

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

Present:

Selectboard Members: Mike Dunham, Nat Kinney, Kyle Nuse, Eric Osgood

Others: Brian Story (Administrator), Brian Krause, Meredith Birkett, Lois Frey, Gordy Smith, David Butler, Casey Romero, Duncan Hastings, Steve Smith, Bert Nadeau, Mike Patch, Eben Patch, Alex Nadeau, Andy Glover, Adrian Nadeau

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. *Call to Order*

Eric called the meeting to order at 7:00.

2. *Additions, Changes to Agenda*

Brian Story said Duncan asked if the board could hear his proposal for cemetery maintenance. He suggests adding that while Duncan is here to speak for the Historical Society. The board agreed. Eric said he wanted to add discussion of an LEDC invitation.

3. *Review and Approve Minutes of Meetings Past*

Nat moved to approve the minutes of August 15, 24, and 31, 2016, Mike seconded, and the motion was passed.

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

Brian passed out tax collection information. Eric noted that we are about a percent behind on collection compared to the last 2 tax cycles. (*David Butler arrived at 7:04.*) The amendment for the School Street project was approved. Rosemary believes we can pay SD Ireland with money on hand and will not need a note. The plan is to have an event here on October 12 to honor Duncan.

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

Brian Krause said the highway department has received the new hydro seeder and they have used it several times. It works well. They have finished stockpiling winter sand. As expected, they spent \$26K over budget for that. The work for one of the Better Backroads grants is completed. They will continue to work on the other two.

Brian K. said it would be nice to figure out what we are going to do with the loader. If we are going to keep it we will want to get some work done to it. The John Deere salesman will stick with the trade-in and new loader price quotes previously obtained through October. That price is for a loader the same size as the one we have now. If we are going to move forward with a gravel pit or even just finish getting the gravel out of the existing pit, that is the size we need.

Eric asked if Brian thinks his crew can get into any mud abatement projects this year. Brian said possibly, but he is not sure how the budget is going to work because he is so far over budget for gravel. He is not sure if we need to take money from mud abatement to make up for that. Eric asked about the total highway department budget. Brian said it is still early to say how it is going to end up. He is over budget on gravel but not very much because he has refrained from doing maintenance he should be doing in hopes that we will open up the gravel pit and he can use that gravel. There is \$30K budgeted for mud abatement. Eric said

one possibility would be to delay the mud abatement until spring of next year. That would give us the \$30K to use for something else if needed. If it was still available we could do mud abatement in May or June. Nat asked if the highway crew would have time to do it then. Brian said he thinks so. He said we may be running out of time this year. It is weather dependent. The board agreed to discuss the gravel pit in a work session. Nat said he hates to miss a year of mud abatement. Eric said if we did some in May or June then we would do two projects next year instead of one this year and one next year. Mike asked about the trade-in value of the current loader. Brian K. said he thinks the net cost to us of the new loader was \$130K. Several thousand dollars worth of work are needed to the loader.

6. *Planning Commission Report*

David Butler said the administrative section of the form based code is completely rewritten. The Planning Commission is changing some of the district standards. The final code is not approved yet by the Planning Commission but will be at the next meeting.

At their last meeting the Planning Commission had Pam DeAndrea, the new LCPC GIS planner, come in. She talked about tactical basin planning for total maximum daily load of siltation into Lake Champlain. It will affect a lot of what we do. They are taking control of 3 big watersheds in the north and the Lamoille River is one of them. There is a work plan they have for changing things in the Lamoille River watershed. They are changing some streams from Class B to Class A1, which means we have to do something about protecting them. The plan doesn't just deal with natural stream corridors but also with catch basins, road runoff, and anything that escapes from the sewage treatment plant. There are grants available. Pam would like us to apply for a grant for a siltation management program. David thinks the Planning Commission, trustees, and selectboard should all have a joint meeting to have her explain this. The town highway department and the village will have to comply with new laws. We have to form a municipal plan and accept the river corridor project as mapped in order to get the 17.5% cost share from the state. Otherwise we are stuck at 12.5%. Pam DeAndrea is willing to write a grant proposal for Johnson to get a study set up for late winter or spring.

This ties in with the river corridor project. Johnson is first on the list for ground proofing of river corridors. They will walk streams and map exactly what area needs to be protected. However, that doesn't include the Gihon or the Lamoille. (*Casey Romero arrived at 7:21.*)

Kyle asked when the grant applications are due. David said he got the impression the first round would sunset in October and for the second round we would have through the winter to apply.

David said there is a public meeting on proposed stormwater rules in Montpelier on October 25 at 9:00 am.

David said in the administrative portion of form based code the Planning Commission took out any reference to use within a structure. They decided to make porches, decks, walkways and entryways exempt from the code provided they meet the standards for the district. Some minimum standards will need to be written.

Mike said he is against any kind of infringement on what people can build if no one can see the house. David said this is just for the downtown district. It may grow. His vision is that it would depend on acreage and visibility. If your house is not visible from the main thoroughfare there may be no restrictions.

Eric asked how far the village district extends. David said he doesn't think it goes west as far as Jolley. On the east side, it goes just beyond 100C, probably about to the Smoke Shop and it goes up Railroad Street to the river.

Eric asked, even if it encompassed the whole town, it's really to address the look of a building, so there would be nothing to prevent a dollar store going in, right? David said that is right, but the building façade would have to meet the standards. Kyle said most chains are turned off by that because they have cookie cutter plans.

7. *Skate Park Committee*

Casey Romero said the Skate Park Committee would like to put a directional sign on the Wescom Road town highway post. It would point the way to the skate park. She showed the board a preliminary design. It would meet the one square foot total area specified in the town ordinance and by the state. It would be on Route 15. The selectboard and highway foreman need to give permission. In the ordinance it talked about the town paying for the signs. There is a preliminary cost estimate of \$175-180 for two signs, one on each side. **Mike moved to authorize Brian Krause and/or Brian Story to work with the Skate Park Committee on directional sign placement and sign the permit for a directional sign on a town highway post, Kyle seconded and the motion was passed.**

Casey said a member of the committee cut a proposed bike trail route in the meadow grass. It is an estimated 1500-2000 linear feet. The trail surface would be dirt. The trail would be put in next spring when the ground is still wet and drainage is apparent. Material would be dug out of some spots and added back in other spots. If the committee gets enough money they might want to add some wooden features like see-saws or bridges. The idea is to make a trail that is inviting for beginners.

Eric said the board has already given conceptual approval. (*Duncan Hastings arrived at 7:39.*) Casey said the next step would be for the Skate Park Committee to develop a more refined design and budget and go after grant money. She noted that the trail will make a change in how the meadow is mowed. The committee will have to figure that out. The town mows the meadow now. The board agreed the Skate Park Committee should proceed with designing the trail and seeking funding.

8. *Historical Society*

Duncan said the Historical Society voted last week to ask if the town would consider coordinating with the Studio Center to remove the weathervane from the old town hall building. Ideally we would see if the Studio Center would be interested in putting a replica of the weathervane there. When the town sold the building to VSC, we retained the monuments, which have been moved, and the weathervane. The Historical Society would love to be the keeper of the weathervane as an exhibit. (*Casey left at 7:43.*) They have offered to handle any discussion or negotiation with VSC if the board is interested.

Mike said he would like to see the weathervane in the municipal office building. More people could see it there. Duncan said the Historical Society board would like to see it as an artifact in the Historical Society collection. Mike said it needs to be secure. Duncan said the Historical Society building has a security system. Nat said the Historical Society probably has any number of artifacts that it would be nice to display at this building, maybe on a revolving basis. Eric asked if the Historical Society had given any thought to how the weathervane would be displayed. Duncan said they haven't gotten that far. They just felt it would be good to bring it in out of the weather and salvage it before it was lost. He could bring the idea of a space for revolving exhibits at the municipal building to the Historical Society.

Nat moved to authorize the Historical Society to negotiate with Vermont Studio Center on the town's behalf about removing the town weathervane from the Vermont Studio Center building, Kyle seconded and the motion was passed.

Duncan said he was the selectboard's representative to the Historical Society board. He would be happy to continue. **Mike moved that Duncan Hastings continue as the selectboard's representative on the Historical Society board, Kyle seconded and the motion was passed.**

Brian S. passed out Duncan's proposal for cemetery maintenance. Duncan said there are 381 interments in Whiting Hill Cemetery. He cataloged 389 stones there. (Some are foot markers.) Seven have completely fallen over. Eleven are broken and need to be repaired. Ninety-five are severely leaning. Most are in need of cleaning. He proposes that the selectboard authorize him to work on a few stones, then he would firm up a proposal based on that. He would do the work in accordance with cemetery group guidelines. Many old stones have a collar that is independent of the rest of the stone. The recommendation is that stones not be cemented. Some have been cemented in this graveyard. When cement is poured around the base of a stone instead of a collar, it eats the stone and provides a fulcrum for frost movement. It breaks the stone over time. Only very mild cleaners are recommended, no acid cleaning.

Kyle moved to authorize Duncan Hastings to repair 3 stones of his choosing at the Whiting Hill Cemetery, Mike seconded and the motion was passed.

Duncan said the cemetery is listed on the Find a Grave index but the graves are not mapped out. He would be willing to map out where the stones are, at no cost to the town, in order to benefit those doing genealogical research. (*Duncan left at 7:59.*)

9. *Tree Board*

Brian S. said the Tree Board needs a new member and is nominating Rob Maynard. **Nat moved to appoint Rob Maynard to the Tree Board, Mike seconded and the motion was passed.**

10. *Introduction of Meredith Birkett and Presentation of Information on the Proposed Lamoille County Solid Waste Composting Project*

Gordy Smith said he has talked to Brian S. a couple of times and he feels the selectboard made an excellent choice in hiring Brian. He feels Meredith was also an excellent choice. He

introduced her to the selectboard. He said she has done an excellent job so far. He thinks with cooperation of Brian and Meredith the two boards will be able to work together.

Meredith discussed some of the projects that will be priorities for her. One is compliance with new electrical standards and net metering. The trustees want to make ratepayers aware of the costs associated with net metering projects. One 150 kW solar installation will cost the utility about \$30K. Other priorities include capital planning for the wastewater facility and economic development.

The Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District applied for and got a grant to use the facility owned by the village on land leased from the town for food scrap and yard waste composting. The village's lease requires approval of the town to sublease the facility so getting that approval is the first step. Meredith proposes to work with Brian and come back to the next meeting with a draft lease agreement. Then the village will need to work on an agreement with LRSWMD. She hopes the lease agreement can cover town concerns. She has started a conversation with the district about making sure there are no cost shifts to the town because of the project.

Eric said the town felt it was not fair to the taxpayers of Johnson that Johnson was hosting the stump dump, which benefits the district as a whole, and there was no contribution from other member districts to the Town of Johnson. Johnson negotiated in the past with LRSWMD that they would plow, sand and maintain their own yard. They are trying to renege on that. If we take on all the composting for the whole district, why should Johnson voters and taxpayers provide this service for the whole district? We are not one of the richest in the district.

Meredith said she asked Susan Alexander about some benefits to the town. Susan said they don't offer any reciprocal arrangement for other towns that host facilities. Other towns tend to provide plowing, etc. at LRSWMD facilities. Starting in 2020, residents will have to compost or bring their food scraps somewhere. It is beneficial to Johnson residents to have a place close to home to compost. It is beneficial to agriculture to have compost nearby. And some jobs will be created.

Eric said there will be additional truck traffic hauling the waste, which means extra wear and tear on our highways. Meredith said hopefully people will combine trips as people are already bringing trash. David asked if there is going to be pickup in a large truck of compostable materials in the rest of the district or if materials will be coming in private vehicles. Eric said he would guess that residents would come in private vehicles but that LRSWMD would haul material from farther areas in large trucks. Meredith said she will ask Susan if they have estimates of frequency.

Mike Patch asked, what about rodents? Food waste can attract wildlife. It could be a problem for those who live in the neighborhood. David asked if they are proposing above ground composting. Meredith said yes. She said the things mentioned are things we would want to address in the sublease agreement or the agreement with LRSWMD. David said it is not just rats that may be attracted but also hawks, eagles, and bears. Nat said composting these

materials is a state requirement. Either there will be a lot of compost bins at private homes or composting will be at a professionally managed facility. David said bald eagles are common at places where commercial composting is done.

Mike Patch suggested LRSWMD could use MBI trucks that pass through here and go back to Chittenden County empty to pick up compostable materials and transport them to the facility in Chittenden County. Meredith said she will ask about that.

11. Cooperative Plan to Repair and Improve Drainage on Hogback Road

Brian S. reminded the board that at the last meeting the board voted to send Alan Lehouillier a letter saying we had no evidence that the town had agreed to maintain his ditch as modified. He came back with a counter proposal – that he provide an excavator of appropriate size (bigger than the one the town has) and space to dump the refuse and we use our manpower to do the ditch cleaning. It would save us a potentially lengthy battle. Alan believes he was given permission to put in the current ditch. We can't find conclusive for or against this claim. The intention would be to have periodic maintenance every 5 to 7 years. The town could maintain the ditch more routinely than it has. Does the board want Brian to send out the draft cooperative plan agreement for legal review? He wants to make sure we have Dave Barra review it and wants to make sure we are in contact with any other owners of the property.

Steve Smith said the ditch originally went from Hogback Road to the river and the town always cleaned it. When Alan Lehouillier changed the ditch, the board at that time said it was okay. The ditch has never been cleaned that he knows of. It was not the understanding that Alan would maintain the ditch.

Mike Dunham asked, is this a better deal for the town than it used to be? Steve said he thinks so. Eric said he thinks Alan Lehouillier proposal is a good compromise. Brian S. said Alan believes he was granted permission to do the project and the town agreed to maintain it. We don't think we would have agreed to that but we aren't sure. The town will be taking no responsibility for the ditch except when we are cleaning it. He doesn't want to set up anything where the town agrees to maintain it regularly.

Mike Patch said if there is a culvert in the road and it drains onto your property and it becomes wet and you ditch it, it is the town's responsibility because they created the problem. He feels Alan should give the town a right of way and supply the backhoe for cleaning while the town supplies the manpower.

Brian S. said he wants to get legal review on the proposed agreement. The particulars of the agreement are still open to negotiation. It was agreed to send the draft agreement to Dave Barra for review with the concerns brought up this evening.

12. Bert Nadeau – Gravel Pit

Brian S. said he spoke to David Gilderdale, who works for the state in property management and runs the Town of Randolph gravel pit and a private gravel pit. He also has some experience with our gravel pit as a consultant. He maintains we do not need an Act 250 permit to reopen our gravel pit. He believes he has seen it in use as a gravel pit since before Act 250 so he believes we are grandfathered because use has not changed. Brian thinks we

will want to state to the Act 250 coordinator for our district that we do not need an Act 250 permit and be prepared to face consequences if the state disagrees.

Mike Patch said when he was on the selectboard Ed Stanak came here and said we didn't need a permit. Who told us to shut the gravel pit down? We have been buying gravel at a higher price. Someone ought to reimburse the Town of Johnson for that money. Who is the person who told the town to stop? He hopes the town realizes there is nothing wrong with the pit. Why are we waiting now to reopen it?

Eric said the information being discussed is new information the board didn't have until tonight. We have one or two years of gravel left at the existing site so we were starting to look at a closure plan. We can't find a closure plan or any Act 250 permits.

Bert said the closure plan is in the deed. Brian S. said it is not detailed enough for current standards. We will have to revisit it.

Mike Patch said he asked people in Montpelier and they said they have no issues with the pit. Why would we be looking for problems? Bert asked who started this.

Eric said we have been looking at the gravel pit for a number of years, asking how much we have left. It was looking like we were near the end. We now estimate we have a year's worth left, maybe two. The board realized we need a closure plan and need to allocate money for it. A bigger issue is the mine safety training that is required for the highway department employees working in the gravel pit. The board felt it didn't make sense to invest the money and have them take a week out of their work schedules to get training if we only have a year or two of gravel left. If there is more gravel on some of Bert's property the board will look at using that. If it makes sense, we will send the employees to mine safety class and be in complete compliance with OSHA regs and then we can reopen the gravel pit, finish getting the gravel out and continue getting gravel elsewhere on Bert's property. The board made the decision to close the pit. No one told us to close it.

A citizen said MSHA and Act 250 are two issues. We now know Act 250 is out of the picture. Eric said we don't know that yet. Brian S. said his recommendation is that we need to tell the Act 250 coordinator what our understanding is and get a final decision. He has heard a lot of evidence that we are okay and none that we are not. He thinks we need to be direct with the Act 250 coordinator. We could have to pay a fine if they believe we need a permit. He would like a little time to go through some records in person in Barre. He thinks we are close to the time when we should directly confront the coordinator on Act 250.

A citizen asked what the problem is with mine safety. Brian S. said we have not been in compliance. The citizen asked who told us we needed to be in compliance. Brian S. said a MSHA consultant informed us we were not in compliance.

Steve Smith said we were told we did not need to have MSHA safety training because there is no crusher at the pit. We had had to have first aid training and we were taking courses every year. As far as the gravel, Bert offered to sell the town more acres if we wanted more

gravel. Eric said we are talking about that now. He said Bert said he would open up his property to the town to dig test pits. Bert corrected that statement, saying he might allow it. Steve said he had someone do a test pit on the Parker and Stearns side of the stream. He found gravel identical to what we have been getting. There is plenty of gravel there.

One of the Nadeaus said he had given Brian S. the card of a government employee who said Brian should call him any time the town has a problem.

Mike Patch said material stripped from the new pit can be used to close the old one. A large amount of money will not be needed to close the pit. If there is another situation like Irene, what will we do if we don't have our own pit? We need our own. He feels the highway department should be in the pit tomorrow morning.

Nat said he needs concrete information about MSHA requirements before putting someone in there. He doesn't want to put the Town of Johnson in a situation where we risk being sued or fined. He is looking to protect the taxpayers.

Mike Patch suggested calling the head of MSHA soon to find out. He said we are paying a lot of money for gravel when we should be paying less.

One of the Nadeaus said there are 6 towns that rely on the Nadeau pit for a lot of their materials. If there is a bad storm and the town loses a whole road, where will the town get the material to rebuild? If there is 20,000 yards of gravel left, why close up the pit? The town should look into reopening it and use the gravel.

13. Public Hearing #2 on Unified Plan

Eric recessed the selectboard meeting at 8:45 and opened the public hearing on the Unified Municipal Plan. The board is looking for public input on this town and village plan. Brian S. said no one has commented on it yet. There have been no changes to it since the last public hearing. No input was offered. Eric closed the public hearing at 8:47 and reopened the selectboard meeting.

14. Bert Nadeau – Gravel Pit (continued)

Mike Patch said Eric had mentioned shutting down the garage for a week for employees to get MSHA training. The town could send one employee for a week now and 6 months later send a second person and that would be enough to run the pit. And someone from Nadeau who is certified could probably come to help out. Brian K. said we have one employee who has the training. He can load as long as no one else gets out of the truck. As far as he understands we have to have safety plans and a training program in place and we don't have those.

One of the Nadeaus said the government employee whose card he gave to Brian can give Brian information on everything the town needs. He said the plan can be very simple. He showed Brian an example.

Brian S. said he and Brian K. will look into what we need as far as a safety plan and training plan. That should not be a long process.

Mike Dunham said he doesn't think we should go another week without reopening the pit.

Nat said we have good evidence the pit will be grandfathered and not need an Act 250 permit. We will want to get agreement from the state. Eric said a bigger concern is safety. If someone approves our safety plan he is ready to go in, but until someone with authority agrees it is sufficient he wouldn't agree to reopening the pit.

One person suggested asking someone from the Morrisville pit about their plan so Johnson doesn't have to reinvent the wheel. Mike Patch suggested the town could also ask Hyde Park.

Brian S. said his ideal plan was to test for gravel on land we could buy for a new gravel pit, then develop a mine safety plan, a training plan and a closure plan that incorporated both sites – moving material from the new site to the old site. He wanted to coordinate both at the same time. But it sounds like there is interest from the public and the highway department in moving faster than that. If he has to consult with an MSHA consultant twice, how much will that cost? Are we going to develop a safety plan for the old gravel pit and then a plan for a new pit? Or are safety plans as simple as some have made them sound, so that a plan could easily be expanded to a new site? His impression was that this would be a very expensive process so he has been cautious about doing the work for the old site since there is not much gravel left in it. But he is hearing a lot of interest in opening the old pit.

Mike Patch said MSHA will come if the town calls them. As far as training, every spring there is training in Morrisville for any towns who want to send people. MSHA is just like WorkSAFE. They will come and look at the site and give so many days to fix any problems. The town doesn't have to pay any money. As far as paperwork, the town just needs to get copies of what other towns use.

Gordy said he recommends talking to MSHA and OSHA, not a consultant, because consultants will charge more. Another person suggested getting VLCT to provide copies of safety plans used by other towns. Steve Smith said Hyde Park gave a copy of their safety plan to Johnson and we used that. It worked fine.

Eric said before spending any significant amount of money on reopening the pit, the town is interested in getting onto Bert's property to see if there is any more gravel there. Bert said he may allow that if he sees movement.

David Butler asked if the town had ever received any Act 250 violation. Eric said no. Eric said we looked in our records and tried unsuccessfully to find an Act 250 permit and closure plan. Then we went to the state and they didn't have a record of a permit.

Mike Patch said he hopes the board can trust all the people here tonight and open the pit up and save the taxpayers money.

Brian S. said he will start calling people tomorrow. He wants to check physical records at the Act 250 office. He can do that tomorrow. The board could have a special meeting this week, but he can't guarantee he will hear back that quickly from the people he calls. Eric said a

week won't make a big difference. (*Gordy, Steve, the Patches, the Nadeaus, and Andy left.*)
It was agreed to schedule a meeting for September 26 at 7:00. (*Brian K. and David Butler left at 9:06.*)

15. Administrator Report, Action Items and Signature Required Items

Nat moved to adopt the Unified Municipal Development Plan, Mike seconded and the motion was passed.

Brian S. will go to the VLCT Town Fair. Eric said he is registered for it. Brian handed out a newsletter listing the workshops that will be available. **Mike moved to elect Eric as voting delegate at the VLCT Town Fair, Nat seconded and the motion was passed.** Brian said it is too late to nominate anyone for a municipal award. We got the nomination form between the last meeting and this one. He said at the meeting there will be a vote on the municipal policy that will guide VLCT's advocacy for the coming year.

Brian said he is postponing action on the update to the animal impoundment form because we need Rosemary's signature.

Brian suggested postponing discussion of the Green Lantern proposal. Eric asked if there would be time to do it next week along with the gravel pit discussion. Brian said he thinks so. It was agreed to add this to agenda for September 26.

Brian said he wants to get a cost estimate for Mill House painting. Eric said we need a dollar figure before we go to the trustees. Mike said we need several bids. Nat said there was a suggestion at one point that we just remove the clapboards and have them replaced. That could be less expensive than painting. Can we include the cost of that? Mike suggested we could cover what is there with vinyl siding. Nat and Brian said they would hate to go down that avenue. Brian said you often can't buy a new piece of vinyl siding like the one that needs to be replaced so often you have to replace all the siding, over and over. Long term, vinyl siding is not a good investment. It was agreed that Brian should get quotes for painting and for replacing the clapboards.

Nat said the selectboard has budgeted for painting that building and the trustees have not been interested. He wonders if the selectboard would be interested in seeing whether the trustees would deed the building over to the town if they are not invested in maintaining it. Eric said that would be a good item for discussion at a joint board meeting. Nat said we have talked about improving properties on Railroad Street and we have a property on Railroad Street that we are not maintaining. He thinks we should maintain and paint the building.

Brian said over the summer there were a few unauthorized uses of Duba Field. We could put a chain across the access to the field but that could cause problems for adjacent property owners. Mike asked what the unauthorized access was. Brian said someone drove on the field when it was soggy. Eric said they drove in figure 8's and made ruts. He also saw a car parked in the middle of the field one morning with a tent by it. Brian said if we put a chain up, people might drive across the neighbors' property more than they do now. The board agreed that putting up a chain might cause more problems.

Brian said he found out that a bronze plaque for the Beard Park is more expensive than he had anticipated. It could be \$200-300 or more. Mike said that is cheap, considering what the Beards have done. **Mike moved to authorize spending up to \$500 for a plaque for the Beard Park, seconded by Nat.** Brian said he will try to use a large rock we already have to mount the plaque on. We might have to spend money to make a flat surface appropriate to mount the plaque. **The motion was passed.** Brian said he thinks the Beard Park dedication will be in mid to late October. He needs to coordinate with the family.

Brian said the trustees would like the selectboard to pick a couple of potential joint meeting dates in October or November. They felt a meeting including the school board should come before a meeting of just the selectboard and trustees. The board agreed to suggest the dates of October 3, October 4 and October 11 for joint meetings with or without the school board.

Nat said he doesn't feel like the selectboard has done much work related to the previous joint community meeting. Eric said he has expressed that to Katie Orost. He doesn't know how much the trustees have done. It might still be good for us to get together.

Nat said he feels strongly that joint meetings should be moderated by a third party. Eric Nuse did a great job moderating and Dave Williams would also do a great job. He feels moderation would make those meetings more productive. Brian said he will contact possible moderators and he will present the suggested dates and the idea of having a moderator to Meredith.

Brian said it appears that Maurice Harvey, who owns property adjacent to the town-owned Gomo lot, is mowing and using the town property. It appears he has built a dock on our property. Brian showed photos. We don't know how long he has been doing it. The area is inaccessible by road. The board agreed that Brian should check the property in person, then send an email to Harvey telling him to stop using town property. Eric asked Brian to send out an update after he visits the property.

Brian S. and Brian K. applied for a PACIF Equipment Grant for highway safety equipment and obtained a grant of \$815. We need to supply some matching funds.

Brian has a draft of a revised street naming policy. It includes elements of Milton's and Hyde Park's policies as well as elements of our old one. The board will have to warn it and vote on it at a future meeting. The problem with our old one was that we weren't in compliance with E911. This draft brings us into compliance. It has a new standard for how we will number buildings. We will not renumber existing buildings unless there is a situation that presents a danger because the numbers are not in sequential order. That situation can arise when someone moves a driveway. We will have to fix those because out of order numbering can confuse an emergency responder. The only change in the policy is the standard by which we measure and assign numbers.

The policies Brian will work on next are the policies on dilapidated buildings and animal control. He thinks the animal control policy will be next. Eric asked if he can send the dilapidated building policy out to the board before it is discussed at a meeting.

Brian would like board approval to host a candidate forum. Eric said in the past we have found that the only people who come to a candidate forum are big supporters of a particular candidate. It doesn't present an opportunity to educate the populace on the candidates because they don't come out to a forum. But he is willing to give it a try. Nat said it would get covered by the newspaper and public access TV. Eric said it would be a good opportunity for us to push our agenda with the candidates. That is the main benefit he sees. It is an opportunity for us to let them know about concerns we have as municipal officials. Brian said he has talked about sharing responsibility for the forum with Meredith. He might ask her to take on more responsibility. The trustees are interested in co-hosting. He is not sure he has time to be the lead.

October 20 was agreed upon as a potential date. Brian and/or Meredith will invite candidates. Eric said we will probably need Dave Williams to moderate. Brian asked what board members think about asking someone from JSC to moderate. He would like to involve JSC student political organizations. If they got to have a hand in choosing a moderator we might get more people. Eric said we want to make sure it is not someone with a particular agenda. Dave Williams is well respected by all.

Brian said he is interested in having a community forum in November or December about the proposed Johnson State/Lyndon State unification.

An Act 250 permit application came in for a proposed dollar store at 823 Route 15, where Horner's Greenhouse used to be. Two organizations are trying to avoid an Act 250 permit by dividing the property so the building would be on .99 acres and another LLC would have another piece of property with the septic, parking lot, etc. The District Coordinator decided that the two LLC's were coordinating and acting as one and therefore need to submit one application. They have issued an appeal. There hasn't been a decision yet on the appeal but it probably will be denied. We have nothing we would be able to do to encourage or prevent the development. We have no zoning. If we had form based code the building would look the way we wanted it to look. Then it would fit in with the town better and the building would be more saleable.

The village has received approval for a grant for an area wide Brownfields study to encompass three sites on Railroad St.

Work has begun on Better Backroads grants. A progress report on the Municipal Planning Grant has been sent and the disbursement has been issued.

The appointment of Brian as Deputy Health Officer has been accepted.

An Act 250 application to construct 8 additional units in the existing mobile home park on Wescom Road has been received.

The LCSD report for August was sent via email. There were no major changes. Eric asked if they have given any explanation for why Johnson has such a high percentage of warnings. Brian said they feel warnings are educational. They say they are effective as a deterrent. Nat

said he would like to see a list of offenses that there is no discretion on, such as texting or driving a certain amount above the speed limit. He said Roger Marcoux has agreed to this in concept. Nat would also like better information from Roger about incidents in Johnson. Mike said he doesn't feel it is the selectboard's job to make LCSD give out more tickets. Brian said he would like to get more information about locations where tickets and warnings are given. Eric said we were having complaints from citizens about speeders in some parts of town. We saw our ratio of warnings to tickets was high compared to other towns.

Brian would like to pursue a transportation alternative grant for a consultant to help implement traffic calming. His idea is to get some permanent radar signs installed on School Street, Lower Main, and maybe Clay Hill and Railroad Street. Ideally we can get signs that allow us to check computerized records and see how many speeders there are and how far over the limit they are. Nat said he would consider a traffic study on Route 100C as well. Brian said the consultant may even be able to help write the grant application.

Brian said he was mistaken about when the option on the Jewett property is up for renewal. It is not up for renewal until April. He still intends to follow the plan of trying to get them to reduce price and releasing the option if that does not happen.

16. LEDC Invitation

Eric said LEDC invited us to an annual luncheon on October 20 at noon. It will last 2 hours. There will be recognitions and awards and a presentation. It will be at GMTCC.

17. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:16.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths