

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

Present:

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

Others: Brian Story, Rosemary Audibert, Jason Whitehill, Margo Warden, Offie Wortham, Kyle Nuse, Eric Hutchins, Shayne Spence, Raven Pfaff, Sophia Berard, Jeff Bickford, 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

Mike added discussion of directors' orders and Route 15 near the Nadeau pit.

3. Review and Approve Minutes of Meetings Past

Beth moved to approve the minutes of September 7, 2021, Mike seconded and the motion was passed.

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

Rosemary said there was \$168K in uncommitted surplus from the last fiscal year, largely due to PILOT money and work we didn't do.

Beth said she knows one committee has asked for their surplus to go into reserves. Eric said the board will discuss that later. He asked if that was approved by the voters. Brian said we will have to go over the exact wording of what was approved. Eric said we have to go by whatever the voters approved.

Rosemary said Sarah Davies Coe won't be able to handle the tax sale for Johnson. It is too far for her to travel. So we will have to find a new attorney for taxes. Some towns use Jim Barlow. She believes he does tax sales. She will see him this week and can ask him. The board agreed Rosemary should ask Jim Barlow if he is doing tax sales. Brian said Jim Barlow has worked with the town on some issues. He is not our attorney but we have a good working relationship with him. Eric said he was with VLCT for many years.

Rosemary said Michael Lazar is appealing the assessment of his self-storage property to the Division of Property Valuation and Review. It could take up to 2 years for a decision.

Rosemary said to date we have received \$317K in ARPA funds, half of the state money and half of the county money. We will receive additional funds next year. She thinks we have until 2024 to decide what we will spend the money on and until 2026 to spend it.

Rosemary said the current year's taxes are 40% collected. Last year taxes were not due until September 30 and the year before that at this point they were 36% collected.

5. Public Works Supervisor/Highway Foreman Report

Jason said at the beginning of October the public works crew will start on a grant project on Fox Lot Road. Plans for ditching on Swamp and Grow Roads may change because there might be a different project in the works. Brian said we will talk about that when we talk about FEMA

reimbursement. The FEMA project may change Jason's plans about where to use an excavator while we have it rented.

Jason said things are going well. He got quotes for paving and for hemlock bridge planking. (*Greg Tatro arrived at 7:10.*) Beth asked if Upper French Hill is doing okay. Jason said it is all completed. Mark started grading today. All roads will be graded, then the crew will start a project that probably will take all 4 people for at least a week.

Kyle Nuse said she had asked Brian to have Jason clean up where weeds had been cut around the Railroad Street bridge and signs and clippings had been left on the sidewalk, but then she learned it was a neighbor of hers who had done the cutting. She doesn't know if it is on the summer schedule for the public works crew to do weed whacking in those areas. Jason said on Sunday Alex Nadeau used a boom mower around the bridges. Kyle said there are also weeds that grow up in the bridge. Maybe her neighbor cut those.

Nat asked how the public works crew is deciding on the priority for ash trees to cut. Jason said they are concentrating on ones that are close to the road. He went to a class last week where he learned they are predicting 99% fatality of ash trees. The trees get unstable fast, within 2 years. Trees that look stable may snap off a foot or two above the ground. So the crew is taking them out as they have the time. Beth said she thinks it would be good to have a strategy like removing trees first from high travel roads.

6. *Racial Justice Committee Report*

Sophia Berard said the Racial Justice Committee just flew the Progress Pride flag on the village green for Vermont Pride Week, August 28 to September 5. A bigger US flag was donated so a standard size flag can be flown underneath it. After the Progress Pride flag came down, a standard size Black Lives Matter flag was put up. At the last village trustee board meeting the trustees passed a motion to fly the flag of the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk - Abenaki Nation for the week that includes Indigenous People's day. Don Stevens, chief of the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk - Abenaki Nation, gave permission to fly the flag. The Racial Justice Committee is borrowing it from Roger Marcoux. It will fly from October 10 to October 16. The committee will probably make announcements about it on Front Porch Forum and on the town Facebook page.

Sophia said Lisa Crews helped print and laminate copies of an 11x17 inch sheet that Kyle Nuse designed with the town inclusivity and anti-racism statements. The racial justice committee put them up at Old Mill Park, at the post office and at the municipal building kiosk. Sue said it would be okay to put one on the municipal building kiosk as long as there was room. There is also one at JP's Promising Goods. The committee hopes to bring them to non-profits and businesses around town and ask if they would like to hang them. The committee would love to help hang the painted inclusivity statement that is currently in the vestibule. If the selectboard could designate an area where it could go they would be happy to use their own tools to put it up.

Board members agreed that the Racial Justice Committee can go ahead and put the inclusivity statement up. Nat said he thinks there is only one wall it will fit on.

Sophia said this hasn't been brought up to the Racial Justice Committee yet but the Millennium Parade collage in the municipal building vestibule has a photo with someone displaying a Take Back Vermont sign. She thinks it is inappropriate for that to be displayed in the municipal building since it represents discrimination against same sex marriage. She thinks it would be best for that photo to be removed.

Sophia said it looks like the second training the Racial Justice Committee set up will be on Zoom. It was originally going to be in person but the person putting it on found someone who can help only on Zoom. The first workshop will be on implicit bias and the second will be on bystander intervention.

Sophia said the selectboard agreed to give the Racial Justice Committee a letter of recommendation for the Rapid Response Grant and they are waiting for that.

At its last meeting the Racial Justice Committee had a chance to have a lengthy discussion based on concerns of citizens not feeling welcome at RJC meetings. They feel that because there are so many strong feelings and different angles from which to approach racial justice it is important for the committee to let everyone know that we are all learning and figuring things out and no one is right or wrong, that everyone who shows up at those meetings is vulnerable and feels they don't know enough about some topic. Raven brought up that where she works they have core values. The committee wants to make sure the public knows its values. Sophia said since the RJC has been meeting in person the meetings have felt productive.

Beth said she thinks we should take down the Take Back Vermont picture right away. That is a political movement and she has heard discussion about the town supporting political movements and about how our town shouldn't be political. Nat said he agrees 100%. Mike and Eben also agreed. Eric asked Brian to make sure the trustees are okay with taking it down.

Beth asked when the Racial Justice Committee needs the letter. Sophia said the board approved it three weeks ago. The committee's application is done and waiting on the letter. It is a rolling application so there is no deadline but it would be great to get it as soon as possible.

Kyle asked Rosemary if any donations came in for the Racial Justice Committee after the last Front Porch Forum post. Rosemary said only the two Kyle sent.

7. 2021 Miscellaneous Paving Project

Brian said at the request of the board he put out an RFP for paving bids with a deadline of this afternoon. All Things Asphalt had previously submitted a bid. Only one additional contractor, Kevin Slayton, was interested in submitting a bid.

Eric noted that there is a big difference for the estimate of tonnage between the two bids. Jason said All Things Asphalt was thinking of laying down thicker asphalt in the library parking lot and around the manholes than Slayton is thinking of.

Mike said the Slayton bid has an addendum for Plot Road that is not included in the All Things Asphalt bid. Jason said Slayton was supposed to put the bid for that project on a different one but they put it on the same one. Brian said he is trying to see if we can get a \$2100 credit for Plot Road. If we do, Slayton's price will be reduced by that amount.

Eben said the bid for All Things Asphalt has an expiration date. Did they say they would still honor it? Jason said yes. Eben asked about the availability of the two bidders. Jason said he thinks both will be available but Slayton will be more convenient for the town crew. All Things Asphalt can only do the work on Fridays and Saturdays.

Mike said he is not very happy with the per ton price from Kevin Slayton but it will be cheaper to go with him if Jason thinks his approach will be good enough. Jason said Slayton has smaller trucks so he will have a higher trucking cost. Brian said Slayton's per ton cost is \$175 versus \$159 for All Things Asphalt.

Eben asked if having the work done on Friday and Saturday is a problem for the public works crew. Jason said they can be there then but it is less convenient.

Beth asked if there is a benefit of having more asphalt put down. Brian said thicker asphalt should withstand people driving over it for longer, but the library parking lot is more likely to be damaged by water and frost heaves than by people driving over it.

Eric said the per ton charge is lower for All Things Asphalt but the overall price is lower with Slayton. Donna Griffiths asked, couldn't the town tell All Things Asphalt to put down a thinner layer of asphalt similar to what Slayton would put down, to lower their price? Mike said he thinks they would increase the tonnage cost then. Brian said a lot of the cost will be in trucking. If they only need to carry a partial load we would still pay the same trucking cost. Mike said we didn't tell the contractors how many inches we wanted so we don't have an apples to apples comparison. Probably we should have had the public works supervisor come up with specs that were the same for every bidder. He will not vote for either bid.

Eben moved and Nat seconded to accept the bid from All Things Asphalt for miscellaneous paving projects.

Nat asked why Eben prefers the All Things Asphalt bid. Eben said because they plan to use more material.

The motion was passed with Mike opposed.

8. *Racial Justice Committee Appointments*

Eric said at the last meeting the selectboard rejected the Racial Justice Committee's recommended candidate and instructed the committee to submit another candidate. The committee opted to resubmit the same name. The committee either ignored the board's instructions or felt there was no other qualified candidate. Now the selectboard needs to decide whether to leave the spot open. The committee has had six members and typically committees have an odd number. The board could repost the open position or appoint a new member. He asked selectboard members what their preference is.

Mike said he thinks the board should appoint a new member. It could be done tonight. Nat said he thinks we should post the open position and have an open process.

Eric Hutchins said his understanding is that the selectboard did not reject the candidate but just left the slot open. The committee got no advice from the selectboard. They had an open slot to address and they addressed it.

Eric Osgood said he asked for nominations for the second open position on the committee and couldn't get one so he asked the committee to come back with another candidate.

Jeff Bickford said he was not at the selectboard meeting where the board voted on the candidate recommendations but he read the minutes and he could not see clear criteria for why no nomination was made. But clearly there must be some. His goal in making the motion to resubmit the same nomination was to learn what criteria the selectboard is looking for. The committee would still like the selectboard to consider the person they consider most qualified out of the original candidates. They don't see a precedent of other committees getting their candidates rejected. It indicates that either there are criteria the committee doesn't know about or this committee is seen as less capable of selecting members than other committees.

Eric O. said he is not going to go back and discuss why the recommended candidate was not nominated for appointment. He is looking for direction from the board.

Margo Warden said if she is hearing Jeff correctly, he is looking for the board's reason for not accepting the recommendation from the committee, as is she. It is a reasonable request for important information.

Eric O. said the board made a decision last month. He wants to move on.

Kyle said the reason why that is not acceptable to most of the public is that this is precedent setting. The board set a precedent by not taking the recommendation from the committee. In her tenure she doesn't remember the board ever doing that. As a chair of another committee she feels that is a red flag. It opens up a can of worms. Committee chairs don't understand this process. Maybe there needs to be written criteria or a policy if the board expects committees to follow it.

Mike said at the May 6 Racial Justice Committee meeting Kyle asked, "Why are women and people of color always at the end of the line? It is frustrating and exhausting that she and Jackie have to bring this up. We need to listen to women and people of color and bring them to the forefront." Kyle asked that the committee please make sure that people who reach out are validated, heard and responded to and Sophia agreed and apologized to Jackie for having her emails go by the wayside. Mike believes there is not enough diversity on this committee. There are not any males of color. He thinks the committee should have more diversity. Sophia asked if he wants to apply that to all committees. Mike said that especially because this is a racial justice committee he thinks it should have a mix of all colors. Those are just his thoughts.

Nat moved and Beth seconded to post the opening on the Racial Justice Committee and ask for letters of interest to be sent to Brian and to make it appointment in a month should there be candidates.

Sophia asked if the board will make the appointment without allowing the Racial Justice Committee to interview the candidates or if the board will trust the committee to bring a recommendation. Nat said the board has never relinquished its responsibility for making appointments. They are retaining that responsibility. Sophia asked if the board is going to ask the committee for recommendations from this lot of submissions. Nat said the board already asked for a recommendation. Now he feels the board should take action on its own. Jeff asked, will that be consistent over all committees? Eric Osgood said yes, if we get into a similar situation.

Margo said transparency is important. It is important to create and sustain trust. She will be leaving this meeting confused at the very least. This process seems oppressive.

Beth said she has a lot of thoughts around this. She has reached out to a few people unsuccessfully. The Racial Justice Committee represents the town. We hear that town members aren't comfortable going to committee meetings. That is a red flag for her and it makes her more critical than she otherwise would be. She has read the anti-racism statement and the inclusivity statement. A line in the anti-racism statement says: *We are committed to listening and learning from our Black, Brown, Indigenous, and concerned citizens.* If we are hearing that concerned citizens aren't feeling safe, trusted, or valued, that concerns her. She will be comfortable when she hears of a nominee who has those qualities and can help make the meetings more inviting. The work the committee is doing is valued greatly by her. She understands how hard it is. It feels a little cliquey to her. She doesn't come to those meetings because she feels like she will be cornered. She can relate to the people who are uncomfortable. If she knew of nominees she thought could help change that tone she would fully support them but she doesn't feel that way in this case.

Nat asked, when the committee decided on its recommendation, did the committee go into executive session? Sophia said yes. Nat asked, when the committee came out of executive session did they put into the record why they accepted some candidates and rejected some? Sophia said she thinks the committee described how all the candidates were qualified and the committee valued all their input and hoped all would continue to come and give input. Community members who are not on the committee do come and contribute to these meetings. But she doesn't know where the line is drawn about going into specifics about what was discussed in executive session. Nat said his point is that the committee went into executive session for a reason. They had conversations that they didn't have publicly.

Eric Hutchins said he holds all the selectboard members in very high esteem. Sitting on a committee in this town or doing any public service requires qualification, dedication and skills. Jackie Stanton has showed up to every meeting. She shows knowledge, passion and skill. The only knocks he has heard against her are that she is confrontational or makes people slightly uncomfortable. That is kind of part and parcel of being on the Racial Justice Committee. You have to identify your own biases. It is not comfortable. For people who come to these meetings, discomfort is part of the deal. If a community member is speaking truth to power in ways that make people uncomfortable that means they are doing their job. He has heard a lot of people speak at meetings and say things that others would consider offensive. That is part of democracy. Jackie has been given inordinate attention as a divisive force. That isn't deserved. Why do board members think that person in particular is divisive when others don't get the same

scrutiny? People need to question what it is about this person that made her not even get a nomination. He would strongly urge the board to reconsider. He feels Jackie is not being considered, not due to her qualifications but because of her political positions, an undeserved reputation and petty grievances. She has done great work. No one sends more emails to RJC committee members with great information. He would love to have more diversity on the committee. But every person of color who has applied is currently on the committee. The committee is not passing over more diverse applicants for her. He asks the board to analyze their biases and their own personal grievances and nominate the person who is most qualified. This committee has a lot of expertise on it.

The motion was passed. (*Margo, Eric H. and Sophia left at 8:01.*)

9. *Grow Cemetery Boundaries and Maintenance*

Brian said Duncan Hastings has advised to install a fence at Grove Cemetery where there is encroachment and loose boundaries. Brian suggests that he get quotes. Eric asked if it would be similar to fences we have around other cemeteries. Brian said he would imagine so. Eben asked how Duncan found the boundaries. Brian said he suspects installing a fence will incorporate having a survey done. (*Offie left at 8:02.*) He doesn't think we have an accurate enough idea of the boundary. He thinks he should go out there with a qualified installer and that will help him decide if we need a survey.

Nat said he thinks we should get this on the list of priorities. There may be other cemetery issues on the list that we should address before this. If there is time for this he thinks it would be more helpful to put that time towards Plot Cemetery. He thinks we need to look at this in relation to priorities we already have. Brian said he is hearing that he should not take this on himself but should ask Duncan to come back with more specific recommendations regarding fencing or surveying.

10. *Closing Out Remaining 2019 Disaster Projects*

Mike moved to authorize Brian to sign the subrecipient agreement and reporting for the Department of Public Safety on behalf of the town in order to secure the \$21,000 reimbursement from FEMA for the already completed work related to the 2018 Halloween storm, Eben seconded and the motion was passed.

Brian said the last response he got from FEMA about Rocky Road was a pretty detailed set of questions they had about the financial impact of the storm and future projections. It would take a significant amount of an engineer's time to answer the questions. That would mean additional expense and we don't know that this is the last round of questions we would get before being approved for mitigation.

Mike said he feels we need to move forward to open the bridge. Brian said he recommends seeking funding from FEMA to restore the road to its prior condition. Then we still have some options for pursuing mitigation. If we later did mitigation it would mean having to go over work we just did but he thinks it would still be worthwhile. We might be able to get the engineering work done under the Transportation Alternatives grant along with the assessment for the bridge since this is an approach to the bridge. There are a couple of other grant options related to stormwater.

Mike moved and Nat seconded to return Rocky Road to its original state.

Greg Tatro said if the washed out section was filled with riprap and left a little lower where we want the road to wash out that might work well. We might only lose a little bit of road in a future washout that way.

Mike suggested a friendly amendment to the motion specifying that riprap would be used to rebuild the road.

Jason said he talked to people at a class and they suggested using big boulders and riprap with about a foot of gravel over it. Eric asked if FEMA would reimburse us if we did that. Brian said we have to build it up to our road and bridge standards. Jason said we won't have to buy rocks; we already have rocks we can use. Brian said he thinks we can do that and get reimbursed. They may reimburse us for what they think the cost should have been and reject some bills if they think we shouldn't have used rocks.

Nat asked if state regulations about rivers apply. Brian said we might need to get permission from river engineer Chris Brunelle. He doesn't think that will be too hard. Nat said he would want to get that sign-off first. Brian said his recommendation would be to go with Mike's original motion with the understanding that the board wants to make the road as durable as possible and that the work will be completed with that in mind. Jason said he personally feels we should put rock in. He thinks we will lose less in a washout than last time if we do that. It would mean putting less silt in the river.

Nat said he did not agree to Mike's proposed friendly amendment. He agrees with Jason that using riprap would mean putting less silt in the river but the state could say that riprapping there might increase the velocity of water downstream and cause more erosion problems downstream. Greg said riprap can have that effect when placed on river banks but when we are talking about putting it under the road it won't change the velocity.

Shayne Spence said what Nat says is correct and there might be interplay with the Global Warming Solutions Act. There could be private lawsuits. He would suggest airing on the side of caution. ANR is not always reasonable in the way they enact their rules.

The motion was passed.

11. Recreation Planning

Brian said Lisa Crews has requested direction from the board. She has a lot of tasks and the VOREC grant is taking a lot of her time. She would like direction on priorities. Brian's idea is that preserving our existing recreation programs should be her highest priority, pursuit of grants should be below that and below that should be expanding our recreation offerings. Grant applications are a very diverse part of her job. She has applied for and received quite a few relatively straightforward small-scale grants and also some larger grants that were more involved but were 100% recreation related. The VOREC grant is not just for recreation but also for economic development activity. It is getting beyond where she is comfortable. Brian would recommend putting that near the back of her priorities when it comes to grant work, with grants to maintain and develop current recreation activities as a higher priority.

Beth said economic development is not Lisa's job. Brian agreed. If we do decide to go ahead with the VOREC grant he thinks it will start taking more of his time. Eric asked if LCPC might want to take it on. Brian said he thinks it is not really in their wheelhouse but this grant is pretty generous when it comes to paying for grant and program administration, which is something LCPC can do.

Beth said she knows Lisa will be very busy over the next few months. She doesn't see her having time for any grants. She doesn't see her getting beyond existing programs. Could we get ourselves in trouble in terms of spending if we allocate some of her extra time to other resources and then find that in spring we have already spent what was budgeted for her hours?

Brian said overall he is comfortable with where she is for her hours for the year. She has had some high weeks and we will have to manage that but he is not worried overall for the year. He thinks if we set current recreation as her primary goal right now she will have trouble using her time for anything else. He thinks the VOREC grant will end up taking more of his time. He, Casey and Lisa will work on it but not with the level of commitment we hoped we would have. He is still very interested in the grant but her ability to do that and her other work is not really there. We submitted a letter of interest to VOREC and haven't heard back on that yet.

Eric said it really isn't in Lisa's job description. It is in Brian's. If Brian feels he has time restraints and might not be able to devote enough time to it, should we be considering LCPC? Brian said he has more time to devote than what he has spent so far but he is not sure he can devote all it needs. Beth said there are some things that are above this in our priorities. She doesn't see how we can support applying for the grant if it is a heavy lift.

Nat asked if current programming includes the skate park. Brian said yes.

The board agreed with Brian's suggestions regarding Lisa's priorities. *(Greg Tatro left at 8:31.)*

12. Auditing Request for Proposal

The board packet included a draft RFP for audit services. Brian said it is based on a model proposal VLCT put out. *(Jason left at 8:32.)* VLCT is in the process of updating this. This model policy was originally written by Randolph. Brian made some changes because we are not exactly like Randolph.

Beth said one thing that stands out to her is that it talks about providing copies to the federal cognizant government audit agency and state agencies. If we are doing this for our purposes we will not necessarily be delivering copies to those places. Another thing is that we should see a sample of what report findings would look like. And she would want to make sure that the cited references to standards are current.

Brian said he would recommend running this by VLCT before the next meeting and bringing it back next month. The board agreed to that.

13. Update to Social Media Policy

Brian said he added the Johnson Public Library website and Facebook page to the social media policy. He also added a bullet point for postings on the Johnson Community Front Porch Forum. **Mike moved and Nat seconded to adopt the Social Media Policy with the changes presented by Brian.**

Beth said we should make sure all our committees who have any social media platforms are included.

Shayne asked if there is any language pertaining to comments employees might make on their own social media accounts. Brian said it just says that employees should not use their personal accounts to make announcements on behalf of the town.

Jeff asked, there are no positions where the employee is seen as always representing the town? He feels in his position he is always representing the university because people know his role at the university. He always has that in mind. He is wondering if there are some town roles where no matter what you do you may be seen as representing the town.

Beth said she thinks that belongs in the personnel policy as opposed to the social media policy about town accounts. Brian said he understands what Jeff is saying and he tends to feel that he is always representing the town. He imagines many elected officials feel the same way.

Shayne said there are examples around the state. For instance, in Swanton an employee recently posted controversial things on their personal account. The selectboard said there was no way of addressing it because there was no policy in place. He thinks it would be smart to be proactive. The board would want recourse if someone was representing the town in a bad way.

Eric said he agrees that probably should be in the personnel policy. Brian agreed that would be a better place to address it. Mike said the personnel policy for employees should apply to board members also. Eric said it is harder to enforce for board members.

The motion was passed. (Shayne left at 8:46.)

14. Historical Society Budget Request

Brian said the Historical Society would like the board to consider depositing the difference between their revenue and their expenses into the Historical Society reserve fund. He recommends that the board take that under advisement and make no commitment until we are done developing the next budget. Mike asked what the difference is. Rosemary said it is about \$2K.

15. Enhanced 911 Certification

Brian said he is going to sign a document stating that the E-911 addresses are up to date to the best of our knowledge. He is willing to continue to serve as E-911 coordinator. **Mike to recertify Brian as E-911 coordinator, Beth seconded and the motion was passed.**

16. Town Fair / VLCT Annual Meeting Voting Delegate

Beth read some information about different tracks that will be included at the upcoming VLCT Town Fair. She said she was thinking of choosing one track and was hoping someone else would choose a different one and board members could share what they learn.

Nat agreed that he could attend the VLCT annual meeting and serve as the town's voting delegate. **Mike moved to designate Nat as voting delegate to the 2021 VLCT annual meeting, Beth seconded and the motion was passed.**

17. ICMA Annual Meeting

Brian said his annual membership in the International City and Town Managers Association is up for renewal. He would like to continue the membership and he would like the town to pay for it. It is about \$1000. **Nat moved to pay the annual fee for Brian's membership in the International City and Town Managers Association, Beth seconded and the motion was passed with Mike opposed.**

18. Lamoille County Sheriff's Department Report for July & August 2021

The sheriff's report was emailed out.

19. Public Works Supervisor Search

Brian said this is the last day for applications for the public works supervisor position. He has gotten about six applications. He thinks we have some good candidates. He would like to interview candidates before the next selectboard meeting and at the next regular selectboard meeting or at a special meeting invite a couple of finalists for the board to interview with a goal of making a decision at the second meeting in October. He would like a representative from the board to help with interviews. Beth and Eben both agreed to participate in interviews.

20. Route 15 Work

Mike said on Route 15 VTrans has been injecting concrete into the road to stabilize the bank. He is wondering if they will get rid of the dip near Nadeau's gravel pit. He wants to make sure they are going to bring that up to grade. He thinks we should strongly suggest that they take care of that before winter. Eric suggested asking them what their plans are for that area. Brian said he will talk to them. His expectation is that they are planning to address that when they repave that section. We can express our concerns.

21. Directors' Orders

Mike said it is difficult for board members to give directors' orders enough attention during a meeting. He thinks there should be a time devoted just for going through directors' orders and discussing them. Eben said there is a lot to look over during the meeting. It would be nice if they were scanned and sent out the day before, but that is a lot to ask. Nat said he has been thinking of coming in the next morning and signing them the day after the meeting. Eric said the problem with that is that he would have to hunt down Rosemary or Brian if he had any questions. Brian said he likes the idea of dedicating time to review invoices (but not insurance or payroll) during a meeting. Board members agreed to try starting meetings at 6:45 and spending the first 15 minutes reviewing directors' orders.

22. Other Business

Kyle said today the artist started today putting up the World Cow painting the Beautification Committee arranged for. Tomorrow he is putting the world map on the cow. The committee will have a ribbon cutting and ice cream social after the tractor parade. She will send out an email inviting the board.

23. Discussion of Restitution Owed to the Town

Beth moved to enter executive session to discuss restitution owed to the town as allowed by 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1), Eben seconded, the motion was passed and the board entered executive session at 9:11. The board came out of executive session at 9:40.

24. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41.