

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015

Present:

Selectboard Members: Nat Kinney, Doug Molde, Kyle Nuse, Eric Osgood, Howard Romero
Others: Duncan Hastings (Manager), Rosemary Audibert (Clerk), Steve Smith, Lois Frey, David Butler, Travis Hill, Matt Hill, Brennan Blair, Zachary Schuster, Casey Romero, Jon Girard

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order

Eric called the meeting to order at 7:02.

2. Additions, Changes to Agenda

Eric asked to add action on a proclamation. Duncan asked to add a request from Sue Lovering for an Arbor Day contribution, adoption of a financial policy, VCRD membership, and scoreboard signs at Legion Field.

3. Review and Approve Minutes of Meetings Past

Nat moved to approve the minutes of March 16, Howard seconded, and the motion was passed. (Doug arrived at 7:05.)

4. Treasurer's Report / Review and Approve Bills, Warrants, Licenses / Any Action Items

Rosemary said current revenue is at 103% of budgeted and expenses are at 79.3% of budgeted. We recently received our 3rd installment of state highway money. Eric commented that we really blew our winter roads budget. Steve said it was a long winter. (David Butler arrived at 7:07.)

Rosemary passed out the list of properties going into the tax sale, which is currently scheduled for July 14. Current taxes are 77.9% collected, which is very close to the past 2 years. Anne will attend a VLCT class on delinquent taxes on May 20.

Howard moved to approve liquor licenses for DJ's, Downtown Pizzeria, and Johnson State College, and an outside consumption permit for Downtown Pizzeria, with the standard letter to be sent to all 3 businesses, seconded by Nat. Nat asked if there is any change in the hours requested by Downtown Pizzeria. Rosemary said the hours requested are 12:00 pm to 2:00 am and for the front patio 12:00 pm to dusk. Eric explained to Kyle that the board's standard practice is to send a letter reserving the right to add any conditions if the business is found in violation. **The motion was passed.**

Rosemary said Doug Molde had sent a letter declining appointments as Grand Juror and Agent to Prosecute and Defend Suits

Graham & Graham submitted an addendum to their engagement letter, requesting more money for fixed assets. They are auditing fixed assets and it is more work than they thought it would be. Duncan asked if fixed assets was originally included in the proposal. Doug said the original price was a substantial increase from the previous cost. Eric asked if it is too late to offer to release them from contract and put it out to bid again. Rosemary and Duncan said the audit is almost complete now. Doug said we should look up what the bid included. Eric

asked to defer this until we find out what was included. He asked to have information on the bid for the next meeting.

Rosemary said she has asked our IT person to do an estimate for a server replacement. We have had 2 major crashes in the last 6 months. One trustee suggested a cloud server, but there are security issues with that. Duncan said our IT person said transfer rates down from the cloud are not as fast as the rates to push data in. One of his concerns was that if he had to rebuild the system from data saved in the cloud it could take days to download all the data. (*Travis and Matt Hill arrived at 7:18.*) Rosemary said the cost (probably \$5-6K) will be split 50-50 with the village. There is money in the office budget to pay for it.

Rosemary asked if the board wants to start going out to different banks for the truck purchase loan. Eric said yes.

5. ***Road Commissioner/Road Foreman Report and Action Items***

Steve said since the last meeting there have been 11 inches of snow. The highway crew plowed 3 times and sanded 12 times. He is still waiting for retirement info from the state. Once he gets it he will give a more precise date for his retirement. A culvert was replaced. Mud season is here.

Steve gave the board copies of his review of Jason, who has been working for the town for 7 months. He said Jason has done everything that can be asked of him. He knows what he's doing. He could be a future road foreman – that's how good he is. Eric said the board will want to go into executive session later tonight to discuss possibly increasing his pay.

Duncan reviewed the tractor bids. Some people bid on just the backhoe, some on just the tractor, and some on both. The high bid for the backhoe was \$2500, the high bid on the tractor was \$6000 and the high bid on both was \$6500. **Howard moved to accept the highest bid for the backhoe and the highest bid for the tractor and if a valid check is not received from either of those bidders to accept the next highest bid for that item, Doug seconded, and the motion was passed.**

Duncan said Sue Lovering has made a request on behalf of the Tree Board. They want to plant a tree on the library lawn on Arbor Day. She is asking if the town would be willing to dig the hole and pay for the tree, as she was unsuccessful in getting donations. She also wonders if the town has compost or soil suitable for backfilling. Steve and Duncan said the town has no compost. Duncan said we just bought a tree for the Main St. project that was \$500. Sue didn't give any idea what cost she is anticipating for this tree. She had asked if the town could put some money in the budget (around \$300-350) for the Tree Board, but Duncan forgot to include that during budget development. Eric asked if there is money in the line item for beautification. Rosemary said yes; \$2K was put in and we haven't spent any. Steve said his crew can help dig the hole.

Howard moved to authorize the Tree Board to spend up to \$300 for a tree plus the retail cost of compost needed to plant it, and to direct the road crew to dig the hole for the tree, Nat seconded and the motion was passed.

Duncan said the Rec Committee is interested in putting a couple of trash receptacles at Old Mill Park. They would have to be emptied and the trash disposed of. Heather is wondering who might be able and willing to do that. We will also probably want a trash receptacle at the trailhead building.

Doug said we can't have the trailhead area looking messy. We will have to start cleaning it. Howard asked if that should be considered a volunteer effort. Doug said there is a rail trail committee. Nat said he is on the committee. They haven't talked about this sort of thing. Nat said Heather feels the Rec Committee could get volunteers to collect trash some of the time, but there will be ebbs and flows in their availability. Heather is cleaning up a fair amount at Old Mill Park now. Eric asked who empties the garbage can at Checkerberry Field. Steve said no one. He said putting out a trash can means that when it gets full then trash ends up on the ground.

Duncan said there is room enough in the town dumpster for a couple more bags of garbage. Steve agreed. Doug said he doesn't think having volunteers do it is a long term solution. Howard said we will have to write it into someone's duties. Duncan said the people who mow the lawns are there every week. He doesn't know if they would do that as part of their contract if we added a little money. Eric said the village is going to have the same problem. Duncan said the village general department currently collects trash. Eric said we had talked about a joint town-village handyman type position. That might be a good topic of discussion for the joint meeting with the trustees next Monday. Doug suggested putting it on the agenda but also asking Robert and Sons. Steve suggested having the town crew do it. In summer they would have the time.

VTrans has requested our town paving/construction schedule for Class II line striping. Steve and Duncan will talk about it.

The village is in need of a place to store sand and debris from cleaning catch basins. Under new state stormwater regs it must be stockpiled for at least a year. Then if it tests okay it can be used as fill, etc. It must be stored in a location where runoff won't get into a waterway. Tom Elwood thought a spot next to the driveway leading to the compost facility would be a good area. The village may also need a place to stockpile sweepings from roads. Right now Duncan doesn't think that is required but probably it is going to be. Would it be okay if the village used that spot? There will probably be 6-8 yards of material at the most.

Nat asked what it will be tested for. Duncan said volatile organic compounds. Nat asked if there will be liability if the material is stored on town land and it leaches. Duncan said the state doesn't require any encapsulation or lined storage area. It should test clean. Up until now people have just been dumping it anywhere they want. The idea is to get it out of the river. Nat asked what happens if it does test contaminated. Duncan said he doesn't know and he doesn't think ANR knows. Eric said the only place it will leach is into our dump. Howard asked, the village composting facility is on our land? Duncan said yes, and they have a lease arrangement with the town, but this spot is outside the fence of the village facility. **Doug moved to allow the village to store sand and debris by the entryway to the**

village composting facility for the period of time required by the state, Howard seconded, and the motion was passed.

Duncan gave an update on the Coddling Hollow culvert project. Ruggiano Engineering is supposed to be submitting a revised letter to FEMA. FEMA got hung up on the fact that Ruggiano described the project as a bridge in their study scope and hydraulic study. In fact it is not a bridge; it is a precast concrete box culvert with no bottom. Ruggiano will clarify in their letter that it is a box culvert replacing a culvert. Hopefully FEMA will agree their initial cost estimates were too low. Duncan has not told Ruggiano to do the final design yet. He is waiting until we find out what FEMA will be willing to do.

Eric asked about the shoulders on Clay Hill. Steve said they will be done soon. We are having Ireland come back because their top coat mix isn't holding up. He doesn't think it was a good mix.

Howard asked how the two sections of road that were rebuilt for mud abatement are holding up. Steve said they are solid, with no mud. Eric asked what the mud abatement plan is for this year. Steve said work will be done on French Hill near Waterman Rd.

Eric said we probably ought to check on how the Hogback Rd. pavement is holding up. Steve said it probably will need repaving soon. Duncan said the pavement used there was supposed to last for 5 to 7 years. He thinks it has been close to 5 years since it was put down. Eric asked if he would recommend that micro mix again. Is it worth the money? Duncan said it was a good short term solution.

Nat asked if Jen Stefanski had contacted Steve about help on Green Up Day. Steve said 2 men and 2 trucks will be available to help.

6. *Planning Commission Report*

David Butler said at the last meeting the Planning Commission spent a lot of time on the flood resiliency requirements coming down from the state. Seth Jensen was there quite a long time. They discussed the language LCPC wanted written into the joint plan. There were some sections the Planning Commission had issues with. They decided they don't agree with the language about flood resilient flood plains and they asked Seth to rewrite a section to state that we see the issue as being any place where public safety is in question and where there is no risk to public safety we don't agree with the language LCPC wanted. For instance, near David's house, any development is restricted in a buffer zone that is 2 times the width of the stream plus 50 feet, but that does not make sense in that location. In areas where streams are not at risk of flooding it is not beneficial to restrict building development and create bureaucracy. Around the Lamoille River and the lower reaches of the Gihon, where public safety is an issue, he can understand it. When the chapter in question is rewritten, he will probably present it to both boards to see if they want any changes.

Doug said it seems that the state is just using a rule of thumb and not really defining a flood zone based on flooding or stream capacity. David said all the groups involved in reacting to Irene have taken a wide brush and applied it evenly to the whole state. They are applying the same criteria to creeks that flood regularly and to mountain streams that don't have the same

flooding risk. Duncan said as he understands it, ANR has done statewide mapping and they are applying buffers around all streams. (*Brennan Blair and Zachary Schuster arrived at 7:56.*) If we don't do our own mapping, ANR's mapping will be used in Act 250 reviews. LCPC has offered to do mapping for us which would not be broad brush mapping but would be based on a more scientific approach. They would use elevation cross sections to do a more accurate flood hazard map. But those maps won't take the place of FEMA maps used to delineate floodways and flood zones. His suggestion is to at least have LCPC do quick sections of some streams to see how much it would change. It may solve the problems David is talking about but exacerbate some areas. We may end up with a flood map different from the FEMA map. David said he has an Act 250 permitted crossing on Foote Brook. If he lost that crossing, which has existed since this town was incorporated, there a question of whether he would be able to replace it. Duncan said he is certain David wouldn't be able to replace it because of existing stream alteration regulations he is already subject.

David said in the plan there are several bridges – the twin bridges and he thinks Foote Brook Bridge and Scribner Bridge – that are specifically mentioned as high risk bridges. That allows the town to pursue grants to replace them. He wonders if more high risk bridges should be listed. Duncan said if a bridge is listed it might have higher priority but he wouldn't say that we couldn't pursue grants to replace them if they aren't listed.

David said he met with the form based code steering committee the last time they met. There are two things he is encouraging them to do – educating the townspeople about what we are doing and making sure we have some written code to look at and discuss.

Howard said he would encourage someone to start doing a weekly or, better yet, twice weekly post on Front Porch Forum briefly discussing one idea related to form based zoning. Kyle said she will bring that up tomorrow at the form based code steering committee meeting. They are discussing different ways of educating the public. People were a little wary of using Front Porch Forum. (*David left at 8:05.*)

7. Recreation Committee

Nat said the Rec Committee is planning a Memorial Day Walk and Run on May 25. They would like to run on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. They have already talked to VAST and they are in favor of it. They are working on getting a special use permit from VTrans. They will start at Old Mill Park and go east and then either go back on the same trail or maybe use part of River Road East. **Doug moved to allow the Recreation Committee to use town highways for the Memorial Day Walk and Run on May 25, Howard seconded, and the motion was passed.**

Nat asked who is putting in the portable toilet at the trailhead – the town or the Rec Committee. Howard said he thinks it would be good if the Rec Committee did it. There is a little more construction that needs to be done before it can be installed. Nat asked if that work would be done by the Memorial Day run. Howard said maybe.

8. Travis Hill – Frozen Water Line

Eric said, regarding the situation with Travis's water line, our attorney didn't see any negligence on the part of the town. Travis's claim was denied by our insurance. He recommends that Travis dig up the line to insulate. Probably the pipe should be replaced at

the same time, as it is old. If he is going to put money into digging up the existing line, another option that might make sense is to hook into the main water line on School St.

Travis said the insurance claim will probably be reopened. The insurance company never got information from him so they didn't really hear his side of the story. He asked Manosh and Salvas Paving to write statements with their thoughts on why the pipes froze. He did some research. It was not the coldest time ever. There have been days in the last 50 years when it was much colder. The only place the pipes froze was under the parking lot on Legion Field. When the town cleared off a place for Salvas to dig, the frost line was only a couple of inches down where snow had been covering the ground. Closer to the parking lot, the ground was much harder and more frozen. The very clear reason the water pipes froze was because the field was plowed over the pipes. The town cleared off the snow, put in a parking lot, and people drove on top of the water pipes. Driving on top of frozen ground causes frost to go deeper into the ground. The frozen pipes were very clearly the town's fault and not his fault. He doesn't want to keep the ice rink from being there. This just seems like a situation of right and wrong. The town should take responsibility.

Doug said even assuming Travis is correct, he doesn't know that the easement for the water line prohibits the town from plowing. Duncan and Travis said there is no easement. Doug said then we can consider it a license. Assuming that the situation was due to the town clearing snow, do we have responsibility for it?

Eric said it is true that clearing snow drives frost down further. This may not have been the coldest year in history, but a lot of communities faced problems with pipes and sewer lines freezing in places they have never frozen before. That parking lot has always been plowed enough so fire trucks could go and put water on the ice rink and we never had this problem before. Frost went further down this year than it has in the past. A lot of people in the community are in similar situations and the town has not reimbursed them.

Travis said the parking lot was huge this year. Areas were uncovered that might not have been uncovered in the past.

Travis said because of the frozen pipes, 35 families didn't have access to daycare. A lot of people were seriously affected and upset. He needs the board to say it was the town's fault, apologize, and say the town will take care of it this time around and he will take care of it from now on. He is not okay with the town saying legally it is not the town's fault.

Eric asked what his request is. Travis said his request is that the town pay the cost of repairing the water line, which is \$4,077.

Doug asked what our attorney's opinion was. Eric said the attorney's opinion was that there was no negligence on the part of the town.

Travis said the person who contacted him from our insurance company never got any of his information. He got a letter saying they would reopen the case if he had any additional information, so he plans to try to reopen the case.

Doug said if neither our insurance company nor our lawyer agree that we are at fault, he doesn't see how he can vote for paying the cost of repairing the water line.

Kyle asked if Travis is also requesting that we don't plow the field in the future. Travis said by law the water to his property can't be shut off. If he doesn't do anything with his pipe and the town plows off the same spot, he will have to bring in lawyers to tell the town to cease and desist because plowing off the snow will block the water from his property. He hopes other things can be done before that.

Duncan asked how the town would be responsible when he doesn't have an easement and the town has the right to use the property.

Travis said because the town can't cut off water to his house and the town knows now that the line is there and that this can happen.

Duncan said Travis never notified the town of the line and his concerns before, because in the last 40 years it never froze. Travis said the town never plowed there before. Duncan disagreed.

The board agreed to defer any decision until Travis has had a chance to resubmit his claim and find out whether it is approved by the town's insurance company.

Doug said he thinks we should get an opinion about future use of the property. He is uncomfortable with the idea that we might not be able to use that property. He would hope another solution such as insulating or relocating can be arrived at. We will have to go back to deeds and history to find out about the legal rights.

Duncan said he thinks when the line was put in the college owned all the property. Subsequently, pieces were conveyed out and at that time someone should have conveyed an easement, but he couldn't find any record of it. (*Travis and Matt Hill left.*)

9. Casey Romero - Bandstand

Casey Romero introduced Jon Girard, who has been helping out in the skate park and also wants to join the skate park committee. He has also been volunteering to help raise funds for the bandstand. He came up with the idea of flyers to hand out at Tuesday Night Live that include ads. Cal Stanton is fine with that. She thinks she recalls that last year the board decided no buckets for bandstand donations should be passed around during Tuesday Night Live. Eric agreed. Casey asked, that would not preclude having a booth around the perimeter? The board said it would not. Casey said she would like permission to put posters naming supporters on the wood structures around the electric stanchions that serve vendors. The board said that would be fine.

Casey said the bandstand now has only posts and beams and a tarp for a roof. It would be great to finish the whole thing this summer, but that will depend on getting grants. They have \$4600 cash and to do the very minimum, without putting on a permanent roof, they need \$6300. They think with grants, ad sales, and other fund raising they can raise \$15K or more.

To do everything, including a permanent roof, they need a little over \$13K. They would like to finish everything but the steel roofing before Tuesday Night Live starts. They won't hear about one grant for at least a month and they won't hear about another one until August. They would like to have credit for an additional \$2K. It would be essentially a loan.

Eric said we have about \$1700 left in our beautification line item.

Kyle asked about the \$250 request of each business in town from Cal. Casey said that is for performances. Kyle asked if food vendors have any fee. Casey said she thinks so, but that goes to performances.

Doug moved to approve use of up to \$1700 from the beautification line item for bandstand construction, seconded by Kyle. The motion was passed, with Howard recusing himself.

10. Hoedown Noise Ordinance Waiver Request

Brennan Blair and Zachary Schuster said they are planning a 3 day, 2 night charitable event May 8-10 at Willow Crossing Farm to raise money to defend the state's GMO labeling law. They are requesting a noise ordinance waiver. They plan to have music from 1:00 pm on Friday to 3:00 am on Saturday, from 11:30 am on Saturday to 3:00 am on Sunday, and from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm on Sunday.

Howard asked if there are any houses nearby. They said there are some. They plan to warn all the neighbors and offer them free admission. At midnight the main stage will calm down, but there will still be music. They want to encourage people to stay overnight by providing music. After midnight they will be very cautious about being too loud. They plan to give the neighbors phone numbers to call if it is too loud.

Duncan told them that if they have food vendors they are required by state law to be certified by the Vermont Department of Health. That is not a town requirement. He asked about plans for security and disposal of human waste. They said they are getting portable toilets and using a security company called Chocolate Thunder Security. Chocolate Thunder will control traffic, violence, weapons, and drugs. They don't foresee much traffic coming in and out as the landowner doesn't want people parking on his land and they plan to use a shuttle from the college.

Nat said he understands not wanting people to leave after a certain point, but he thinks 3:00 am is a late time to extend a noise ordinance waiver. Howard moved to approve the noise ordinance waiver request as presented. The motion was not seconded. **Nat moved to approve the noise ordinance waiver with the ending time each night changed to 1:00 am, seconded by Doug.** Doug said he wouldn't mind if there were acoustic music after 1:00 am. Nat said there is some leniency in the process. If the noise exceeds what is allowed by the ordinance and someone calls, the sheriff's department will probably start by asking that the noise stop, not by issuing a fine. **The motion was passed.**

11. Manager's Report

Duncan said he has submitted a letter informing the board of his retirement no later than September 1. Eric said he and Gordy met with Duncan on Friday and discussed the process

of finding a replacement. Gordy was part of the hiring process when Duncan was hired. At that time there was a subcommittee with two selectboard members, two trustees, Rosemary, and maybe someone from the Planning Commission. They developed the job description, posted the job, reviewed applications and narrowed them down to 8 or 10, did a first round of interviews and narrowed down the applicants to 2-4 who were interviewed by the two full boards. Eric and Gordy are thinking we would do something similar, but the two boards need to talk it through. The boards need to consider whether to change the job description and would ask for input from Duncan about that. Duncan's role in finding his replacement would be very minimal. He might coordinate interviews, but this is something the boards have to do. He would strongly encourage the two boards to include Rosemary. It was very important to have the support of the town clerk and the office when Duncan was brought in. The manager has to work closely with the office and we need someone who will click with Rosemary. She may have insights on the job that the board doesn't have.

Doug asked, aren't we looking at some changes across the town and village? Eric said that will be part of the discussion. If we went to a shared public works superintendent that might change the manager's job description. That person might take over some of the manager's duties. We haven't answered the question of whether we want to go that way but we have to at least discuss it before we start the process.

Eric said another thing to talk about with the trustees is the process of deciding on form based code. The statute changed and the board, not the voters, must decide. Some board members committed to the public to let them vote and honor their vote. Not every board member made that commitment. If the public votes and if we honor their vote it gives us a lot of credibility with the trustees. He hopes the trustees will also honor the vote. The selectboard could decide to impose form based zoning, but if we did that when the voters didn't support it he thinks that would set us up for bad relationships with the trustees. Doug asked about the possibility of having only village voters vote on it, as they are the ones who will be regulated. Duncan suggested that would be a good subject for the joint meeting.

Duncan said we advertised the Solid Waste District representative position and got no response. Seth Manchester is willing to continue in the position. **Howard moved to appoint Seth Manchester as representative to the Solid Waste District, Nat seconded, and the motion was passed.**

Duncan asked the Historical Society to recommend a name for the road off School St. that needs to be named. They came up with Gihon Drive, but we already have a Gihon Lane so that could not be used. Gihon River could be used. There are several choices for suffix such as Place, Square, or Court. **Nat moved to use the name Gihon River Court for the road where the LHP housing units off School Street are located, Kyle seconded, and the motion was passed.**

Dan Perkins plans to resign as lister after the appeals process of this year, probably in late June or early July. Rose Warner would also like to get done by the end of this year. We have had zero interest in our ads for lister. This may force a decision to hire an assessor. Or we might change the hours and pay for the lister positions. This is not an action item tonight but

the board will have to think about how to address it. These are elected positions that pay \$14-16 per hour. Eric said most of the work is done over a period of 2-3 months. Duncan said he thinks the ideal situation would be to reappraise a certain percentage of the town each year. An assessor could do that or if we can find more listers we could set it up so they did that. But chances of finding listers are not great. Continuing reappraisal would hopefully lengthen the period of time before a town wide reappraisal was needed so we could save money.

Duncan provided the board with a copy of the Randolph Delinquent Tax Policy to compare to our current policy. He has asked Rosemary and Anne to review and comment as Treasurer and Delinquent Tax Collector. One thing we might want to do differently is have a more aggressive tax sale attorney. Perhaps we could have more than one tax sale per year.

Lois requested a noise ordinance waiver for Tuesday Night Live from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. **Doug moved to approve the noise ordinance waiver request for Tuesday Night Live, Kyle seconded, and the motion was passed.**

The board also received a nose ordinance waiver request for a wedding at Lamoille Field Days on Saturday, June 6 from 3:30 pm to 10:00 pm. **Howard moved to approve the noise ordinance waiver request for the wedding of Heidi Patch and Allen Stearns, Doug seconded, and the motion was passed.**

Our auditor, Jeff Graham, has informed us of new GASB requirements. We belong to the Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System, which is somewhat underfunded. We are required to list underfunding of retirement benefits as a liability on the town balance sheet. It won't have any real impact on us. To the best of Duncan's knowledge there won't be any letter from the retirement system saying we owe money. They have a plan to increase employee and employer contributions. He doesn't understand why we would need to show underfunding as a liability because we have no control over it.

Duncan handed out information on what has been spent on the Holcomb House and what we still have available. The estimated cost to finish is \$20,695. That doesn't include the cost of painting the rest of the roof, but even with that hopefully we will have enough, though it will be close.

A financial policy has been on Duncan's "to do" list for many months. Lea has time to work on it so Duncan recommends having her take the lead on it and Rosemary agrees to that. We had previously agreed to form a committee to work on it with one trustee board member, one selectboard member, and Rosemary. Walter Pomroy agreed to be the trustee. Who should be the selectboard member? Doug said he thinks we should ask Kathy Black to represent the selectboard. He will ask her. Nat said if she is not willing he would be willing to do it.

The Vermont Council on Rural Development has requested membership dues from us. Last year the board paid membership dues. There are several different levels of membership. They have been helpful to us. Doug moved to pay membership due to VCRD at the organization level (\$125), Howard seconded, and the motion was passed.

Duncan said Peter Moynihan wants to talk to the board about the scoreboards at Legion Field. He says he has never seen them used and wants to know why there is advertising on them. Nat said Legion Field is used for tee-ball and sometimes for softball. The scoreboard signs aren't used and the Rec Committee has talked for years about taking them down. It is on their "to do" list. Duncan said he will let Peter know that.

James Armstrong's court date for junk car tickets is scheduled for April 21.

VTel wants to put a pole on the same side of the street as their building within our highway right of way, across the road from one of our poles, in order to get fiber optic to their building. **Howard moved to sign the license agreements allowing VTel to place a pole within the town highway right of way, Nat seconded, and the motion was passed.**

The Tree Board applied for and received a small grant without using the correct process for applying on behalf of the town. The board needs to retroactively approve the grant application. **Nat moved to retroactively approve the Caring for Canopy grant application submitted by the Tree Board, Howard seconded, and the motion was passed.**

Doug said he and Howard both sent letters as individuals supporting the grant application by the Vermont Land Trust for a river corridor easement on the Rankin farm. The grant application has already been submitted. **Doug moved to send a letter supporting the proposal for a river corridor easement on the Rankin Farm on the Gihon River, Howard seconded, and the motion was passed.**

Nat moved to accept Mike McLaughlin's resignation from the Skate Park Committee, Howard seconded, and the motion was passed.

Howard moved to appoint Jon Girard to the Skate Park Committee, Nat seconded, and the motion was passed.

Duncan asked for permission to go the VTCMA 2015 Spring Conference. The board agreed he can go.

Howard has drafted plans for the construction of a path around Old Mill Park. Lea secured a grant for this. There is a town match, which the selectboard approved. Some of it is Howard's donation of services. **Doug moved to authorize Duncan to prepare a request for bid and put the Old Mill Park path project out to bid, Howard seconded, and the motion was passed.**

A group asked to use the municipal building parking lot for a car wash, but Duncan sent them a facilities use application and didn't get anything back.

The state emergency management department called about 4 occupied mobile homes in Katy Win Park that are in potential danger from possible embankment failure. Eric, Gordy, and Duncan met on the site with geologists, a contractor, and one of the park owners. They

concluded the trailers are not in imminent danger but there will probably have to be some erosion control.

Robert & Sons have agreed to keep the same price as last year for lawn mowing. The trustees agreed to contract with them again. Nat said on behalf of the Rec Committee he would like to ask that they not move the soccer goals. They tend to drag them and it damages the expensive goals and shortens their lifespan. There is no need to mow inside them so they can just mow around them. **Howard moved to contract with Robert & Sons for lawn mowing, Nat seconded, and the motion was passed.**

In response to the letter signed by residents of Upper French Hill Road asking that the name be changed to French Hill Road Duncan investigated and found that there is no name conflict. The road name could be changed as requested. Duncan sent a letter to those who signed the request indicating some of the issues with changing addresses and saying the board would address the request. His recommendation would be to leave the name alone. Howard asked how many had signed the letter. Duncan said maybe 10 or 12 and not all live on French Hill. Doug said he thinks there are a lot of French Hills in the state. Calling the road Upper French Hill distinguishes it a bit. The board agreed to leave the name alone.

We have been informed that the application to the Land Water Conservation Fund for 50% of the purchase price of the Beard swimming hole parcel was successful. The River Conservancy will do fund raising for the rest of the price.

Duncan has not had time to do anything further with Vermont Alert or the Journey's End agreement between the town and Glenn and Renate Callahan.

It was moved and seconded to approve a proclamation declaring Tuesday, April 28 Barbara Murphy Day in honor of JSC president Barbara Murphy. The motion was passed.

Nat asked if before Duncan retires he can review with the board all the old business items listed on the agenda so newer members understand them.

12. Executive Session – Personnel Issue

Doug moved to enter executive session to discuss a personnel issue, Nat seconded, the motion was passed, and the board entered executive session at 10:05. The board came out of executive session at 10:20.

Nat moved to accept Jason Whitehill's 6 month evaluation and to increase his pay by \$0.50/hr., seconded by Howard, and the motion was passed. Duncan will let Jason know the board is very pleased with his performance.

13. Adjourn

Howard moved to adjourn at 10:21, Doug seconded, and the motion was passed.