



Selectboard Meeting

January 9, 2023

Unapproved Minutes

Members Present: Bill Mathis, Thomasina Magoon, and Tammy Walsh

Others Present: Dave Sabatini, David Hochmann, Elsie Sherrill, Fran Viko, Galina Chernaya, Marci Hayes, Jim Hayes, and Susanne George

Call Meeting to Order **7:09pm**

Meeting called to order by Bill Mathis

Changes to the Agenda -----

No Changes made

Meeting Minutes **3 minutes**

Motion for
Minutes
12-7-2022

Special Meeting Minutes of 12-7-2022
Thomasina motions to approve minutes as written, Tammy 2nd.

Motion for
Minutes
12-12-2022

Meeting Minutes of 12-12-2022
Thomasina motions to approve minutes as written, Tammy 2nd.

Public Comment **12 minutes**

Galina reported the Forest Service made the decision to reject the Silver Lake Hut proposal. Galina noted that in a letter by Chris Mattrick he indicated that the Forest Service is interested in working collaboratively with interested members of the public in advance for the formal special use permit review. Moosalamoo Association continues to search for a place for a hut in this area, keeping it within a day's hike from a nearby hut. Galina suggested the Selectboard consider being in closer communication with Chris Mattrick and the forest service. Some areas proposed for hut sites in Goshen include, but are not limited to Goshen Dam and Moosalamoo campground area. Chris has been asked to be on the agenda at a future meeting. Galina mentioned the Adventure Race Event for September 2023. This is a special event use permit application that will occur at Silver Lake. The public comment time closed yesterday. The letter that concerned citizens wrote, suggests moving the swimming part to Lake Dunmore, which already has a lot of activity, thus alleviating the pressure that would impact Silver Lake wildlife. Galina stated they will be awaiting a response from Chris Mattrick regarding this issue. Galina mentioned that the Silver Lake area is in the spotlight for a variety of projects. Consensus is to leave Silver Lake preserved and undeveloped, although it is a designated recreation area. Bill thanked Galina for her work regarding this.

Dave Sabatini stated this process was initiated by the Moosalamoo Association, a public non-profit organization run by volunteer members. Silver Lake area is designated as a recreation area, the Moosalamoo Association would like to provide increased access for everyone to the forest. Dave Sabatini stated that money is being allocated to the National Recreation area because it is designated as a National Recreation Area. Dave Sabatini stated that Chris Mattrick did not initiate the hut project, he should not be the one that is contacted. He mentions this as he is on the Board and is concerned with negative thoughts towards the Moosalamoo Association. Galina stated that we should work together and find common ground. Thanks from the Board was given to Dave Sabatini for this information.

Financial Report Review Year to Date **3 minutes**

Susanne requested that in the future if there is a month between meetings that the orders are signed, so that bills get paid. There were bills unpaid due to the orders being signed once in December. Susanne stated the financial actuals report will be presented at the first meeting of the month. Thomasina requested that each member get a copy. Bill would like this report in advance. Susanne will email this. Bill inquired what kind of personnel system the Town has, the hiring process, establishment of salaries, responsibilities and job descriptions. Bill would like to speak with whomever is in charge of this, the Board is in charge of this. Thomasina will add this to the next agenda. Thomasina thanked Susanne for this work.

New Business **33 minutes**

Heat Pump Condenser Roof Cover-Bid Request	Thomasina reported a deposit for half the expense is being sent per the contract for the heat pump job. Thomasina would like to have a bid for the roof for the heat pump to go out. It needs to be aesthetically and historically pleasing. Tammy proposed that a cover for a generator should be included as well. Tammy stated with this last storm people in Town with generacs, many of them failed as they were not under cover. Thomasina would like to go over the emergency management process for the future. Tammy inquired if the generator is working. Jim confirmed it is, he has fixed it. Thomasina stated she works for Generac and would like to do some research on this with options and grant money and report back to the board. Town Hall has a propane stove. Tammy would like to give the road crew the authority to purchase fuel in Town should the fuel pump not work due to power outage. The road crew siphoned the fuel due to no power during the last storm.
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Dave Sabatini questions the location of the condenser as the colder area and water is on the other side of the proposed installation. Thomasina stated this has been approved by the contractor and it is cost efficient, close to the breaker box, and is the most favorable location and will work with the aesthetics and not be visible. She will keep it as recommended, on the proposed side.

Galina mentions that they have been looking into covers and there is one that hooks pump itself rather than on the wall. Thomasina will contact Fischer regarding this as an option for a cover that does not attach to the wall.

Town Hall
Rental
Process-Martin?

Shawn Martin contacted Tammy as he was unable to access the Town Hall for the date that he reserved it. Tammy stated that Rosemary had given approval of use of the Town Hall, the Selectboard had no knowledge of this. Shawn was unable to get a hold of Rosemary and Tammy had to go down on a Saturday and open the Town Hall for a Birthday party. Tammy also came back at 6pm to close it up. Susanne stated the check was sent to her for \$50 deposit, which was returned. These are to be approved by the Board. Marci stated that part of the agreement that is signed is that the person who is renting the Hall agrees to be responsible for contacting and arranging in advance a Town person to unlock and lock the building. Rosemary mentioned that she did not receive this request from the Martins, nor was anyone else contacted prior to the day of the party. Thomasina inquired when the paperwork is filled out, it should go to the Selectboard. Marci is unsure what the policy specifically states but she thought it is to go to the Town Clerk, but whatever is stated in the policy should be followed. Tammy inquires where the money goes for Town Hall rental. Thomasina read the Town Hall rental Policy. See attached. The board will manage the Town Hall Rental and use. Bill stated a practical problem is that the Town Clerk office is only open Tuesday mornings, he wonders how this process can be expedited. Thomasina stated the form can be adjusted and sent not only to the Town Clerk but to the Board as well. Marci stated it should be noted that that check would need to go to the Town Office. Elsie inquired if people take their garbage after rental or if the Town absorbs the cost of that. Elsie proposed that the deposit irregardless of Goshn citizen or non Goshen citizen should not be returned as this process cost time and money and the building being in use costs electricity and heat. The Board felt that this is an antiquated part of the policy. Bill stated that the Town Hall needs to be checked after rental happens. Tammy noted that she checked this. Marci stated that the Town Clerk checked as well. Thomasina will work on this policy. Marci stated the garbage should be taken by the renter, the policy states that the Hall is to be left as it was found. The board stated this is not clearly indicated in the policy. Thomasina will make adjustments and work on this in the future. Elsie thanked Thomasina and her work as Selectwoman.

This will go on the first February meeting. Not the next meeting.

Emergency
Management
Process / Bid
Generator

Thomasina would like to know who is responsible to make sure that the generator works and buildings are kept up. This will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Town
Hall/Office

RFP for
Garbage
Services –
Drop Off and
Curbside

A draft request for bids for curbside pick up and drop off was emailed to Board members for review. These numbers will need to be in hand for February 22nd. Thomasina expressed concern that the bid that came in from Fischer was opened by someone in the office. Thomasina reports that mail should not be opened by anyone other than the addressed person. Susanne explained that not all mail is addressed to the appropriate person and not all bids indicate it is so on the exterior of the envelope. Thomasina will request that the interested party bidding writes bid on the envelope so it is not mistakenly opened. Thomasina wants to have the amount of the options and have this voted as three options for the garbage; curbside, drop off, and nothing. Galina inquired if figures will be a cost per household or bulk for Town. Taxes cover up to one bag or 30 lbs per week additional bags to be payable from citizens to contractor. Discussion on tipping fees paid by town vs. citizens. Bill stated that the do nothing option could mean that the garbage collection would be hired from citizens to a private hauler or people would bring their trash to a transfer station. \$6500 will be applied to help defray expenses of what the cost will be because it is already allocated in the budget. Sealed bids will be due Feb. 22nd, mailed to the Selectboard and be for drop off or curbside collection of garbage, recycling, and compost. Day of collection will be negotiable. Contract is for July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Contractor must have insurance, haulers permit, and haul all waste to Middlebury waste center. Marci will get the number of stops to Thomasina, she believes it's around 80 stops, some of which are for multiple homes. Thomasina inquired if this would go to the lowest bidder or bidder meeting all criteria, Tammy would like to accept the bidder that meets the criteria. The bid will be pending voter approval at the Town Meeting of March 6, 2023. Questions or clarification should be directed to Selectboard in writing. Bill mentioned having a bidders conference and having the language state the lowest responsive bidder. Drop off hours are thought to be approximately 4 hours and at the discretion of the contractor's availability. It will be requested if they can state what time they would have. Elsie inquired why recycling drop off stopped in Goshen. Marci stated that State laws changed how waste is collected. Marci stated that bids usually have the language stating that the Selectboard has the right to accept and reject any and all bids. Dave Sabatini inquired if citizens don't pay for bags are they to be left. The discretion will be with the contractor. This will be posted on the website, emailed, posted, and advertised in the paper and sent to a list of contractors. Thomasina will format this for the paper so that it is paid for by space, rather than by word. Thomasina requests that Marci print labels, provide envelopes and stamps for Thomasina.

Thomasina read the letter to citizens that will go out with information about the garbage. Bill stated that when this goes before a vote at Town meeting, if the first option gets the majority of votes the other two options won't be voted on.

David Hochmann inquired about the three separate votes done in sequential order vs. having one vote where all three are voted on and the one with the majority of votes passes. This would give all three an opportunity to be voted on rather than if the first one is passed by majority, the other two wouldn't be voted on.

Bill will contact VLCT regarding one vote vs, three separate votes.

Galina mentioned the trash along the roadside. Elsie also expressed concern with this. Dave Sabatini will pick up the tires and refrigerator to take to the transfer station. Dave Sabatini suggested holding the tires until Green Up day and take them then to save money.

Old Business

50 minutes

Town Hall Roof Repair- Bid Request

Selectboard is seeking bids for the assessment and repair for the roof of the Town Hall. Inquiries or requests to visit for the assessment can be directed to Thomasina or email Selectboard. Bids must include contractors liability insurance. Sealed Bids will be due February 22nd. Dave Sabatini inquired about what Jim stated regarding a hole in the roof as an identifiable leak. Thomasina would like for the contractor to come in and do an assessment and find what needs to be fixed. Jim said that there are two places that are leaking, the hole and the flashing. Jim agrees with Thomasina to have someone inspect and assess, oftentimes where the leak appears to be, may be coming from a different location. Roof is no longer the original slate material, it wouldn't follow historic specifications.

Motion for Library Warning/ Article

Bill will work on the Library Warning/Article for appropriating funds and submit them to the Town Clerk.

Cemetery Commissioners on Ballot for Election

Thomasina mentioned that Marci has done research earlier in the year and found that Cemetery Commissioners are to be elected, which they have not been. This will then be on the ballot for elected Cemetery Commissioners. Tammy stated that she took a load out of the cemetery, free of charge. Dave Sabatini stated that he also took a huge load out free of charge. Tammy is displeased that the brush had been left in the cemetery after volunteer work was done in the fall, some of which were on peoples graves. Thomasina thanked Tammy for cleaning some of the cemetery. Bill inquired if there is money involved in the Cemetery Commission or if they get a stipend. Tammy thought there was money allocated for the cemetery. Marci stated that there is

a book from the State of Vermont, called Digging Deep, which lays out the legal responsibilities and duties of the Cemetery Commission, of which she believes has fiscal responsibility for managing the Cemetery. It is not thought that the Commissioners get a stipend. Bill inquired about how work in the cemetery is paid for. Thomasina mentioned that it is part of the contract with Dave Sabatini. Discussion on the contract occurred. Tammy inquired when the contract comes up for renewal. Dave Sabatini stated that it has not been put out for bid since he was awarded the contract. Tammy inquired why this has not happened. Bill inquired if people are interested in the positions of Cemetery Commissioners. Marci mentioned that the people who have been serving on the Committee are interested in running for the elected position. They are meeting regarding this and are also deciding if this will be a 3 member board or a 5 member board. Thomasina inquired why the Committee is deciding on this as they are currently answerable to the Board. Marci stated that when a Commission is established they can petition for a 5 or 3 member board, but this information would be in the Digging Deep book. Tammy inquired about volunteers working in the cemetery, she would like to be careful with who does work there. Tammy inquires what if a volunteer person gets hurt. Dave Sabatini expressed concern that brush left by volunteers may be mistakenly thought that he has not been doing his contracted work. Tammy would like it if volunteers finished the work and cleaned everything up. Thomasina requested that Marci find the Digging Deep book. Marci found an online pdf of the Dig Deep book and emailed it presently to the selectboard members for their review, she confirmed that they received it. Thomasina would like there to be research on the Cemetery Commission and who would manage the money and have control over property maintenance and contracts, would this be the Committee or be under Selectboard authority. Tammy will do research on this.

Posting Sale
of Green
Garbage
Truck

Thomasina requested Marci send in one email specifications and what is wrong with the garbage truck. Thomasina will post this for someone to make an offer, the highest bidder will get the truck. Tammy stated that Barb Walsh has inquired about the sale of this truck so that it can be removed from the insurance. The truck is still being insured as the Town still owns the truck. February 13th will be when the sealed bids are to be turned in.

Update from
Garbage
Contractor

Dave Sabatini stated that garbage is going good. There was a lot of garbage in the last few weeks. Dave Sabatini noted that the Town Office was closed the week before Christmas, so people were unable to obtain tickets. Dave Sabatini, inquired about kitty litter and a deal that Marci had with people where they were not charged for an extra bag. Marci stated she requested that cat litter and diapers be in a separate bag as often if it was included in the one bag, the bag would rip and cat litter would scatter. She then requested that cat litter and diapers go in a separate small bag, if the one bag and the small extra

bag collectively is not over the 30lb weight limit then she would take the two bags without needing an extra ticket. Dave Sabatini stated that people are not tying up their garbage bags, he then has to do it so that stuff does not blow around. He would like this mentioned in the letter that goes out to people. Thomasina will add this to the website as well. Marci stated that all this information was in last year's Town Report, as these are issues that she raised with the curbside collection that have been occurring for years. Thomasina stated that a hired contractor for garbage collecting would have the discretion to pick up or leave garbage. Dave Sabatini is taking garbage with or without tags, he does not want to leave garbage around town.

Update regarding GMF Board Meeting

Thomasina mentions that the Forest Board meeting can be found and heard on the Goshen website. Dave Sabatini stated that there is a Moosalamoo Board meeting tomorrow, he would like to know if people want him to relay information to the Moosalamoo Board meeting. Thomasina stated that there is a page dedicated to the Moosalamoo Association so if there is information they would like to see on the webpage to let the Board know. Marci inquired where the meeting is, it is in Middlebury. Galina inquired if this is an open public meeting. Dave Sabatini stated they are an Association, he is unsure if it is open to the public. Dave Sabatini stated that he is on the board, he is a volunteer. Thomasina explained that the Selectboard as part of the Municipal Forest Board, will be working towards a plan for the municipal forest that includes how to incorporate the Shirley Farr deed requirements when she gave the land over to the Town, for; wildlife, recreation, hunting, in addition to the forestry. Galina inquired when this process would occur. Thomasina stated that it will be further out and that due to Covid, the Forest Board was not meeting and they are behind schedule.

Roads

26 minutes

Project Review for 2023- Using Capital Improvement Plan

There is a grant obtained years ago to track and maintain culvert inventory. Thomasina requests that Jim look at the list of culverts that she will give him and mark down any updates that occurred on the culverts. Dave Sabatini inquired if Thomasina has accessed the VOBSET, Thomasina is aware of this and is working on accessing this, for now a paper copy is the best for Jim. Dave Sabatini mentioned he wrote the grant for this and helped set it up. Thomasina would like to have updated information so that when she has access to the online program the information can be plugged in.

New Employee Schedule- Winter Plowing

Jim reported that the truck is fixed. This was completed last week. Jim took it for a test drive and found that the truck had an exhaust leak. He told Gerard and Gerard repaired this, at no extra charge. Jim said that Gerard did a really good job putting everything back together. There were many parts and pieces with the job and everything is working additionally there are no alarm lights

on. Both trucks are set to go. Tammy inquired about if the truck bed had been fixed. Jim patched some of the bed and spoke with Mack Steel. They are out of the 1/8th inch sheet. Mack will call him when it comes in. Jim stated this must be fixed as the salt and sand is leaking through the bottom of the box and going on the mechanics and lines, which is not good. Sand will need to be dumped off and welding will be done when the steel comes in. Chains were put on. Jim stated that any new person that will be driving this winter, should be taken out by either Marci, himself or Ed at first. Ed is not working at the police department currently, he is awaiting an operation but he can drive equipment. Elsie inquired if Ed is an employee of the Town. Tammy inquired why the Town is paying for Ed to be on the road crew when he does not reside in Goshen. Jim clarified that he is not paid unless he works. Ed gets drug tested. Tammy inquired if insurance is paid on every employee that the Town has. Jim stated that if Will intends to work for the Town there is paperwork that needs to occur. Jim doesn't feel comfortable with having someone drive that hasn't done the necessary required actions prior to driving. Thomasina stated that they will make sure that Will does all the required things necessary. Marci explained that Ed has been helpful as he is scheduled and able to help the road crew do larger planned projects such as culvert installation. He has been a valuable person that can help. He also is familiar with the roads and has experience driving, in an emergency he is a good person that can come in and help with plowing. Jim said that he asks Ed only when they need him. Tammy would like to get Will Mathis working for the roads. Thomasina stated that Will won't get behind the wheel unless he has done what is required. Jim stated that the federal law is getting stricter with drug testing and CDL's on municipal roads. Thomasina expressed concern with who is in charge of the hiring process, jobs, and who is in charge of collecting this information and making sure it is valid before someone drives. Jim reiterates again he would not recommend putting anyone in a truck unless he passes everything. Thomasina stated that they will not do that. Tammy mentioned that they could if Will is using his own truck.

Thomasina inquired about the debris left from the storm. She wants to make sure that nothing is sticking out where vehicles can hit it. Tammy inquired about the guardrails that are on the side of the road that she hit the other day. Jim stated this will be picked up. It needs to be cut on site into 7 or 10 ft sections, they are 20ft long. Tammy inquired about putting them on a trailer and bringing them down to the Town garage. Tammy has a 16ft trailer that they can be put on. Jim has cutting torches that he can use on site. Jim stated that it is junk, needs to be cut for #1 steel. Elsie inquires if they get sold, does the money go back into the road budget. Jim said yes. Jim said if the cost of metal is down then it does not pay for the road crew to do the labor in cutting and bringing the metal to the junkyard. Tammy inquires who will take care of the guardrails. Jim said that the roadcrew can do it and bring it to the scrapyards, unless Tammy wants to do it. Tammy said she doesn't want to do it. Dave Sabatini stated that he has been going around and doing handwork with

the brush. Jim said that the policy during a storm is that the trees belong to whoever the land owner is, the Town is not obligated to pick it up and move it off site. The road crew just gets the fallen tree and debris out of the roadway, then it is up to the landowner. Dave Sabatini stated that he does handwork with the limbs that are hanging over the roads. Jim stated the road crew opened the roads up during the past two storms, he plowed trees off the side of the road. Jim said if people want to pick up the wood they can. Dave Sabatini has done this and clarified it was volunteer. Thomasina stated no expenditure has been offered to Dave Sabatini on this work. Thomasina inquires if it is the road crews responsibility to make sure nothing is sticking out into the roadway so that if a car needs to pull off the side of the road when another car is coming, damage won't be done to the car. Jim said he gets the dangerous stuff out of the way. Tammy inquired about the area at Stewarts pond, the debris on the lawn. Dave Sabatini concurred that this was something he almost hit as well. Tammy would like to have a person in line that goes around and cuts the trees at the time that the town truck goes through. Jim said that they are busy during the storms keeping the roads open, he put many hours in. Marci stated in bad storms, especially when there is high wind, two people should always go together. They can switch out driving and the second person helps pick up debris, roll logs off the road, work the chain, hike to get the loader if the truck breaks down, and because of the danger of working in high winds having two people together is safest in case something happens.

Elsie mentioned her concern regarding debris after the storm. Elsie walks on the roads regularly and it is surprising to her that the roadcrew does not clean up the logs and branches. Elsie mentioned that several years ago thousands of dollars was paid to the roadcrew to do ditch work, it is now full of broken branches and chunks of logs. She wants to know why there is no follow up or clean up from the roadcrew to maintain the ditches. Jim said that this takes money. Elsie inquired if this is not part of the maintenance program. Tammy stated that it will be because she will hire someone to make sure this happens. Elsie stated that every other Town is better maintained than ours and Goshen only needs to take care of 14 miles of road. Jim stated that the ditching is costly, it is not cheap to clean out ditches.

Dave stated that he finished cutting all the marked trees in addition to the extra that fell down from the storm, much of this was volunteer work. Dave Sabatini mentioned that the Board hired him for a not to exceed amount of \$1500, Dave Sabatini stated if the town had him do brush around town it would take a few years to use that entire amount.

Thomasina inquired with Marci and Jim regarding a culvert and curb cut for Keith Tremblay. Jim stated that Jerry Fielder is logging and it is an access to the logging and Jerry stated it would be removed when the logging work is done. Tammy inquired why Keith Tremblay is allowed to have a curb cut when Dave Sabatini wasn't allowed to have one. Tammy is unsure if Jerry put

in the access. Marci has not seen this access nor was she aware of it. Thomasina requested that Marci look into this as Zoning Administrator and report back to the Board.

Thomasina inquired if Susanne ordered more key cards for access to Town Office.

Jim said that the road crew will pick up the guardrails. Tammy said if they are not picked up by next week she will pick them up along with the cold patch, she will have her guys do the work. Fran stated that Dave Sabatini offered to pick up the guardrails. Tammy did not think that Dave Sabatini said this, but if so the Board will let him do it. Tammy wants to check with the recorder to see if Dave Sabatini stated that he will do this work.

Tammy will hire people to clean up the debris, cut it up, load it on a trailer, and bring it out of Town. Thomasina thanked Jim for the many hours that he put into the roads. The roads looked good over Christmas, they were plowed wide open and he put in a lot of work. Thomasina stated that the clean up afterwards needs to happen and if Jim and Marci don't want to do the work to notify them and they will get someone to do it. Jim said the next week coming up looks to be good weather. It is hard to work in the snow as nothing can be found when it is buried. Thomasina wants the debris pushed out of the right of way.

Any Other Business Legal and Proper to do at this time

Motion to adjourn

9:16pm

Motion to adjourn by Thomasina 2nd by Bill Mathis.

Future Agenda Items mentioned from this meeting include;

- General management of town affairs and authority thereof
- Emergency Management process
- Generator research/options for the Town
- Town Hall Rental Policy for the first meeting in February
- Cemetery Committee Research
- Curb Access on Hathaway Rd

[Click here for Attached Town Hall Rental Policy](#)

Submitted by Marci Hayes