

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2021

Present:

Selectboard members: Mike Dunham, Beth Foy, Nat Kinney, Eric Osgood, Eben Patch

Others: Brian Story, Hugh Albright, Offie Wortham, Kyle Nuse, Eric Hutchins, Dan Noyes, Diane Lehouiller, Jackie Stanton, Scott Meyer, Jasmine Yuris, Sophia Berard, Greg Tatro

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 added a proposal to place a library box on Legion Field and a request from Green Mountain Byway to write a letter in support of its request to VTrans. Nat said he has a message to convey regarding ATVs.

3. Review and Approve Minutes of Meetings Past

Eben moved to approve the minutes of July 6, 2021, Beth seconded and the motion was passed with Mike abstaining as he was not at that meeting.

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

Eric said revenue to date is at 103% of budget and expenses to date are at 88% of budget. Brian said he expects we will have a truer picture by the end of August. Eric said some of tonight's orders apply to the last fiscal year. Brian said reserve fund transfers may not be taken out yet. Eric said current taxes are 98% collected, slightly higher than the last couple of years at this time.

Eric said the town received a letter from Peter Taxwood asking to have penalties and fees waived. He indicated that his check was dropped in the slot but was not cashed immediately. The board decided to wait until Rosemary is here before taking action.

5. Public Works Supervisor/Highway Foreman Report

Hugh said his crew installed a drain at the Historical Society building to deal with water in the basement, as previously approved by the board. (*Eric Hutchins and Dan Noyes arrived at 7:07.*) The crew did work at the welcome center. (*Diane Lehouiller arrived at 7:07.*) Some problematic culverts were replaced. There are probably another six to eight that need to be replaced. Ditching continues.

Brian said we got a Class 2 paving grant for Plot Road. We got a new paving estimate from Hutchins. Since we have done the reclamation work the amount of work needed has changed but the cost of that work has risen. The new estimate looks good from our end. We are asking the state for permission not to start bidding over again. He would like permission to go back out to bid if the state requires it and if the state will permit us to award the contract to the winner from the last time we went out to bid he would like authorization to award the contract. He personally doesn't think the estimate has changed enough to start over with the bidding process. The board agreed to authorize Brian to either go back out to bid or award the contract.

Hugh said the snowmobile club advised the public works department that there is a bridge on Reservoir Road that needs to be replaced. The club is researching grant opportunities for that. Replacing the bridge could cost \$8000-10,000, based on the fact that the club feels it is best to replace it with concrete. Hugh believes there are four or five camps plus some public land beyond that bridge. What would our position be on a project like this?

Eric asked if that is the wood plank bridge. Hugh said currently it is. Eric said we do have a statutory requirement to maintain bridges and culverts on Class 4 roads. Beth asked why he Hugh said “currently” about the bridge. Hugh said the club told him that the best replacement would be concrete. Brian said he knows that for fish habitat precast concrete with a natural bottom is preferred to most other alternatives. Eric suggested that Hugh check out the bridge. As he recalls, there may be ledge in the area and a box culvert may not work.

Hugh said he didn't know what the town's policy was about a project like that on a Class 4 road that benefits the snowmobile club and people who live beyond the bridge. Nat said we do have a Class 4 road policy. He thinks we should pull it out. It needs to be updated. He thinks we need to be consistent in how we approach requests to maintain Class 4 roads. We do have a modest budget for Class 4 road maintenance. Hugh said only \$2,500 is budgeted for Class 4 road maintenance.

Eric said he believes the policy makes reference to meeting statutory requirements and not doing any additional work other than providing gravel. (*Jackie Stanton arrived at 7:15.*)

Hugh said if it is okay with the board he will reach out to the state forester for that land to ask about the state's logging plans and see if they could put any money toward replacing the bridge.

Hugh said in last year's budget we had \$6,000 earmarked for guardrail improvement. There are two companies in our area that provide guardrails. One gave a quote for two different spots on Upper French Hill that fell within our budget. The other company was not interested in coming out and looking at it. He would like to move forward with the company that gave a quote, spending last year's money.

Eric said he doesn't think we can do that because we don't know where we will be with the budget until Rosemary is done reconciling revenues and expenses. We don't even know if we have that money right now. But we certainly have money budgeted for the current year.

Hugh asked about how the procurement policy relates to this situation. Brian said he thinks if only one company responds we can award the contract to them.

Hugh said the quote is just under \$6,000 and we budgeted \$6,000. Nat said we budgeted for it, we need the work done and we have someone lined up to do it. He thinks we should do it. **Nat moved to allocate \$6,000 to guard rail replacement, awarding the contract to Lafayette Highway Specialties, Beth seconded and the motion was passed.**

Hugh said he would like permission to use up to \$6,000 of this year's budget to replace the existing equipment trailer. The current one was built in-house in the early 2000's and is pretty rotted. (*Scott Meyer arrived at 7:20.*) The tires specifically say they are not for highway use. He would like to look for a used trailer to replace it.

Eric asked what it is used for. Hugh said it is loaded with equipment to deal with frozen culverts in winter. It holds culverts in summer. When we rent machinery we can use the trailer to haul it, saving \$200+ every time. In summer it carries the hydroseeder that follows the crew when they ditch. It is used frequently.

Eric asked where we would get the money from. Hugh said he can do it within his budget. Eric asked what line items he would use to make up the difference. Hugh said he saved a lot of money on salt this year. He used all his budget for salt from the last fiscal year and stocked up. We have more sand than he thinks we will need for the next 2 years. (*Jasmine Yuris and Sophia Berard arrived at 7:23.*)

Nat suggested waiting to see where we come in with the end of year figures and putting this on our wish list. Beth said if there are other items for the wish list, now is the time to compile them.

Hugh said the Class 4 policy says up to 75 yards of gravel per household is available for people maintaining their own Class 4 roads. We had requests from four residents on the Class 4 section of Sinclair Road who are looking for 300 yards. We only have 100 yards available from our own pit. Do we want to suspend the program or give the residents the 100 yards we have and also bring them 200 yards from Nadeau's?

Eben asked what is keeping the crew from producing the other 200 yards. Hugh said the crew hasn't been in the gravel pit this year. They haven't met with MSHA. They have been making more time for other activities. We can open the pit if we have to to produce the gravel. He got the impression that we weren't moving in that direction this year.

Brian said our current policy does not actually say residents are entitled to that gravel. It was in a former Class 4 road policy and historically we have continued to honor it.

Mike said we ought to at least authorize giving them 100 yards. Nat asked the cost of 200 yards. Hugh said \$3,200. Eric said it has always been up to landowners to truck the material.

Mike moved to give the Sinclair Road residents requesting gravel the 100 yards the town currently has, Eben seconded and the motion was passed. Eric said Hugh should tell them we don't have the other 200 yards right now.

Eric asked if Hugh has access to the inventory of culverts we had done and knows where the worst ones are. Hugh said yes.

Beth asked what work the public works crew did on the Alexander Welcome Center. Hugh said they backfilled all the concrete that was poured. They did everything Howard wanted.

Nat said he thinks Howard was going to ask the crew to drop some trees. Hugh said he talked to Howard a week ago and he didn't mention any trees.

6. Racial Justice Committee Report

Eric Hutchins said he recently attended a meeting of LCPC's diversity, equity and inclusion committee. He talked to them about getting coordination between different groups and maybe partnering on a combination of economic development and marketing. They did a lot of listening. He is in connection with the chair of that committee and will probably visit with them again. He met with the Lamoille Union principal about the written expression contest. The RJC has been short two members for a couple of months. After Brian posted the openings five people applied and the committee will interview them at its next meeting and make recommendations to the board. They all seem well qualified.

Sophia Berard said recently the REAL banner was taken down after it was damaged. At the time no one knew what had happened except for village trustees Ken and Will. Diane got it fixed, so it is back up.

7. Town Assessor Position/Contract

Brian said our contract with NEMRC is up. We need someone to do maintenance on the grand list as soon as possible. A couple of errors and emissions need to be completed. We got two proposals in response to the request for proposals that he recently sent out. He recommends contracting with Terri Sabens, who is also doing assessor work for Morrisville. She is willing to work for Johnson one day a week, the same amount Robin has been working. The cost would be \$55 per hour. The other proposal was \$31,000 a year. The hours would be a little different with that proposal. It would include more fieldwork then Terri will be doing. But Brian thinks Terri's familiarity with the area makes her the best option.

Nat asked if they submitted anything in writing. He noted that Terri's proposal comes out to \$22,000 per year. Eric asked, we would not get a rolling reappraisal with them? Brian said neither of these proposals includes reappraisal. Eric said we will have to start contributing again to the reserve fund for reappraisals.

Nat asked what we budgeted for assessors. Eric asked, \$50K? Brian said yes.

Brian said we weren't able to complete our negotiations with NEMRC but they signed a contract with Hyde Park for very similar work for \$95/hr. They were charging us \$35,000 a year, which included fieldwork. The other person who submitted a proposal would also do fieldwork, which Terri will not be doing. He has a great deal of confidence in her ability to do office work and essential maintenance.

Eric asked how we will get the field work done. Brian said we will have to work on that. We may be able to wrap it in with the reappraisal work.

Brian asked if Terri would have a one-year contract for 8 hours in a day one day a week. Brian said yes, with the understanding that not every week will be the same. Over the winter very little work happens and in spring a lot more happens. It will be roughly one day a week throughout the year but the time will not be equal throughout the year.

Mike said he would rather see written proposals before making a determination. Eric suggested making the decision at the work session meeting in two weeks. Beth asked if Brian told the assessors that he would have a decision tomorrow. Brian said no, he told them the board would be discussing it.

8. *Update on Rocky Road FEMA Mitigation Request*

Brian said he has spoken with LCPC about Rocky Road and they have additional insight. It is looking more like we will be able to get approval for mitigation and completing the low water crossing this year. He thinks he has made a pretty good case that the engineering report we already have should be sufficient but FEMA hasn't actually approved it yet. LCPC says they can do a cost-benefit analysis for us comparing completing or not completing the mitigation work, and we can include that in our packet to FEMA.

We are going to be applying for grant funds for an engineering study on Scribner Bridge. The application window opens September 4. We won't need to shut down the bridge for that work. Brian is also working on reevaluating the weight limit on the bridge.

9. *Oven Committee Requests Authorization for Grant*

Brian said the Community Oven Committee has an opportunity to apply for a Spark Grant from the Vermont Community Foundation. Jasmine Yuris said the committee's budget for doing pizza bakes every Monday throughout July and August is around \$2,000. They are hoping for approval to apply for a \$2,000 Spark Grant which would cover that cost and allow them to use donation money for other events. The committee has received grants from this source before. This grant is based on inclusion, accessibility and community building.

Eric asked if there is any match requirement. Jasmine said no.

Mike moved and Beth seconded to authorize the Community Oven Committee to apply for a Spark Grant from the Vermont Community Foundation. Nat asked if the committee needs a letter of support. Jasmine said one is not specifically needed from the board but if it came from the board that would be powerful. **Mike and Beth agreed to a friendly amendment adding that the town will also send a letter of support. The motion was passed.**

10. *Request to Place Library Box on Legion Field*

Dan Noyes said he built a little free library and has talked to Jasmine about attaching it to a post at the oven. He wanted to get board approval for that. It is roughly 2 ft. wide and 3 ft. tall. Dan built it and Eric Nuse painted it. It is pretty rugged. **Beth moved to allow Dan Noyes to install a library box by the oven on Legion Field, Eben seconded and the motion was passed.** (Dan left at 7:51.)

11. *Update on Status and Outlook for Ted Alexander Welcome Center*

Brian said we were able to get a lot of the lumber needed for the welcome center from Doug Molde, Mike Patch, the Country Home Center and other local residents. The welcome center dedication is set for August 22. Everything is on track for that. We are still operating under the revised scope and budget. He thinks that will be completed in time and as it gets closer to the dedication we will start talking about additional items we might be able to complete. Nat, Lisa Crews and others have been coordinating on planning for the dedication. Some plants will be collected from the municipal building and other places to beautify the area. We would like to try to complete as much of the mural as possible. We have requested the second

segment of the funds, another \$15,000. There is another small piece of work for the public works crew – helping to dig holes for the support posts.

Eric asked if Brian talked to Howard Romero about the board's concerns from the last meeting. Brian said yes. Eric asked if Howard is going to come before the board. Brian said yes. He said he told Howard that the board wanted to see more about how the progress was going before deciding on his request.

Beth said the fact that Hugh did not mention the support beams is a bit of a red flag. She pointed out that the dedication is only 5 weeks away.

Nat asked if we have a roofer lined up. Brian said he believes Howard has someone to do that.

Brian said he will not be in town for the dedication ceremony. Lisa Crews and the Rec Committee will manage that. He will do his best to help set it up for success.

12. Funding for Racial Justice Committee Banners

Brian said the Racial Justice Committee is asking about funding to help pay for things they would like to display (not just banners.) The banner currently being displayed is on loan from REAL, a county-wide organization working on similar issues.

Eric Hutchins said the committee got approval from the village trustees to put up a Progress Pride flag for Vermont Pride Week at the end of August. They need \$60 to purchase that. People are also going to create a big banner to represent the Racial Justice Committee. The committee is asking for \$40 to get materials to make the banner. They are getting some materials donated.

Eric Osgood asked what funding resources the committee has been able to get. Has the committee done any fundraising? Eric Hutchins said they have not done any fundraising.

Eben asked how the essay contest is coming. Eric H. said there is a group doing outreach. He has had a hard time arranging to meet with the principal. That is happening this week. He advertised the contest on Front Porch Forum. The committee may be extending the date in order to get contact with more kids. There are not as many kids in the summer program as we might have expected. The state home study office has put out a notice about the contest.

Eben asked if there is any fundraising planned. Eric H. said the committee got \$200 for the written expression contest from the Lamoille Restorative Center but they don't plan on fundraising. He suggested Eben could read their minutes. They talked about it.

Nat said he would encourage the committee to do some fundraising. Eric said he thinks the consensus of the RJC was that at times the committee will do fundraising but that it is important for the town to show support for the things the committee was directed to do. One of the points in the 5-point plan for the committee was public messaging and outreach. The committee was looking for some support from the board. If the committee's charge is to combat systemic racism, there needs to be systemic change. Charitable organizations are

individual efforts. We have a lot of individual effort in our community. The committee's charge is to bring about change through municipal government.

Nat said the last time Eric was here he said there was goodwill on the committee's part to do fundraising. Eric said what he said was that there is goodwill on the community's part to do fundraising. Nat said he is supportive of the committee's efforts but he has pointed out in the past that there are a lot of committees doing essential work with a combination of municipal support and fundraising. There are no committees that don't do fundraising. The Conservation Commission just did a \$5,000 project to install wheelchair accessibility at Beard Recreation Park. They also acquired the Beard parcel without taxpayer dollars. He is not willing to stand before town meeting and say that the Racial Justice Committee hasn't had to do fundraising but other committees have had to do fundraising for their projects.

Kyle said she understands Nat's point but it is important to remember the greater context of this committee. The Conservation Commission has a strong foundation and strong membership on very solid footing. The Racial Justice Committee is new and building its foundation and it has gone through many members. It was under the jurisdiction of two boards and now it is under one. It has changed chairs. She thinks the majority of committee members want to do fundraising eventually but for now they want to get basic things in order.

Beth said any new committee usually gets their footing before asking for a line item in the budget. They show their output and the value that brings to the community first. She understands that the committee is looking for a statement from the town but she personally will gladly give more than the committee is asking for. She is all for the flag on the village green. She would like to see the town give the committee some money for that flag but she would like to see materials for making the banner donated. She thinks that is a good compromise. She would like to see fundraising. That would show the board and the community that the committee members are really invested and that the community is really invested in this important cause.

Scott said the Black Lives Matter flag on the village green was donated by him and Athena Parke. He has commented before that he would gladly write a check to the committee and no one has asked him for any funds.

Nat said the board provided the gesture the RJC wants by providing funding for the essay contest.

Eric H. asked if there are any policies the committee needs to be aware of about fundraising. Eric O. said each committee is a little different because of the nature of the committee and how funding sources come to them. Nat said any funds collected should be given to Rosemary. The funds are to come to the Town of Johnson, earmarked for the Racial Justice Committee. Brian said committee members should not collect money themselves but should have donors give it to Rosemary. Eric O. said the town is always very generous. Whenever a committee gets a grant it typically requires a town match and he has never known the board not to help out with that.

Beth moved to give the Racial Justice Committee up to \$60 to purchase a Progress Pride flag. The motion was not seconded.

13. Racial Justice Committee Planning and Vision

Sophia said at its last meeting the RJC discussed reaching out to Xusana Davis and asking about grant opportunities. She went to a Conservation Commission meeting and proposed hanging the inclusivity and anti-racism statements on kiosks in town. After a lot of debate they did approve hanging the inclusivity statement. She plans to bring the final product with both statements on it to the next Conservation Commission meeting, hoping to get approval to put up both. She is in touch with the library about hosting an anti-racism story time for kids roughly aged 3 to 7.

Offie Wortham said he has lived in Johnson for 10 years and taught at Johnson State College for 2 years before that. He has lived all over the country and he loves Johnson. He has had no problems whatsoever in Johnson, in Lamoille County or in Vermont. He has been involved in fighting for racial justice since he was 16. He was surprised and shocked when he heard about this committee being formed. His reaction was to ask what the problem is in Johnson. He has never seen it in 10 years. He thinks if there is a problem the best way to deal with it is to get together with the people who cause the problem and have a discussion. He has done that for years. He doesn't understand the purpose or rationale of this committee. He doesn't see the need for it.

Eric H. said he believes there are differing opinions about the degree of systemic racism in society, but this is a very white place. We aren't going to grow if it remains that way. Maybe the problem is a lack of diversity. The message needs to go out that Offie can have the kind of experience here that he has had. People of color don't move here because it is a very white rural area. It could be helpful to send the message that this is different from other white rural areas where black people have not done well historically.

Offie said he has a proposal on how to bring in more people of color to diversify the state. People like to be with people who are similar to them in terms of lifestyle, socioeconomic level or even religion. He feels it is crazy to try to attract people who are dissimilar just because of their color. The important thing is not color but lifestyle. We need to attract people who are educated. They cost more money. A Black professor costs more than a white professor because they are in demand and can go almost anywhere. He feels we need to go after people who have a similar lifestyle, not low income people. We don't want poor Black people here. There are a lot of educated Black people out there and they will come here if they know Vermont is a very friendly place with good schools and nice neighborhoods. We have to go after people with a similar lifestyle to us. They will feel perfectly comfortable here, as he does.

Eric said when the RJC was created it was charged with five things:

- Education opportunities for the community to learn about issues of racial and social justice.
- Public displays to express support of racial and social justice.
- Policies and procedures to promote racial and social justice.

- Engage with community residents to continue the conversation on issues of racial and social justice.
- Coordinate with local partners and stakeholders to further the cause of racial and social justice.

He described some of the activities the RJC thinks are in line with its charges, such as speakers, workshops, banners, editorials, and better marketing on the website. The committee is wondering if its ideas are in line with what board members think about the five charges.

Eric O. said the board has not had the opportunity to discuss that. He is not sure how a committee of this size would be able to change the trend in Vermont. We are losing population. He has thought of using the podiums for art throughout the town. The committee could let a Black artist put their works on the podiums. That would send a very positive message. If there is a speaker who is a white woman lecturing him on what it is like to walk in a Black man's shoes, he probably wouldn't go. He would be more interested in learning about something like the founder of the Stone House in Brownington, a Black man raised in Vermont who was the first Black person in the US to get a college degree. He settled in Brownington and established a school. There is a museum there now. The executive director might have interesting things to talk about. He is interested in things like that.

Kyle Nuse asked, when he said he would not be inclined to go to a workshop where a white woman talked about being in a Black man's shoes, was he talking about anyone specific? Eric said no. He is just saying that he would not be looking to be lectured at.

Beth said one thing that resonated with her recently was a Facebook post about how un-American the Confederate flag is. She thinks there is value in educating people about symbolism and what those symbols actually mean. Those symbols are prevalent in our community and she doesn't think it is about hate. She thinks that is important when the committee touches on education.

Eric H. asked if the town has precedent for doing education activities like that. He suggested the library could be involved. Brian said yes, and also the Historical Society. He thinks it would be great to work with the library. They have a network to provide a lot of assistance.

Beth said there is an assumption that we would be paying someone to come in to speak. Education could also involve suggesting a great curriculum to the school. She suggests not boxing ourselves into talking about speakers and presentations.

Mike said he and Offie were talking today about common ground. We are a lot closer to each other than farther apart. Just a few issues really divide us. He always tries to get along with his neighbor and be the same with everybody. Offie told him a story about a KKK member and a Black Panther and how people can come together by talking. The word "racist" is a word that turns people off. It is used to marginalize people. We have to get away from that and find a way to find common ground with everybody.

Eben said he would like to see more fundraising. He thinks that is engaging the community. He noted that the oven committee just asked for approval to apply for a grant.

Eric H. said he agrees with almost everything Mike said. He feels America is not divided. We are not fighting a war against each other. People in the media and politicians are pitting us against each other. He thinks it is important to fight those forces that divide us. Anti-racism efforts, done right, make us realize that we are all human and we have to work together.

Greg Tatro said he has almost come to Racial Justice Meetings twice but he didn't feel welcome. He feared that anything he said would be ridiculed. He isn't going to put a banner on his house, but he feels people of color have not been treated as well as white people and have not had the same opportunities. There is no question about that. He would like to hear why the things the Racial Justice Committee wants to do are so important to the people on the committee in a way that would welcome people to join. He doesn't see that right now. The way the RJC has presented things, they have divided the town and lost support. You can't force things. You need people to become involved in a positive manner. If he doesn't feel welcome he is sure a lot of other people don't.

Eric H. thanked Greg for speaking up. He said he has had long conversations with Beth and Mike and Offie on the phone. He doesn't think he has said anything that would make people feel not welcome. He thinks the RJC was given a reputation before it did anything to deserve that. People hear certain words and interpret them in the way they have been used by politicians. People at the RJC meetings have been respectful and nice. The whole point is to get people with different perspectives to discuss solutions. He wants us to live up to what Vermont represents in his mind. In some ways it hasn't but in others it has. We have fought imaginary battles with imaginary people on all sides.

Greg said the way the committee is communicating they are not building consensus and not gaining people. He doesn't have anything against what the committee is doing but we have to have other people who are not as committed. And we have to tell them why it is so important. That communication has been tough because it is a very volatile issue. He thinks there are quite a few people like him in this town.

Scott Meyer said a person in the community just spoke up about feelings of not being welcome and he heard sort of an apology and a rebuttal. He would suggest just an apology. That is one reason he is not going to Racial Justice Committee meetings anymore.

Beth said in terms of the vision for the committee she thinks the original charge still stands. *(Eric H., Offie, Jasmine, Sophia and Jackie left.)*

14. Historical Society Bylaw Changes

Brian said the Historical Society revised its bylaws this past June. Committees usually write their own bylaws and the selectboard only steps in if there is a problem with how they are administering them. Eric said most committees don't have such comprehensive bylaws. Brian said the Historical Society asked if the selectboard would give its opinion on their bylaws. They are asking for the board to sign them.

Beth noted that their membership criteria are pretty strict. Eric suggested letting them know that the selectboard has no issues with the bylaws but it is not our practice to sign committees' by laws. Beth said she would prefer not to have the selectboard sign them.

15. *Historical Society Resignation and Seeking New Members*

Brian said Dean West has resigned from the Historical Society. We will post the vacancy. They asked if any selectboard members might be interested in serving.

Beth moved to accept Dean West's resignation from the Historical Society, Mike seconded and the motion was passed. The board agreed to send him a letter thanking him for his many years of service.

Eric said when Duncan Hastings was town administrator he was the selectboard's liaison to the Historical Society. Now that he is no longer associated with the town except through his participation on the Historical Society, if a selectboard member is interested in being liaison he would put his name in for the opening on the committee. No board members indicated interest.

16. *Request from Green Mountain Byway for Letter of Support*

Brian said the Green Mountain Byway asked if we would provide a letter of support for their request to VTrans that when they replace guardrails they replace them with box beam instead of W-style posts. Box beams are smaller and better for sharing the road with cyclists and they are involved in fewer fatal accidents. They are safer and provide better visibility for seeing scenery from the road. The state is putting them up in quite a few places. Brian doesn't think we are moving towards using them on town roads because they are more expensive and cost more to maintain. They usually can't be straightened and need to be replaced instead. They are harder to shape so they need to be put up in larger segments.

Beth said she has noticed box beam guardrail posts and they look nice. **Beth moved to send a letter of support for the Green Mountain Byway's request to the VTrans to use box beam guardrail posts and to authorize Brian to sign it on behalf of the town.** The motion was not seconded. Beth asked why no one seconded. Nat said he is concerned about the cost. This is not an area he knows a lot about. Even though the state is buying the posts we still pay for them. He is not against these posts; he just doesn't feel educated enough to make a recommendation one way or another.

Kyle asked if we are still members in the byway. Brian said yes. We have asked Johnson Works to represent us on the byway committee and they have done so.

17. *ATV Issues*

Nat said he got a couple of emails from people who live on roads where ATVs are not legally allowed asking what to do if they see ATVs and asking him to bring this to the selectboard. He suggested that they should make a complaint to the sheriff's department. He told them if they can get a photo of a license plate or the license plate number we can have law enforcement follow up. He told them he would follow up with the ATV club to make sure signage is robust enough in the community.

Scott said he was one of the people who reached out to Nat. He doesn't have any issues with ATVs but he does have an issue with ATVs on highways. He is concerned because Clay Hill is well marked with no ATV signs but people are riding them there. He was hoping he could get full support from the selectboard to make a statement to the ATV club that they need to put an end to this sooner rather than later because he thinks it will spiral out of control. It has only been a few weeks since the town was opened up to ATVs and they have already crossed the line. Eric said we will pass that on to the club. He witnessed probably the same ATV riders that Scott saw. They seemed to be going very slowly but they shouldn't be on that road.

Kyle said she saw three ATVs turning off Railroad Street onto River Road East. Aren't they supposed to go up to Upper French Hill? Eric said River Road East is probably open to them because it is a dirt road. Beth said that it is not dirt until you travel some distance from Railroad Street. Eric said he is not sure if any roads in that area are marked as open or closed to ATVs. The last he knew the ATV club wasn't even going to publicize that part of town as being open. We can bring this up to them as well.

Beth asked who will follow up with the ATV club. Brian said he will.

18. Discuss Evaluation of Personnel

Mike moved to go into executive session to discuss evaluation of personnel as allowed by 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) Eben seconded, the motion was passed and the board went into executive session at 9:00. The board came out of executive session at 9:39.

19. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths