. Thomasina stated that many non-profit businesses are making money. Thomasina stated that it doesn't sit well with her that a small business is making money from a development on public land, land that belongs to all people and should not have a private non-profit entity able to develop on it. Jeff Cathcart inquired if there will be vehicle counting this year. Chris said no, it was done a few years ago, and typically occurs every 5 years. Jeff Cathcart never got results from the last count, which he asked for. Thomasina inquired if the count reports high volume times, Chris stated no. Jeff Cathcart appreciated Chris coming. Chris thanked Dave for plowing the turnouts. Dave Sabatini inquired about the blueberry management area parking to be expanded as it gets high winter traffic. Chris stated that there are a few archeological sites that hinder expansion of the winter parking



on both sides. Chris further stated that having an emergency vehicle being able to access the trails is also problematic. Jeff Cathcart suggested putting a sign in front of the gate saying do not block the gate. Chris thanked the board and citizens for their time.

~Adopt LEMP **Motion for adoption of Lemp** Jeff Cathcart stated that a change will need to happen with the LEMP form, as Tony Clark's name is on the LEMP. Diane O'Classen motions to accept LEMP with the changes necessary, Thomasina 2nd.

~Special Events Application **Motion for Special Events Permit** Jeff Cathcart stated that two events are happening with Blueberry Hill Inn, one is a running event and the other is for biking. Galina inquired if residents get a discount. Diane stated that she would have to inquire with Blueberry Hill Inn. The application was complete and both days have been paid for. Diane O'Classen makes a motion to accept and approve the special events applications for the two events, Thomasina 2nd.

OLD BUSINESS Thomasina wanted to clarify that the website is on the web, 33 min
~ Town Web Server a Town computer will not be used for her to do the work. The company that hosts the website is FatCow, which no one is happy with. Fatcow for the year costs \$215.28. Godaddy charges for email addresses, which Thomasina stated she was not interested in further pursuing, SiteGround is \$6.69 a month with free email and a staging site. The website can be built and shared with Town officials and the board before it goes live. Thomasina would like to make a motion, this is \$100 a year, half of what FatCow cost, to move from Fatcow to Siteground, this would include working with Dave McKinnon on getting things switched over. Diane O'Classen inquired if this will change how emails are sent. Thomasina stated that this is a secure site, and no one will have access to others peoples email. Thomasina would like to come back to the board and speak regarding having distribution email in the future. This would mean that Selectboard email would be distributed to individual emails. If someone changes their email or is no longer a Selectboard member their email will be removed but the Selectboard email will always stay the same.



Motion for web hosting change

Madine stated that currently Rosie's computer is the main server, this can be problematic as it shuts down periodically and interrupts their work, they have to wake up Rosie's computer. Thomasina stated that this could be inquired within the office. Marci stated that this occurs every 5-10 minutes where Rosie's computer screen will go to sleep if not being used. Thomasina stated that this should be looked at. Thomasina made a motion to move from Fatcow to Siteground, and have Dave McKinnon start implementing this soon, as there is a lot of information that needs to be gathered. Jeff Cathcart inquired if this will be setup as an official site. Jeff Cathcart stated that before this goes live a lawyer will need to look at the site. Thomasina stated that yes, the site could be shared with the lawyer. Jeff Cathcart clarified that this will then be deemed a Town website, and inquired if the site would go live for the Town people. Thomasina stated that no, it will be internal and upon approval will then go live, she said it would be an official and very nice website. Diane O'Classen 2nd Thomasina's motion. Jeff Cathcart inquired with Thomasina if she would maintain the site, she stated herself and Marci.

~ Engineer for Town Hill Paving Project

Jeff Cathcart reported that on April 12th at 10 am, District 3 will be in town to walk the area (Town Hill Rd). Thomasina requested to be included with the email communication. She would like to be in the loop. Jeff Cathcart stated that the email correspondence is a gray area as it easily becomes a meeting if members respond to one another. Jeff Whiting stated that District 3 could send an email to all the board members stating not to reply to all. Thomasina would like to be in the know of what goes on prior to a meeting, she would not be responding but would like to have the information and read material. Marci stated that the information for the Selectboard should be sent to all the board members, so long as they do not respond to all. Jeff Cathcart stated that everyone can talk with Marci without having a meeting. Jeff Whiting stated that there used to be a box for Selectboard exchange of information. Jeff Cathcart and Diane both stated that previously only some members would communicate, not everyone was given all email correspondences and the members had certain things they



would focus on. Diane O’Classen stated it is at the meetings that they come together and discuss their findings. Jeff Cathcart stated again that this is how it is done. Thomasina stated that she will accept this but she still feels there is another way of communicating. Thomasina thanked Jeff for the discussion.

~ South Hill
Motion for South Hill

Jeff Cathcart makes a motion to remediate the South Hill Issue, Thomasina would like to add to the motion, that clarifies the recognition of the new route that was constructed and the discontinued use of the older section. Thomasina 2nd.

ROADS

Jim Hayes stated that the green truck is working great and was easy to pull out, no damage was done. Early in the morning Jim had met the school bus while he was pulling over on 73, and a fast moving vehicle was coming down from the gap, he had to move fast. The rear tire went into the ditch which pulled the truck, the ditch is deep and he could not get it out. Marci stated that many people helped which was nice and much appreciated; neighbors that gave Dad a ride, a State Highway truck that spread salt down around the truck, and a Constable/Police Officer that was heading to work stopped to help direct traffic as well as assist with anything else needed. Jeff Cathcart inquired about the trucks hauling in town. Acker trucking was seen hauling many loads this morning. Jim stated that Acker’s called and asked permission from Jim. Jim gave permission because it was cold this morning (6F) and will be for a few days. Jeff Cathcart inquired about winter sand, Jim stated that they have two loads left. There is gravel being made in Brandon that can be trucked up. Jeff Cathcart received an email from Brian Sanderson about mud season and gravel, inquiring from towns to report a more than usual use of gravel due to the widespread mud season throughout Vermont. Jeff Cathcart gave Brian information about gravel needed for mud.

8 min.

CITIZENS CONCERNS

Jeff Whiting had a complaint that the Acker trucks were

34 min



hauling as he heard that they did not have a permit. Marci has this on her list to do for tomorrow.

Jeff Cathcart stated that there is some bridge work that will need to be done for next year. On the April 12th, District 3 visit, Jeff will inquire about the bridge work with Brian. Jeff Whiting stated that this would be a 90% matching grant. The grant will need to be applied for now, money is then allocated later. The State will be putting emphasis on bridge repair this year. Thomasina inquired about working on grants now. Jeff Cathcart stated several grants may be available by State, Federal, as well as Regional, they are constantly looking out for grants. Jeff Whiting and Jim Hayes will figure out which section to do this year for the connected water grant, this is a 75-25 matching grant. The 100 meter section needs to be brought up to Orange Book Standards. Jeff Cathcart stated that the shotrock from the dam could be looked into being obtained for the Town. Jim stated that Silver Lake road needs work. He would like to ditch to help alleviate standing water in the spring, which he feels contributed to the high mud in that area this year. Jeff Cathcart will start a bid package for paving. Thomasina and Diane brought up the question of the paving work done on Carlisle Hill while the Dam project hauling would be occurring. Jim stated that the pavement would be able to take a heavy load, its hauling in the spring of the year that damages the pavement. Thomasina inquired if the engineer could also look at Carlisle Hill Road. Thomasina stated that perhaps looking at digging up Town Hill and doing this in sections over time instead of putting money into patching. Jim remembers when Town Hill was not driveable because of the mud. Marci stated that having a better base makes the difference. Jeff Cathcart will talk to Brian Sanderson to see if he has any ideas. Jim stated that the base is not good enough for the heavy trucks under the pavement, which accounts for the wheel well tracks and the water to run down the road. Jim stated that a skim coat of pavement for Town Hill could last for 10 years or so, this would take care of the potholes and crumbling pavement, and give the Town time to build up money to do a better job. Jim stated that it has been about 30 years since Town



Hill was paved. Marci stated that the top of Carlisle and Capen Hill were skim coat jobs, and people are very pleased with the work. Jeff Cathcart stated that every year he reminds people at Town Meeting of the opportunity to change the budget to add to the roads. Every year no one adds to the budget for extra road work. Cecile inquired about a separate budgeted fund that is restricted and to be spent on a large specific project. Diane O'Classen stated that there is \$20,000 added annually to the paving fund. Cecile inquired about doing culverts. Jeff Cathcart stated that there are five culverts replaced every year, which is built into the budget. Jeff Cathcart stated that he can't think of individual or personal issues but has to think of the Town as a whole. Jeff Cathcart stated that some sections need and beg for attention more than others. Jim Hayes stated that the Town is fortunate to have received grants and was worked on, the areas that received grant related work were far less muddy than other areas.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS N/A

EXECUTIVE SESSION IF NEEDED N/A

MOTION TO ADJOURN Thomasina makes a motion to adjourn, Diane O'Classen 2nd. 9:34pm

Respectfully submitted by Marci Hayes