

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, MAY 20, 2019

Present:

Selectboard Members: Mike Dunham, Nat Kinney, Doug Molde, Kyle Nuse, Eric Osgood
Others: Brian Story, Rosemary Audibert, Brian Krause, Katie Orost, Howard Romero, Shannon Friedrich, 2 other VASA members, 2 other community members

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order

Eric called the meeting to order at 7:01.

2. Additions, Changes to Agenda

Brian added an update from the Tuesday Night Live Committee, a facility use request from the library, an update related to a conference he attended last week, discussion and possible action on power washing the Historical Society building, and possible action on cemetery maintenance.

3. Review and Approve Minutes of Meetings Past

Approval of the May 13 minutes was postponed until the next meeting as they will not be complete until tonight's continuation of the meeting is added. **Nat moved and Kyle seconded to approve the minutes of May 6, 2019.** Mike said he misspoke at that meeting; when he referred to two people being on call, his intent was to say one. **Nat and Kyle agreed to a friendly amendment to add a note to the May 6 minutes explaining that Mike had later corrected his statement. The motion was passed.**

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

Rosemary said expenditures are at 80% of budget. We received our grand list maintenance payment from the state in the amount of \$11,636. Rosemary will try to do a report on anticipated year end balances before the next meeting. We will have more than we had anticipated previously.

Current year taxes are 96.64% collected. The tax sale was on May 15. The town sold 3 properties to an individual. Last year's sale was on June 12 so as of June 13 we will own several trailers.

5. Road Commissioner/Road Foreman Report and Action Items

Brian Krause said this year he would like to do shim overlay paving on Foote Brook and Wescom Roads and possibly the bottom of Prospect Rock Road. Next year he would like to get a Class 2 paving grant and reclaim Plot Road.

Brian K. got a quote from Clark's for a new truck. The price hasn't risen since we bought a truck last year but that price is only in effect for a couple more days. This year we have a better trade-in so our cost will be lower overall. The trade-in value is \$14K better than last year's trade-in. After May 23 the price of the truck will go up 3%. Brian K. would like authorization to buy the truck at the current price. Brian S. said the purchase is in our capital plan. Eric said it is not in our budget until the next fiscal year, after July 1. He asked when the truck would be delivered. Brian said in the fall. Doug asked if that is when we would pay. Rosemary and Brian said yes; we pay when we take delivery.

Brian K. said he was trying to get a price from another dealer but may not have it before May 23. He doesn't want to switch dealers. We have a long-term relationship with Clark's. But he wants to make sure we are getting the price we should get. Another dealer would have to offer a really remarkable price for us to switch. Clark's has been good to us service-wise.

Brian S. said the board can assume the price will be what Clark's quoted. If there is considerable savings to be had we would consider going with another dealer. (*Howard Romero arrived at 7:13.*) In the past there has never been a price from another dealer that made it worth traveling farther for service.

Nat moved to authorize purchase of a truck for a price not to exceed \$150,000 from Clark's or from a competing bidder if Brian S. and Brian K. feel another deal is better, Mike seconded and the motion was passed.

Kyle said she and Brian K. met to talk about the walking path at Old Mill Park. There isn't any obstruction in the path that needs to be cut away but the path needs to be firmed up by chloride treatment. Brian K. is going to look into doing that. Brian K. said chloride will firm up areas where there are still fines at the surface.

Nat said he and Brian K. and were at the recent meeting of the emerald ash borer preparedness group. Emerald ash borer is in Washington and Grand Isle counties. It is likely here already; if not, it will be soon. The preparedness group has done an inventory of all ash trees in our highway rights of way. There are 2500. Once trees are infected they become dangerous to cut down; they behave in unpredictable ways. The group recommends cutting them down before they are infected, but that brings up legal predicaments. Can the town declare them hazard trees before they are infected? Nat handed out a bullet point list of concerns. He thinks we need to start prioritizing cutting ash trees in rights of way. He would suggest starting with ones on municipally owned land.

Brian K. said he thinks that would be a good way to get the public's attention. A lot of people don't understand that almost all of the trees will die. We won't be able to take down all the ones that will be hazards in the right of way before they die.

Eric asked how much of a dent we can make in the problem. Brian said he hasn't sat down and figured out a plan. It depends on weather. For instance, this was a terrible spring for getting things done.

Nat said he thinks we can start prioritizing trees in higher-density populated areas, trees in poor condition, and trees in the village or on municipally owned land. Maybe we need to budget next year for being more aggressive in cutting trees in rights of way.

Doug asked where cut wood can be put. Brian K. said we are trying to develop a site, probably at the dump. A lot can be left in place in the woods. Doug asked how far the wood can be transported. Brian K. said he is not sure. Doug asked if loggers are cutting ash. Is

there a market for it? Brian K. said the last he heard there was still a market. Some are cutting ash, but not many.

Brian K. said he reached out to LCPC about getting a presentation on emerald ash borer for a foremen's meeting. (*Brian K. left at 7:23.*)

6. VASA Request for Access

Brian S. said the town received a request from VASA that covers part of our soon-to-be light industrial park. He handed out a map showing where VASA would like permission for ATV use. He asked, it is the same as where ATV's have traveled in the past? The VASA representatives said yes. The VASA trail goes up the narrow access from Route 15 and then east and north along the edge of the town property and connects to Tom Foster's land, then continues to Drag Lot Road. They would like the ATV trail to be to the right of the VAST trail so it is not in the way of VAST road building. They estimate maybe 10 people a weekend would come down the trail to get gas at the Jolley Station across the road. The Jolley manager is excited about it and so are people at the VEC office. VASA talked to VEC about a possible parking area on their property.

A community member said he lives off Drag Lot Road. There is no defined distance for Drag Lot and no markers to show where it is. It doesn't appear to go on his land but every map is a little different. He thinks the town needs to identify where the road is. Can it be laid out? Eric said that would cost money. The community member said if the town is going to allow ATV use on it and allow homeowners to hook onto it, there should be an indication of where it is. Katie Orost said the road runs through her property. It would be nice to know where it is. The board asked Brian to get the map showing the location of the road. He went downstairs to get it.

Eric asked what VASA wants from the board. ATV's can already travel on Class 4 roads. Is VASA looking for permission to access the former Jewett property? VASA members said yes and they would also like permission for ATV's to use about 500 feet of paved road on Clay Hill to allow people to get to Gould Hill Road.

Brian returned with the map. He said Drag Lot Road is .28 miles long. He showed its location on the map.

Mike said after we build a road to the industrial park and sell the spaces it will change the whole dynamics of the property and we will have to revisit access. This will be temporary until the road is put in.

Doug asked, this trail would be beneficial because it gets people to the gas station? VASA members said yes; that is the only gas station ATV riders can access except in Eden. The trail won't get much use because it is a dead end. Perhaps 10 people a day, or 25 on a very good day with an organized group ride. Most travel is between Belvidere and Lowell or Eden. Probably the only ones who would use this trail are ones who need gas in the middle of their ride.

Doug said the light industrial park will be the town's priority. He would want it understood that giving permission for access now is not a promise for future access. VASA members said they would ask for a one-year contract each year.

Mike said he supports VASA and he thinks the rest of the board does as well. They do good management of property.

Kyle asked about the section of paved road. Is it safer for ATV's to go 35 mph there than to go slower? VASA members said they typically ask ATV's to go 10 mph slower than the speed limit, so they would typically put that at 25 mph but they can go with whatever the town wants. Board members said they thought 25 mph would be reasonable.

Kyle moved to allow VASA access for one year to the town-owned parcel formerly known as the Jewett property and to allow VASA use for one year on the paved part of Clay Hill Road between Plot Road and Gould Hill Road at 25 mph. The motion was seconded and passed.

7. *Tuesday Night Live Committee Update*

Howard Romero said Cal Stanton's son Jay has agreed to serve on the Tuesday Night Live Committee. Anne Mullings has resigned from the committee. **Mike moved to accept Anne Mullings's resignation from the Tuesday Night Live Committee and to appoint Jay Stanton to the Tuesday Night Live Committee, Kyle seconded and the motion was passed.**

Howard said the committee is doing really well. They have 4 or 5 bands under contract and new audio gear under order. Vendors are coming on line. Kyle said she has been sitting in on the meetings and they have been very productive.

Kyle said one big thing the committee is trying to figure out is trash recycling and compost collection. The former committee had increased the vendor fee to incorporate trash handling. This committee thought that was a good idea. Elly Ventura of the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District recommended having only one or two places to collect trash as opposed to many. Their research shows people tend to use trash vessels more if they are in one or two locations. And they need to be manned and that is easier if there is just one or two. The committee is wondering if they can build a box to store trash for one or two nights. Howard said the trash would ultimately go into the dumpster at the town garage. The committee thought it would be good to build a wooden box to store it in briefly. Jen Burton also requested that a cubby be built to store community oven supplies. Currently Jasmine Yuris is storing them on her porch. Howard said the box would probably be 4x4 ft. with a lid and a latch and a small section for the oven supplies.

Mike moved to authorize the Tuesday Night Live Committee to build a storage container for trash, seconded by Nat.

Brian S. said right now the village is picking up the garbage for us. If the town is going to do it, we would be adding more work for our town employees. If village is going to keep doing it we have to coordinate with them.

Howard said the committee is going to have Legion Field clean by the end of Tuesday night or the next morning. Anything picked up will be in the box.

Nat suggested renting a dumpster for 2 months. Howard said that would work. We would need two – one for trash and one for recycling. Nat said he thinks that would be easier. Howard said a dumpster costs about \$80/month so we would pay \$160/month for 2 dumpsters. Nat said he would prefer just to get dumpsters.

Mike withdrew his motion.

Kyle asked, what about the cubby for oven supplies? Howard said they probably could be stored in the bandstand lockup.

Mike moved to authorize getting two dumpsters for the duration of the Tuesday Night Live season, to be kept locked, Kyle seconded and the motion was passed.

Howard said information and speeches from the podium will stress that people should bring their own dishes and take them home and we will see how it goes. Kyle said the committee is also banning styrofoam this year in keeping with the former committee. Elly Ventura said the bulk of the waste was styrofoam.

Kyle said the TNL Committee is talking about starting a GoFundMe campaign with a goal of raising \$5K toward equipment. Tim from NVU has found a good deal for a mixing console. The cost would be \$2400, which has to be authorized by this board.

Board members said it would be fine to start a GoFundMe campaign. Eric asked, why not a capital fund campaign similar to the Historical Society's? Howard said GoFundMe is a lot less labor for the committee. Eric said the only thing that concerns him about GoFundMe is that they keep 8%. Howard said if you use Kickstarter, if you don't make your goal you don't get anything and all money is returned to donors. With GoFundMe if you get to the end of your time period you get whatever has been donated. Mike said people could pay with Paypal and Paypal only gets 3%. The committee could have a specific email address for Paypal donations. Howard said they would have to advertise it themselves if they used Paypal.

Howard said the TNL committee has \$4200 in its account now, about enough to pay for the bands. But they haven't started to see income from vendors and sponsors yet and they want to spend \$2400 right off the bat for the mixing console.

The board acknowledged that the TNL Committee would do a GoFundMe campaign and spend \$2400 for audio equipment.

Howard said TNL committee members feel more comfortable with a 7-member committee than a 9-member committee. The committee was originally set up with 9 members. The board agreed the committee can stay at 7 members.

Kyle said the TNL MC's this year will be Greg Stefanski and Isaac Eddy.

8. VASA Request for Access (continued)

Mike moved to authorize Eric to sign the contract with VASA for access as discussed, Doug seconded and the motion was passed. *(The VASA members left at 8:16.)*

9. Employee Compensation Adjustment for Completing Level 2 Road Scholar Training

Brian said Jason Whitehill has completed Level 2 Road Scholar training and is ready for a 75 cent per hour pay bump. Eric asked if the board has to formally take action on this since the increase is specified in the new pay grid. Brian said he thinks the board wouldn't necessarily need to take action. This is the first time a public works employee is advancing horizontally. Eric asked how we handle it if an employee moves vertically with seniority. Brian S. said increases due to vertical movement are given annually with the employee's annual increase. The board agreed that board action is not needed for horizontal moves. Brian said in the future he can just inform the board when it happens.

10. Discussion of Recent Joint Meeting and Future Joint Meeting Procedures

Mike said in the future he thinks we should never have a limited time frame like we did for the last meeting. We need a dedicated meeting with no time restriction and a moderator. Kyle said a moderator would keep us focused. Brian said he has talked about having a moderator at the June 3 joint meeting. The village asked that we meet at 6:00. If we started the joint meeting at 6:00 we might be able to do some town business afterwards. Eric said he thinks we might not want to plan anything but the joint meeting. Mike said that is what he would like to see. Eric said he thinks there is enough for the boards to discuss.

Mike said he thinks because the two boards have a mutual shared interest in the merger study, when the vote is taken on choosing a consultant he thinks the vote should be cumulative of both boards together. If there were a total of 10 people voting and 5 people from one board and 1 person from another board voted for the same consultant the motion would pass. Eric said he doesn't think legally we can do that. We are not meeting as one board when we meet jointly. We are meeting as 2 separate boards. Doug said he doesn't believe it would be a binding vote.

Nat said he was disappointed in his own response to the person who said she had been threatened after the dog hearing. When someone in our building or at a meeting says they are threatened or not feeling safe it would be good for the board to stop and make sure everyone is feeling safe and the situation is addressed. This needs to be a place where people feel safe to come. In the future if something like that happens we need to stop and address it.

Mike said it had been mentioned that we could have the sheriff at the next dog hearing. Eric said he wouldn't go that far. If we sense before the meeting that it could get contentious we do typically get the sheriff's department on call. He and Brian didn't sense it was needed at that meeting but we did have a constable and the constable has statutory responsibility to keep order in public meetings. The constable will be here for dog hearings or health issues and in the future we can ask the constable to hang back and make sure all parties leave before the constable leaves and see that there are no confrontations in the parking lot. That is their job more than ours.

Kyle said maybe we should communicate to people in the meeting who to talk to with safety concerns. Eric said dealing with that is not our role. Nat said it is our role to do something to address it to make sure everyone on the premises is safe. Doug said Eric was running the meeting. It may have seemed harsh that he wasn't as responsive to the plea as he could have been but many others jumped in to help. He doesn't think it falls directly on Eric to respond. Nat said he feels in the future we need to take it on ourselves to make sure people are safe. Mike said we can't give the impression it is nothing to us because it is something to us.

Eric said we should share our expectation with the constables. Kyle said she didn't know that was Sharon's role. Brian said he doesn't think that has been communicated to her. Eric said it is her role by state statute. Kyle said the general public doesn't know that and that is why the person who was threatened came to Eric. She feels Eric could have communicated that without being dismissive. Eric said he understands where she is coming from. He thinks the answer is the constables; that is their role.

Doug said he would rather have a sheriff's deputy here. Mike said nowadays people don't think much of a constable; they would pay more attention to a sheriff's deputy. Eric said the constable would just make sure everyone leaves safely. They could call the sheriff if needed. Doug said he likes idea of the constable intervening.

Eric said we have never had this expectation for Sharon or Tracy so we need to discuss it with them.

Nat said when someone is saying they feel unsafe he thinks we need to respond. He will do so in the future. Mike said he will as well.

Brian said Sharon was helpful during the incident when the two parties had a conflict because she helped get one of the parties to go into the parking lot and then leave. After that he told Sharon to leave and he stayed with the threatened party. We all could have done better that night. He thinks Sharon did what she could and was helpful. He thinks it would be helpful to have a procedure to work with the constables. Maybe we could verbally encourage one party to wait a bit before leaving or we might ask Sharon to let us know when one party has left.

Eric said this is not a frequent occurrence. He doesn't remember ever having a dog hearing with a conflict between the 2 parties. Brian said both parties had been cooperative and no one had picked up on the potential for conflict.

Doug said maybe we should tell people when they are here that any animosity between parties can be a matter for the sheriff.

11. Landscaping and Gardening for Municipal Resources

Brian said Andrea Blaisdell has submitted a proposal for the village green. The Beautification Committee is interested in making a donation to help this project be realized. The project can likely be paid for in part or full out of this year's beautification budget. The cost estimates range from \$1500 to \$1900. The more expensive proposal has a berm installed that may help protect the planting from snow and salt. The exact placement of plantings will

have to work with the village snowplow. That is still up for review. The Beautification Committee had expected to spend about \$1000 on this. The Beautification Committee has also committed funds for landscaping around town. Part of Andrea's proposal covers that. The village is reviewing the proposal.

Nat noted that the quote includes compost by the yard. If the Solid Waste Management District isn't giving us compost as he thought they were going to be as part of our agreement, Stephanie Lockhart usually has compost for a small donation. Brian said both those options are worth investigating.

Brian said at the joint meeting the selectboard and trustee board will discuss hiring Peter Moynihan again for town and village landscaping. We feel if we give him better instruction we can get better results. The idea would be to target fewer and more specific tasks. Kyle said the Beautification Committee discussed not having Peter do the small flower bed on Main St. They felt that was not a high need spot and not the best use of his time. There would be more of a focus on the municipal building property and the welcome signs. Brian said there would also be flower boxes on the bridges in the village. Brian said in the future we could work with a designer like Andrea and then use someone like Peter for maintenance, but Peter could submit a design as well if he wanted to.

Mike asked, the village will chip in for landscaping too, right? Brian said that is right. The town's expense will be a little higher than the village's.

12. Update on Recreation Coordinator Hiring Process

Brian said the search committee has completed review of the applications for the rec coordinator position. The first round of interviews will hopefully be held next week and probably the second round will be the week after. In between we will do background and reference checks. We will be pressed to do the hiring by the original goal of July 9 but we are not way off track.

Kyle asked how the applicant pool looks. Nat said he thinks the committee was pleased with the pool.

13. Lamoille County Sheriff's Department Report for April 2019

The report was sent out by email.

Nat said at town meeting he promised he would start a summer committee to research options for law enforcement in the Town of Johnson. He has talked about this with members of the Wolcott and Hyde Park selectboards and they seem to like the idea. How should we proceed? Do we want to include Wolcott and Hyde Park?

Doug asked what the advantage of not including them would be. Nat said he doesn't see any great advantage. He thinks we should include them.

Doug said he thinks we ought to ask Wolcott and Hyde Park. Kyle agreed. Nat said he thinks we would want to approach each board formally and request their involvement. He suggests 2 or 3 committee members from each community. It was agreed that Nat would run the idea by the other boards and come back to this board.

14. Light Industrial Park Update

Brian said we have applied for a half million dollar grant from the Northern Borders Regional Commission. If the grant is awarded it will cover a little less than 50% of infrastructure improvements. It is very flexible in terms of matching and has a relatively long completion time, which gives us time to come up with the other money we need. We are targeting the EDA grant for the bulk of the remainder of the funds. The matching for that is on a sliding scale. He thinks our match will be 30% but it could be 20%. He wants to make everyone aware of that potential cost. We always knew we would be left with a 20-30% match but that is still a lot of money when we are talking about a million dollar project. We will be able to use in kind contributions from the highway department for a lot of the match. We might have to borrow from the revolving loan fund.

Kyle asked when we find out about the grant. Brian believes it will be the end of July.

Doug said he thought we indicated this would be done with grants and no tax dollars. Eric said we did share that, but there always is a match. Brian said he thinks we were clear about having to make a contribution. Our goal has been to do it without a cash contribution. If we are denied the EDA funds we will look for more. We can't pay 50% of the cost.

15. Review Old Business

Brian said there is an increasingly likely chance we won't be able to get the fence at Evergreen Ledge done before Memorial Day. We have the request out and they have said they will be here as quickly as possible.

Nat asked if the Sargents have purchased their cemetery lots. Brian said we have finished the deed and when they are in town next they will sign and pay.

Mike asked if Brian is still talking to our attorney about this. Brian said he talked to him about the deed language. He is not undermining the board's decision.

Kyle asked if the conflict resolution workshop we have talked about doing for the board and community could be put on the list of old business. She has had a few people ask about that recently. Doug asked about putting the blighted building ordinance back on the list.

16. Power Washing of Historical Society Building

Brian said he thought the board told the Historical Society to go ahead with power washing their building. Mike said no, we didn't tell them to spend \$2K to wash that building. We didn't discuss what would happen. Nothing was decided. He can't believe that building can't be washed from the ground with a garden hose. Nat said he doesn't think that would work; the dirt is too caked on.

Mike said he thinks we need to move forward to try to get that building not owned by the town. Then we wouldn't have to pay for it. Doug said the Historical Society decided they don't want to own it. Eric said they decided recently that they want to stay under the town umbrella.

Nat said the community voted to purchase the building. We own it currently. He thinks it is our obligation to wash it so it looks better.

Doug said the last time this was discussed he was in Mike's position suggesting a garden hose but people who knew about the building indicated that wouldn't work for what is on there.

Brian said the building has metal siding with wood trim. We don't want to replace the wood trim. If we do the washing from the ground we could damage the wood trim and have to replace it. Eric said with a power washer you have a lot of control over where you spray but you have to be on the same level as the panel for it to work.

Nat said he thinks lift rental was going to be the expensive part but there was talk about having lift rental donated. Brian said he thinks the town might be able to get a better rate but he doesn't know if we can get it donated.

Nat moved to authorize expenditure of up to \$2000 to wash the Historical Society building, seconded by Kyle.

Kyle asked where the money will come from. Brian said from building maintenance.

Doug asked if we can find out what the cost of the rental is and find out what the cost would be if we provide the lift. Brian said he can pursue getting the cheapest possible cost. Eric asked if the Historical Society should look into that. Brian said the Historical Society has asked Brian to get involved in getting the lift. They are concerned that they won't get the town rate if they are not authorized to sign on the town account.

Mike said he would prefer a cost not to exceed \$1500. Eric said he thinks the expectation is that it will probably be more like \$1500. Brian agreed.

The motion was passed with Mike opposed.

17. Review Old Business (continued)

Doug asked what it takes to move the blighted building ordinance ahead. Brian said we need to issue comments on the last draft we received. Doug asked, weren't there two drafts? Brian said there were drafts with and without a vacant building permit. Doug asked, they came from a canned library, right? Brian said yes, they were based on ordinances the attorney wrote for other towns.

Doug asked, can we ask our attorney what they would need from us to generate a vacant building ordinance for Johnson? Brian said he thinks rather than asking what we need we should tell them what we don't like about the canned version – why it doesn't meet Johnson's needs.

Doug suggested circulating the drafts again and putting a discussion on the agenda.

Mike said he thinks we probably need to talk to the owners of the building on 100C that could fall into the river and see if they are setting aside their abated taxes to move it so it doesn't fall into the river. It needs to be torn down.

Doug said there are plenty of buildings in this town whose demise would be beneficial. Didn't we suggest at one time having an inventory of them? Perhaps that could be addressed with the assessor.

Mike said he thinks we should put this at the top of old business and set a goal that by end of the year we will have something done.

Brian asked if we can take time to discuss it on June 3. Board members said no; we need to dedicate that night to the joint meeting. Eric said he thinks we should have a work session with 1-3 topics like this.

Brian said he will circulate the most current draft. Doug suggested just circulating the one he thinks is best. Brian agreed to do that.

Brian said hopefully we can discuss this in a July work session. Eric asked the board's thoughts about July meetings. Do we want to meet twice in July? Rosemary said we need a meeting to set the tax rate. The board agreed to meet July 1.

18. Cemetery Maintenance

Duncan Hastings has asked if the town wants to pay for him to do more gravestone cleaning. Brian said we previously agreed not to spend all of what was in the budget for this area but the budget is looking good so he thinks we can restore some funding to that area. We could give Duncan \$1500 or \$1000 for more treatment with the "spray and leave" cleaner. There are also a lot of tipped and fallen gravestones Duncan would like to work on. We are not getting ahead with the current cemetery maintenance schedule.

Brian asked if we want to spend more money on cemetery maintenance in the current budget year. Doug said he is thinking about Tuesday Night Live equipment and getting the biggest bang for the buck. Can't we transfer money from one line item to another? Eric said we do have control, but transferring from one line item to another doesn't meet the intent of the budget approved by voters. Kyle said she thinks Tuesday Night Live will be okay.

Nat said we have so many other priorities he questions spending so much on cemeteries. He would pass on cemetery maintenance for the rest of this fiscal year. Doug said he would prioritize fixing the stones that are falling over and broken over washing. Mike said if we let them go longer it will take more man-hours to straighten them out. We might get more for our money if we do it now. Eric said Whiting Hill Cemetery does have a lot of slanting gravestones that are very visible.

Brian said he thinks \$1500 is good number but whatever we give Duncan he will use. **Mike moved to authorize spending \$1500 for cemetery maintenance, seconded by Kyle.** Kyle asked if we will we give Duncan direction or let him decide what to work on. Brian said he thinks we could target Whiting Hill. Eric asked if the board wants the motion to specify the cemetery or type of work. Mike said he thinks Duncan has a good sense of what needs the most attention. Kyle agreed. **The motion was passed with Nat opposed.**

19. Library Facility Use Request

The library is requesting use of Legion Field and the oven on August 1 with August 2 as a rain date. They want to use Old Mill Park and the stage on July 23 and they want to use Legion Field, presumably the stage, on July 25 for kids' yoga. **Doug moved to approve the library's facility use requests for August 1/2, July 23 and July 25, Mike seconded and the motion was passed.**

20. Update on Town and City Management Association Meeting

Brian said he attended a meeting last Thursday and Friday of the Town and City Management Association. He got the idea of having a local entrepreneurs day that we could advertise in Seven Days or VTDigger. We could host a discussion for people who might be interested in starting a business, using that as an avenue to promote resources we have to start businesses. We could connect with realtors and property owners and promote the town, village and LEDC revolving loan funds. Maybe we could get a training or two from LEDC on the same day. There could be something for existing businesses as well as new businesses.

Eric said he got phone call from Peggy Williams the other day that is in line with this. She was interested in what tools are available to help companies come into Johnson. She was trying to get a town-wide meeting of some sort.

Brian said St. Albans has really transformed itself and a big part of that was a local decision to be involved in economic development. The town bought buildings and land and sold them after making improvements. They did a lot with TIF funds. Learning about that made Brian think about what we can do to try to be more proactive.

Doug mentioned Brownfields money. He asked, do we start with our strengths or with generic info? Brian said he thinks both. We want to capture a wide audience so we include generic info but we also want to attract people to Johnson so we should also talk about our strengths. Maybe we could have a class on what it means to have a property targeted for Brownfields redevelopment. We could talk about the liability protection.

Doug asked what Johnson Works thinks about this idea. Kyle said this is a new idea Brian just emailed about. Johnson Works is also trying to be more proactive. They recently put together a flyer listing loan options, etc. to hand to potential business owners. Many Johnson Works members' businesses are just holding on by a thread. She has been meeting with Casey Romero about getting a food truck or coffee cart on the village green to draw people into the village. We have Jen Burton doing a mural. Johnson Works will help with the rail trail bike-a-thon in June. Kyle has been reaching out to every contact she has about properties available in Johnson. We have had a lot of really good bites and then people visit and find the properties are overpriced and require a lot of maintenance. Hogback Snacks is definitely permanently closed. On paper, Johnson looks attractive but landlords are sitting on properties, asking too much money and not putting money into their properties and everyone is battling online competition. She thinks Brian's idea is good.

Brian said at the conference he presented at a panel on outdoor recreation and economic development. They had good conversations about things we need to do beyond field sports.

Brian was on the Vermont Town and City Management Association board of directors. They asked him to be vice president and he accepted. They also asked him to be Vermont's coordinator for the national conference, which will mean he will go to Nashville this year and Toronto next year. He may ask to split the cost of the travel next year with the town, but he did volunteer for the expense. It will be more expensive than the professional development he typically engages in, but he thinks it will be valuable for him and he will hopefully bring ideas back to the town.

Nat said he likes the idea Brian proposed.

21. Selectboard Issues/Concerns

Mike asked what became of the letter that was to be sent to Dollar General corporate headquarters asking them to remove the large sign. Brian said it was sent; he doesn't think we heard anything back. He can check the list of received mail to be sure.

Mike said he wondered if the board would be interested in sponsoring an annual tire sale and swap where people could buy or trade tires they no longer need. Kyle said it is amazing how many Front Porch Forum posts are about tires. Mike said someone could sell hot dogs. It could be a community event. Brian said the Historical Society recently had a flea market. We might be able to tie together the flea market and the tire swap. Eric said maybe there could be different community wide events. Brian said there could be neighborhood garage sales. Kyle asked who will organize it. Nat said when Mark Woodward does sales in the village in the summer it brings people into Johnson from everywhere. Eric said maybe we could coordinate on the same weekend he plans a sale. Doug said maybe knowledge of when or if Mark Woodward is going to have a sale could be circulated at the entrepreneur event. Nat said the question of who will organize this is important.

22. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths