

**TOWN OF JOHNSON**  
**Selectboard Agenda**  
Johnson Municipal Offices  
293 Lower Main West

**Monday, June 19, 2023**

6:30 CALL TO ORDER & MEETING KICKOFF

Additions or Adjustments to the Agenda (5 mins)

## Standing Items

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6:30 REGULAR MEETING KICKOFF

1. Review Invoices and Orders (Review during or after meeting and ask questions on demand) (5 mins)
2. Review and approve minutes of meeting past: June 5<sup>th</sup> 2023, Special Meeting June 14<sup>th</sup> 2023, Joint TOJ/VOJ Meeting June 14<sup>th</sup> 2023 (5 mins)
3. Selectboard issues/concerns (5 mins)

6:50 P.M. TREASURER'S REPORT: REVIEW AND APPROVE BILLS, WARRANTS, LICENSES AND ANY ACTION ITEMS. (10 MINS)

7:00 P.M. PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR/HIGHWAY FOREMAN REPORT (15 MINS)

4. Monthly Report
5. Gravel Pit
6. Ash tree/emerald ash borer mitigation

## Administrator's report, action items, and signature required items

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7:15 P.M. REVIEW PLANNED PURCHASES - NONE

7:15 P.M. COMMITTEES, VOLUNTEER, AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

7. Consider appointments to the: (5 mins)

- a) Library Board of Trustees
- b) Community Oven Committee

8. Discussion with Rail Trail Committee (20 mins)

- a) Bike lane on Railroad Street
- b) Accept state offer to replace blue Rail Trail directional signs
- c) July 15<sup>th</sup> celebration event

9. Discussion regarding placing sculptures along Main Steet (15 mins)

10. Skate Park Committee (15 mins)

- a) Status of seeking bids
- b) Hiring part time summer helper

11. Planning Commission's process to nominate an Administrative Officer for the Form Based Code (5 mins)

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8:15 P.M. NEW ITEMS

12. Consider approving renewal of cannabis license (5 mins)

13. Consider setting date to meet with GMATV Club (10 mins)

### Executive Session(s) & Close

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8:30 P.M.

14. Executive session to discuss legal opinion and personnel

8:50 P.M. ADJOURN MEETING

Option to join by Zoom\*:

**\*Please note:** Participation only allowed through Zoom if requested in advance of the Meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3446522544?pwd=VkNZZE5tMW5PaEhidVpnUjRxSkxGdz09>

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 344 652 2544

Passcode: 15531

One tap mobile:

+13017158592,,3446522544# US (Washington DC)

+13052241968,,3446522544# US

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES  
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2023

**Present:** Selectboard members: Beth Foy, Duncan Hastings, Eben Patch, Shayne Spence, Mark Woodward

Others: Carl Rogers, Rosemary Audibert, Charles Gallanter, Sal Morales, Rob Moore, Joie Lehouiller, Carri Ferrari, Dean Locke, David Williams, Casey Romero, GiGi Beach,

**Note:** All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

**1. Call to Order**

Beth called the meeting to order at 6:30.

**2. Additions or Adjustments to the Agenda**

Carl added approval of a grant application by the Community Oven Committee and acceptance of a resignation from the Community Oven Committee. He said item #13 can be removed from the agenda because it has already been addressed by the selectboard.

**3. Review Invoices and Orders**

There were no questions about the invoices and orders.

**4. Review and Approve Minutes**

**Duncan moved to approve the minutes of May 10, May 15, May 24 and June 1, 2023, Shayne seconded and the motion was passed with Eben abstaining because he was not at the last two meetings.**

**5. Selectboard Issues/Concerns**

Beth read an email to the board from Charlie Gallanter. He is asking that the highway crew be directed to cut some dead elms near the town right of way on his property. The claim that the crew only remove vegetation in the town right of way is specious. When they did ditch mowing they cut well outside the right of way, damaging or destroying some of his fruit trees and deciduous saplings. That was described as preventive. The dead elms are more of a threat than the fruit trees outside the right of way that the flail mower cut on his property so removing them would also be preventive.

Duncan said we should stay in the right of way when mowing and trimming. (*Mark Woodward and David Williams arrived at 6:34.*) We have no authority outside the right of way. He would suggest that the tree warden, the highway foreman and Charlie get together to look at the trees and determine if they are in the right of way. If they are, the tree warden is authorized to say if they represent a danger. Charlie said he is not disputing that they are outside the right of way but he sees the crew working outside the right of way right now while they are ditching. Beth said she can follow up with Jason on the ditching. She asked Charlie if he thinks it is worth asking tree warden Noel Dodge to help with determining if the trees are a danger. Charlie said, if it will get the trees removed. Beth said she will connect with Noel. Eben said there was a storm last spring when a dead elm tree just down the road from the ones Charlie is talking about came down in the roadway.

Mark brought up a situation with the garage Dorigen Keeney is building, which is 8 inches too close to the road. Eben said he looked at that as well. His understanding is that Jason met with her and was comfortable with the garage location because the house is already in the right of way. Carl said he spoke with Dorigen today. Her main concern is that the road crew wants to move the road over 4 feet. That would put the edge of the road close enough to her garden fence that she would be

concerned about it getting pushed over when the crew plows snow in winter. The new garage is 8 inches further into the right of way than the house is now. (*Joie Lehouillier arrived at 6:41.*) Carl and Dorigen talked about an easement for her to occupy the right of way.

Beth asked why we are talking about moving the road. Mark said because the garage is a little in the right of way. Eben said in the past board members said they would respect Jason's judgment. Jason said he was comfortable with the agreement that was made. Beth said she doesn't care about Jason giving the green light to put a garage in the right of way, but she doesn't want to talk about moving a road. That is money we don't have to spend.

Duncan said he doesn't know that Dorigen was given good information when she talked to Jason and Howard Romero. If there is something going on in the right of way a permit is needed. In his opinion a permit should have been issued granting her permission to place a structure in the right of way. (*Rob Moore arrived at 6:45.*) He is okay with a permit allowing construction of a garage in the right of way. That gives Dorigen a legal right and is recorded in the records. Moving the road is a whole different question.

Shayne asked if allowing building of the garage necessitates moving the road. Mark and Duncan said they feel it does not. Eben said the road is narrow there already. Shayne said probably we will need Jason's opinion. Mark said the garage changes nothing about visibility.

Beth said this came up because selectboard members know the person involved. That means there is room for bias. The board will follow up at future meeting on whether there is a road permit for the garage. If Jason wants to issue one, we should.

Mark said The Tech Group spent hours helping him after he lost his town email. The person who helped him was very patient and understanding.

6. ***Treasurer's Report / Review and Approve Bills, Warrants, Licenses and Action Items***  
**Eben moved to approve the tobacco license for Get Yours, Shayne seconded and the motion was passed.**

Rosemary said one request for property tax abatement has been received.

7. ***Review Planned Purchases***

Carl said Jason would like to use the \$15K budgeted for mud abatement to purchase gravel, which he would stockpile to use for a project later this summer. There was \$40K budgeted for gravel and stone. Jason has spent about half of that and is asking for approval to spend up to \$20K more for gravel and stone from either Percy or Manosh, depending on availability and price at the time he is ready to start hauling. Eben said he approves of these purchases.

Duncan asked if the gravel purchased with the \$15K budgeted for mud abatement will be used for a mud abatement project. Eben said from what he heard it will be a mud abatement project. Carl said that was his understanding. The crew is going to be reconstructing a road.

**Duncan moved and Mark seconded to approve both requested planned purchases.**

Beth asked if Jason has any other large expenses planned for the remainder of this fiscal year. Eben said none that he knows of.

Beth asked if the numbers remaining in the highway budget for these line items track with what Rosemary thinks the balance is. Rosemary said yes.

**Duncan and Mark agreed on an amendment to the motion authorizing expenditure of amounts not to exceed the amounts budgeted for the current fiscal year.**

**The motion was passed.**

**8. *Potential Library Trustee Appointment***

Beth said the library trustees will meet with candidates and have a recommendation for the next selectboard meeting.

**9. *Discuss and Consider Approval of Summer Kick-Off Festival & Duck Race***

Carl said Johnson Works in partnership with the Community Oven Committee have requested use of Legion Field for an event on June 11 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. There will be a craft vendor fair at Legion Field and a rubber duck race in the river, with ducks released just upstream of the Studio Center and a finish line at a location with some rocks. They would like to close part of Pearl Street for about 45 minutes to safely hold the duck race. (*Casey Romero arrived at 7:00.*) To do that they would need to post "road closed" and detour signs. Jason said the town has the necessary signs and cones. This is a fundraiser for the oven committee and Johnson Works.

Beth said there was uncertainty about who typically approves requests like this. Requests for use of town properties always come to the selectboard for approval.

Eben asked if the main reason the selectboard is being asked to approve this has to do with insurance. There are town committees that plan events like an Arbor Day celebration or a Historical Society presentation at Whiting Cemetery and don't ask the selectboard for permission. He doesn't feel they need to. They are covered by our insurance. He is not sure if Johnson Works partnering with a town committee means everything is fully covered under town insurance. He is supportive of the event. Carri Ferrari said it was brought to Johnson Works' attention that by partnering with a town committee they would get insurance, so they considered which committee it made sense to partner with. (*GiGi Beach arrived at 7:04.*) The Oven Committee will be baking pizzas all day that will be available by donation.

Duncan said his preference would be to keep at least one lane of traffic open on Pearl Street. He thinks logistically it would be a nightmare to detour traffic and sign it well enough that people would know where to go. Carri said the sheriff's department will have someone there to help with traffic unless they have a major incident. Duncan said the fire department may also be willing to help. They are all trained in traffic control, which is a legal requirement for anyone controlling traffic.

**Shayne moved and Eben seconded to allow use of Legion Field by Johnson Works and the Community Oven Committee for the Summer Kick-Off Festival.**

Mark asked if board members have any concern about him voting because he is on the Oven Committee. Others said they do not.

Eben asked if Carl can check on the insurance question. Duncan said if an entity can't provide insurance we ask them to waive liability but as a practical matter that waiver is really not worth the paper it is written on.

**The motion was passed.**

Joie Lehouillier said Johnson Works has been trying to partner with Johnson Recreation on events but they have not been successful. *(Dean Locke arrived at 7:10.)*

Duncan said he feels there will be adequate traffic control on Pearl Street without closing it. Eben said School Street, which would be the alternative route, can't accommodate heavy vehicles. Duncan said School Street goes by Legion Field, where the event will be set up. The board agreed it would be better not to close Pearl Street. This year's event can be a trial to see how well it works with the road open. Shayne said he does think reaching out to the fire department would be a good idea.

Carl asked, if the public works department has signs with some message like "event on roadway" is the selectboard okay with loaning them out? Beth said yes, but it would be good to know who will pick them up and return them. Duncan said if nothing else we will want cones.

Carri asked what the protocol is for future event requests. Beth said a formal request is not necessarily required if Johnson Works is partnering with a committee. It would be good to notify the board. If not partnering with a committee, Johnson Works should submit a request to the selectboard. Duncan said one good reason for that is to avoid potential conflicts.

Carri asked if there is a way to be covered under the town's insurance if Johnson Works does not partner with a town committee. Beth said she doesn't know. Her recommendation is to let the town know well in advance of the event and then the town administrator can help with figuring out insurance coverage.

**10. *Discuss and Consider Approval of Grant Application by Community Oven Committee***

Eben said the Community Oven Committee is seeking \$1000 to purchase ingredients so they can keep offering pizzas for free and a cooler. **Eben moved to approve the grant application by the Community Oven Committee for \$1000 from Vermont Electric Coop, Duncan seconded and the motion was passed.**

**11. *Resignation from Community Oven Committee***

Beth said Ray Kania has resigned from the Community Oven Committee. Jasmine Yuris has posted the vacancy. **Eben moved to accept Ray Kania's resignation from the Community Oven Committee and to send him a thank you card for his service, Shayne seconded and the motion was passed.**

**12. *Review and Approve Engineering Services Contract for Scribner Bridge Scoping Study***

Rob Moore of the Lamoille County Planning Commission said the town got a grant from VTrans for a scoping study for Scribner Bridge, which will include repairs as well as flood mitigation activities. In the past there was a study to identify preferred flood mitigation alternatives. The preferred alternative was a low water crossing allowing water to spill over the roadway and around the bridge, causing only superficial damage to the road. We issued an RFP for the study and received one proposal, which was a little more expensive than anticipated. As directed by Brian Story, Rob reached out to VTrans and asked there was if any way they could increase the award amount. The answer was a firm no. Then as requested by Brian Story he reached out to the consultant and initiated an informal negotiation on price and scope of work. The grant award was \$26,400. The local match was \$6600, for a total of \$33,000. The award includes management overseeing the consultant. The town has an agreement with LCPC for \$3K for that service. The

consultant agreed to look at a minimum number of alternatives to reduce the price. We are not going to build a brand new modern bridge, for example. There are not a lot of alternatives that need to be considered. The flood control aspect is more important to spend time on. They are also planning to send a smaller number of people to meetings. Those changes bring their price down to \$36,926.29. That would make the town's share of the total project cost \$10,526.29, about \$4K more than the town was originally expecting to pay. *(GiGi, Joie and Carri left at 7:30.)*

The board discussed where the town's share will come from and whether it should come out of this year's budget or next year's. Eben said if it is coming out of the bridge and culvert reserve fund he would rather spend it next year than allocate it this year. Shayne asked, will we spend out of the same place whether we spend the money this year or next year? Others said yes. Duncan said he doesn't think it really matters which year we spend it in.

**Duncan moved and Shayne seconded to accept the proposal from VHB for reduced scope of work and cost of \$39,926.29 as presented by Rob Moore and to authorize the board chair to sign any and all documents related to the VTrans scoping study grant. The motion was passed with Eben opposed.**

The board thanked Sal Morales for his work on the Northern Borders grant application. *(Sal and Rob left at 7:42.)*

**13. *Appoint a Form Based Code Administrative Officer***

Beth said Brian Story was our administrative officer so we should appoint someone else. Duncan said it should be a very small time commitment. David Williams said any application for a variance goes directly to the development review board. A variance application means the applicant wants to do something contrary to specifications for that district. It is not an application for a permit, but for something that is normally not allowed. Carl offered to serve as administrative officer on an interim basis. Beth said she was thinking of asking people who were formerly on the form based code committee. Her thought is to appoint Carl for now and then quickly nominate another interim until we have a permanent town administrator. Eben said he thinks we should send a request to the Planning Commission for them to nominate someone. He asked Rosemary if anyone in the office could serve as administrative officer for a few weeks. Rosemary said no. **Shayne moved to appoint Carl Rogers as interim form based code administrative officer and to ask the Planning Commission to nominate an interim administrative officer who can serve until the board appoints a permanent administrative officer, Duncan seconded and the motion was passed with Mark not voting as he had temporarily left the room.**

Shayne asked, what is our approach if there has already been a violation of form based code? Beth said she does not know what the process is. David said there is a section on enforcement that makes reference to state statute. The board might want to look at it.

David said it is 14 days until the date when the remains of the burned building are supposed to be removed from Stearns St. and nothing seems to have changed. Dean said he has reached out to the owners and has not heard back. He has seen no change. This may be the first person we have to fine.

**14. *Reappoint Forest Fire Warden***

**Eben moved to reappoint Corey Davis as forest fire warden with a term expiring in 2028, Duncan seconded and the motion was passed.**

**15. Discuss Seeking Bids for Oil**

Carl suggested the board could look into Competitive Energy Services to see if they handle contracts like Johnson's. Some school districts and towns in Vermont use Competitive Energy Services. The town he worked for used CES for propane, gas and diesel. CES would give advice about how much to budget for the upcoming year and about whether to lock in a price. They would accept suggestions for local vendors. They check out the market and you pay them based on how many gallons you purchase. Mark said they are like a broker.

Eben said he would like to get information on CES. In the past we have had one fuel delivery company that both the town and village used. Last year the trustees voted for the town to select a fuel oil vendor and the town voted for the trustees to select a propane vendor. Beth said she would like to see this added as a topic for the joint meeting with the trustees.

Carl said he is not sure if CES gets formal bids or just calls companies. Mark asked if they consolidate orders from multiple municipalities for better pricing. Carl said he hasn't heard of them doing that kind of joint purchasing.

Mark asked if Carl can talk to Erik Bailey to let him know the selectboard is interested in CES and see if he knows anything about them. Carl said he will do that.

Eben said he is supportive of looking into the concept. He thinks it could save the town more than we pay them. Mark agreed.

**16. Discuss Plans for First Meeting of July and for Setting Tax Rate**

The board agreed to meet on July 3 and to try to keep the agenda light. The tax rate can be set at that meeting. *(Dean Locke left at 8:11.)*

**17. Review and Approve Sheriff's Department Contracts**

**Eben moved to authorize the chair to sign the dispatch contract with the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$72,887.00, Shayne seconded and the motion was passed.**

**Shayne moved to approve the Lamoille County Sheriff's department patrol and investigations contract in the amount of \$536,655.00.** Duncan asked, that is the number we put in our budget? Carl said yes. **Duncan seconded.**

Mark asked what the percent increase is from last year. Eben and Beth said 5%.

Duncan asked if we have heard anything from Roger Marcoux about the sheriff's department retirement option. Beth said as far as she knows nothing has happened. She hasn't heard anything recently. She explained that the sheriff's department is in a retirement option they chose around 20 years ago. The contributions by the department and the officers were less than the other options. But since then they have realized that the terms of that plan aren't beneficial in recruiting and retaining officers because there are better plans where employees pay in more but can retire earlier. Switching retirement accounts has been a hot topic for a few years. They have petitioned the treasurer's office on numerous occasions to be able to switch to another plan. Another department that originally opted not to be in any plan has been allowed to join the plan LCSD would like to join. If they were able to switch they thought it would result in lower cost to the contract towns. In the winter Roger was feeling it was likely they could switch. Since then he told Beth that things



were stalled and he was not feeling so good about it anymore. She doesn't know if the door is closed

Duncan said there has been some preliminary thought that it might be possible to form a municipal union district for police services that would allow employees to participate in the other plan. Beth said the sheriff's department would still have a function and their retirement option would not change but members of the regional police force would have the option to go into whatever plan they chose. Duncan said he thinks that concept should be on the table for ongoing discussion.

Mark asked who will make the final call on whether we do that. Beth said a regional or county entity would need to take this on or some sort of group would need to be formed. We could still contract with the sheriff's department and they would contract with the new entity or we could contract directly with the new entity. There would be different options. Roger Marcoux has been open to the idea of LCSD contracting through a different agency.

Beth said the contract doesn't have anything about ATV enforcement. We have talked about that numerous times. Duncan said it does mention enforcement of town ordinances. Beth said that is part of what they are obligated by statute to do regardless. Duncan said the question is whether we can get them to make ATV ordinance enforcement more of a priority. He understands that they don't want to get involved in high speed chases, but they could park at an intersection and check people's VASA registrations. Eben said Fish and Game did that this weekend. And the Green Mountain ATV Club has offered to work with VASA to fund game wardens for patrol. Shayne said he thinks the time to get something more specific about ATVs in the contract was before now. He is confident that the language that is in there covers ATV enforcement. We just need to get them to uphold it. Mark said he will support this but will want more input next year.

**The motion was passed.**

***18. Update on Northern Border Regional Commission Grant Application***

Duncan said we all worked hard to get the grant application in. It was submitted and we got verification back that it was received. Beth thanked Tori Hellwig and Sal Morales from LCPC as well as Duncan for all their work.

***19. Consider Extending Industrial Park Stormwater Engineering Proposal Deadline***

**Eben moved to extend the deadline for proposals for any engineering firm interested in submitting a bid for the Vermont Electric Coop stormwater design to June 19, 2023, Shayne seconded and the motion was passed with Mark abstaining.**

Duncan said he will let Tyler know the date has been extended. He said we probably should put the RFP in the VLCT classifieds.

***20. Economic Development Roundtable Update***

Beth said the roundtable discussion was really good. Pretty much everyone who was invited showed up. There were representatives from the state who were very engaged. VLCT representatives were also very engaged. There was representation from Sen. Welch's and Sen. Sanders' offices. Probably the people we engaged with the most were Tim Tierney and Brett Long from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. Her takeaway was that we have a lot more resources out there than we have used to date and we need to make sure when we get a permanent economic development person that they are in constant contact with those resources, especially the Department of Economic Development. Duncan said one of the grant possibilities

was the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Shayne said there were many different funding sources identified for everything we have thought about doing.

Beth said she thinks we need to distribute the minutes of the roundtable discussion to our committees and make sure they understand the breadth of funding out there. Maybe we could create a resource directory. Eben said the Chittenden County Planning Commission website has an incredible directory of resources. Beth suggested that all board members read the minutes of the roundtable discussion if they have not already. Shayne said he shared a couple of the ideas related to the rail trail at the rail trail committee meeting. Beth said Carl can use his judgment about which committees to send the minutes to. He can just send them to the chairs.

Beth said she would like to have a roundtable session like that once a year.

**21. Discuss Erik Bailey's Email about Town Highway Ordinance**

Beth asked what board members' thoughts are on the email Erik Bailey sent out about the ordinance dealing with culverts and headwalls. Duncan said it is not an ordinance, it is a policy. And the section Erik refers to is related to installation of driveway culverts. It doesn't specifically say that but read in context it is clearly aimed at private property owners installing driveway culverts. It has nothing to do with stormwater and catch basins. He thinks Erik is not really understanding the policy correctly. The problem is that he submitted that theory to the trustees and Duncan is concerned that they took his opinion at face value. He thinks they are trying to apply it to the Manchester situation incorrectly. Shayne said he assumes there is no similar policy more related to catch basins. Duncan said there is not. The structure in question more closely resembles a stormwater collection system than a culvert. We can argue about whether the Manchesters have some responsibility. They probably do, but he thinks it is wrong for the village to try to get out of any responsibility. Even if what Erik had brought up was an applicable ordinance, he thinks we would have a tough time applying it retroactively to the 1960s or 1950s. We don't know whether one of the Manchesters got permission from the town administrator or highway supervisor to put the structures in. The town started issuing permits in the 1980s and anything permanent from before then is grandfathered. Shayne said he would love for us to get some of these things more fleshed out on paper. Gentlemen's agreements made before any of us were on the board are an issue.

Duncan said there is an inconsistency we should probably take care of. The policy in our book is somewhat in contradiction to the longstanding policy (which used to be part of our written policy) that the property owner would install the first driveway culvert at their own cost and thereafter the town would assume responsibility for it. The policy adopted in 2020 says the property owner maintains continuing responsibility for repairs or replacement. He asked Eric Osgood if that was what the board intended and Eric said he thought the board just signed it without really looking at it because Brian Story said it represented the latest guidance from the state.

Beth said there are multiple policies with references to road access or responsibilities with regard to roads. She feels like we need to do a better job of consolidating our policies. Duncan agreed. Mark said some other boards he is on cycle through policies and review/update some each year. Beth suggested maybe we could hire an intern to read through our policies and find conflicting statements. That could be really beneficial to us. Shayne said he has been informally going through some policies. He is compiling a list of issues but it would help us to have someone with a more official background.

Duncan asked if Carl had any thoughts. Carl said he had the same conclusion as Duncan about the language being taken out of context. The policy was adopted in 2020 and those structures look like they were done in the 50s or 60s, well before this policy existed.

Duncan said at the last joint meeting he suggested that Jason and Nate should go to the site on a rainy day and check out whether or not all 3 remaining old catch basins are really necessary. Eben said he did tell Jason the board wanted him to meet with Nate to look at them but he didn't remember the suggestion about doing it on a rainy day so he did not mention that. Duncan said the trustees talked about the possibility of eliminating one or more of the structures.

Shayne asked, can we tell the landowner that either we will fill them in or the landowner will need to get involved? Duncan said yes. If the village really doesn't want to be involved we can put in a culvert or dig a ditch or tell the Manchesters they need to open the drainage swale back up. Beth said CJ Manchester will be at the next joint meeting. Erik reached out to him.

Beth said she told Erik she believed the language he quoted was a reference to driveways but that the selectboard should talk about it at a meeting. She feels responding to the email won't change anything. She thinks the joint meeting is the place to bring it back up but she or Carl could respond to the email. Carl said the value of doing it before the joint meeting is that then the trustees will know that the selectboard doesn't agree with Erik's interpretation. The board agreed that Carl should respond to Erik's email.

Eben said he will talk to Jason about getting together with Nate on a rainy day.

**22. FEMA Reports Due by June 30**

Carl said he asked Brian Story about the FEMA report item in the spreadsheet and Brian said he thought it was left over from a year or two ago when the town had ongoing FEMA projects. The town doesn't currently have any open FEMA grants or projects. Beth asked Carl to check with Seth Jensen about whether there is anything active for the Holmes Meadow project or if he knows about any other outstanding FEMA items.

**23. Executive Session to Discuss Legal Opinion**

**Eben moved to find that premature disclosure of attorney-client privilege would place the town at a substantial disadvantage, Duncan seconded and the motion was passed.**

**Eben moved to enter executive session as allowed by 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1) to discuss a legal opinion, inviting Carl to remain, Duncan seconded and the motion was passed at 9:08.**

The board came out of executive session at 9:42 with no action taken.

**24. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43.

*Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths*

## Town Administrator's Report

Monday, June 19, 2023

**Meeting kickoff & Agenda** - By motion vote to approve the agenda: a) as presented, b) with additions or deletions, c) with re-ordering, or d) some combination of b) and c).

### Standing Items

1. **Invoices** - The invoices and warrant will be available for you to review. Please sign the warrant.
2. **Minutes** - The June 5<sup>th</sup> minutes are in the packet. The minutes for the two June 14<sup>th</sup> meetings are listed on the agenda in the event Donna submits the minutes before Monday night. These notes are being written Thursday. It may be the office receives the minutes on Friday, in which case the minutes will be placed in the packet. You could vote on all three sets of minutes in one motion, or you could vote on each individually.
3. **Selectboard Issues or Concerns** - Any items you want added to a future agenda? Any reports you were expecting? Other issues or concerns.

**Treasurers Report** - At this time Rosemary has no licenses for your action.

4. **Road Foreman Report** - Jason will attend the meeting. His report is in the packet. After his usual monthly report, Jason would like to talk with you about the gravel pit. Information from Jason is in the packet with the monthly report.
5. **Gravel Pit** - The upshot is, Jason wonders if it is cost-effective for the Town to continue utilizing the gravel pit under the current conditions/restrictions. He provides the cost to buy plant mix (\$15.54) and winter sand (\$9.60) and his estimate of the cost for the road crew to produce those products: non-crushed gravel (\$13.75) and winter sand (\$9.50). He notes the new added costs for operating a sand and gravel pit. It is my understanding he does not expect a decision Monday night.
6. **Ash Tree/Emerald Borer Mitigation** - The last sub-topic is at Beth's request. Jason will be asked to report on the crew's progress in taking down ash trees in road rights of way. There is a report on the Town website that states 2,470 ash trees were counted in Town road rights of way. Removal while the trees are alive (and safer to cut) is recommended.

**Planned Purchases** - There are no requests for this meeting. The item is on the agenda because it is my understanding people are accustomed to seeing this item on the agenda. If it is not shown they might think it was overlooked.

### Administrator's report, action items, and business of the Selectboard

7. **Consider appointments to the following boards** -
  - a. **Library Trustee Appointment** - It is not known if any applicants or Library Trustees will attend. Jennifer Burton resigned from the library board. The Selectboard accepted her resignation. Sabrina Rossi reported on June 1<sup>st</sup> that the Trustees have received four letters of interest. The Trustees met tonight (Thursday) to make their recommendation to the Selectboard. Your actions

could be to appoint Krystal Woodward as a Library Trustee to fill Jennifer Burton's seat until the March 2024 election.

- b. **Community Oven Committee** - Jasmine Yuris informed me the Committee received one letter of interest (in the packet) to fill Ray Kania's position on the Committee. The Committee "highly recommends" Liz Faracini. With Jasmine's help Liz will be invited to attend your meeting. She may attend. I was told Oven Committee positions do not have a term. Your motion could be to appoint Liz Faracini to the Oven Committee filling the vacancy created by Ray Kania's resignation.

8. **Rail Trail Committee -**

- a. **Railroad Street Bike Lane** - After the May 31<sup>st</sup> Rail Trail Committee meeting, chairperson Allie Kratzat asked for an item on your agenda. We agreed on June 19<sup>th</sup>. The Committee would like to "discuss a dedicated bike lane on Railroad Street." Allie mentioned there is funding available for this type of improvement now. She mentioned VTrans programs and BGS. Also, the Village is progressing with drainage improvements in the section of Railroad Street near the Library. Thoughts about the bike lane and plans for the bike lane should be compared for coordination purposes.

According to Jason and Lydia, Railroad Street near the Library is 23' wide. If there are two 10' lanes, there is only 3' left for the buffer between the travel lane and curb on each side. Without removing existing curbing and moving it back, an on-street bike lane might not be possible. There is a 3' grass strip between the curb and the sidewalk. The average sidewalk width is 6'. A shared use path immediately behind the curb is possible. Rob Moore advises a shared use path should be at least 8' - 10' wide. Without the benefit of detailed measurements, there is potential for a shared pedestrian/cyclist's path in the area of the existing sidewalk.

Sidewalks are Village responsibility. Before the idea of using the sidewalk area goes any further, the Village should be brought into the discussion.

On the bridge and from the bridge to the trail crossing, the cycle lane may need to be on the road. The Town is painting bicycle symbols on Railroad Street. Share the Road signs might be added.

No action is expected. The Committee wants to talk with you about the possibility.

- b. **State Offer** - VTrans is preparing a contract to install signs on the Rail Trail corridor plus signs at the trail heads and trail head directional signs on state roads. In special circumstances, like Railroad Street, the state will install a directional sign on a municipal road. The state's Rail Trails Program manager also has offered to replace Johnson's blue Rail Trail signs with the standard brown signs the state is installing.

Looking back through emails from February to June, I don't see that the Town agreed:

1. for the signage to be installed by VTrans at the proposed location,
2. to maintain the sign(s) long term,

Do you accept the offer for a directional sign on Railroad Street and to maintain it going forward?

Second matter is accepting VTrans offer to replace Johnson's blue directional and trail head signs with the standard brown signs being used on the rest of the Rail Trail?

RTC members opinions could be heard.

I suggest you accept VTrans' offers and standardize the signs. A motion to accept VTrans' offer for a new directional sign on Railroad Street and to replace existing blue signs with brown signs would be needed.

- c. **July 15 Celebration** - Talk with the RTC members about an event on the day the Governor will ride the Rail Trail and make a brief stop in Johnson. See enclosure from the Rail Trail Programs Manager.

9. **Sculptures** - Your guest will be Michael Stanley. In March, Kyle Nuse introduced Beth and Brian to Michael via email. Michael is new to Johnson but, according to Kyle, is experienced in bringing sculpture parks and gardens to life. He is interested in placing sculptures on four existing pedestals along Main Street. Beth has asked Michael if he has specific sculptures or an approach. I have not seen information about specific sculptures. He did reply that the artists are responsible “for the majority of the work installing and de-installing the artwork.” The artwork would change every two years. He wrote in an email, sculpture ideas would be submitted and a committee (not specified) would decide what is installed. (An assignment for the Beautification Committee? Should the Village be included in this request?)

Mr. Stanley also would like to talk with you about a sculpture trail and about start up costs.

No action is expected, but you could indicate if these talks should continue and who should be involved.

10. **Skate Park** -

- a. Casey Romero was invited. A request for bids is posted on the Town website. It does not give a bid submission deadline. So far, no bids have been submitted. Pierre Hall from Vermont Skatepark Associates has not responded to an email seeking more information and asking if any contractors are interested.

Casey asked about having a part time summer helper who is under 18 years of age. She mentioned paying a stipend instead of wages. You probably need to help answer this question because I’m not familiar with the Town’s past practice.

The Committee (Town) was awarded a \$5,000 Vermont Community Foundation grant Casey would speak to the proposed project.

11. **Form Based Code Admin Officer Nomination** - The Planning Commission listed seven potential candidates for the A.O. assignment. They selected their top three choices and sent the list to Beth and me asking if the board will contact the top three candidates or do you want the Planning Commission to do it. The FBC states, “The Administrative Officer is nominated for appointment by the Planning Commission...” My interpretation of this FBC section is the PC will nominate one person to be the A.O.

Do you want to pursue the PC’s top three candidates or ask the PC to nominate one person?

12. **Cannabis** - VT Green Castle Reserve (d/b/a VT Green Castle) has state Cannabis Control Board renewal approval, pending Johnson’s local control commission’s (Selectboard) approval. Jodi Horner was informed of the agenda item and invited to attend.

On June 20, 2022 the Selectboard voted to approve issuance of Green Castle’s license. There were no conditions attached to the motion. Johnson does not have a zoning ordinance and sign restrictions. I am not aware of any Town ordinances that apply to all businesses that are relevant to this matter. Unless you are aware of specific incidents or complaints you will vote to approve renewal of the license.

Seeing some of the questions in the minutes, the state does not have a form the business fills out or that the Town signs. After your action we would submit an email to the state Cannabis Control Board.

A motion to approve the renewal of VT Green Castle's state cannabis license would be in order

13. **GMATV** - After speaking with Beth and Eben, I was asked to add this question to the agenda. When would you like to meet with the club?

## Other Notes

1. Seth Jensen reported back he is not aware of any FEMA grants requiring a report by June 30. I will double check with Jason to see if he has any minor grants outstanding. Seth informed me of the Holmes Meadow project. Johnson was awarded \$189,871.50 Flood Resilient Communities Fund grant from VEM. The grant is for a buyout and floodplain restoration project. Phase I is property acquisition. An approval was completed recently and the property owner is reviewing it. If the owner accepts the approval, the acquisition process would begin. When the property is purchased the LCPC will begin working with an engineer to design the floodplain restoration. Ask about this again in a month if you don't hear anything.
2. The LCPC, Village and hired consultant are meeting on June 22 to review the 30% plans for drainage improvements on Railroad Street.
3. You should have received the latest LCSD report under separate cover. If you did not receive it, let me know.
4. Act 250 News:
  - a. On May 30 we received notice that the District 5 Commission deemed the Woods Drive LLC application incomplete. The local person or applicant is Andrew Naylor. The application is for creating one new lot in a subdivision under Act 250 jurisdiction.
  - b. The Commission also deemed the Highland Heights Inc. application incomplete. (Letter dated May 30). On June 5 the project engineer submitted a revised site plan.
5. Proposals for the industrial park - VEC stormwater work are due Monday. At least two firms have expressed interest.
6. Jason and I visited the Dorigan Keeney site and the work site where Charlie asked to have dead elms cut down. Jason can touch on those Monday, if you want to learn more.
7. Selectboard members' signatures are needed on the forest fire warden appointment form. Remind me if I don't have the form out for you to sign.
8. The Skatepark Committee and River Arts are offering a Skate the Arts Camp from August 14 - 18. It is for 8-year-olds and up. When I talked to Casey about this there were 20-25 registrants.
9. The Historical Society and a lease agreement were on my preliminary agenda item list. As I looked into business with the Historical Society (it's lease agreement and the second-floor apartment) I could not identify a Selectboard action needed now. I emailed Dick Simays and Mary Jean Smith to see if any action is needed at this time. It appears to me the ball is in the Historical Society's court and the Historical Society is supposed to get back to you with a plan for the second floor.

If you have a question or want certain information available for the meeting, contact me.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Information Items:**

**Budget Items:**

**Legal Issues:**

**VLCT: PACIF**

**State/Federal Issues:**

**Administrator's Correspondence:**

**Workshops:**

**Newsletters:**

**Brochures & Ads:**

**Old Business:**

- 1. ATV Ordinance Update**
- 2. Class IV Road Update**
- 3. Stop Sign Ordinance**
- 4. Constable Update**

Adjourn



**Town of Johnson Highway/Public Works Department  
Monthly Progress Report, June 2023**

**Recent Accomplishments**

- Equipment repair and maintenance.
- Grading and de-berm of roads.
- Finished 2023 paving project.
- Got all the Ditch stone Hauled.
- Got all of the old wood and random piles of dirt cleaned up by lower building.

**Current projects**

- Ditching Plot R.D
- Working on the Reed screen getting it ready for upcoming season.
- Working with M.S.H.A to get pit in compliance.
- Boom mower comes 6/19/23.
- Demoing Sany Excavator comes 6/19/23.

**Upcoming Tasks and Projects**

- Summer Road Maintenance.
- Equipment maintenance.
- Trainings to Attend: we just completed excavator, Backhoe, Loader training and lines levels and layouts.

J.W., R.S., M.L., J.E., D.T

**Discuss with Select Board**

- M.S.H.A and Gravel Pit

Report by Jason Whitehill, Town of Johnson Highway Department/Public Works Foreman

5/16/23

**T/O Johnson Gravel Pit**

I've spent the last 4 weeks calculating the cost of each yard of sand and each yard of gravel produced in our pit over the last several years. Having our own pit and mining the material out each summer consumes about 650 man hours (1 person, all summer), in addition to trucking time.

Factoring in the \$2/yard cost paid to Albert Nadeau, our production costs are:

Non-crushed gravel - \$13.75/yard

Winter sand - \$9.50/yard

These prices can be compared to the cost of purchasing these products, which is:

Plant Mix (5x superior product to our gravel) - \$15.54/yard

Winter sand (cleaner product due to being washed) - \$9.60/yard

We get \$6.00 a ton now for oversize.

Bathroom at the pit is \$138.00 a month for a 4 months.

We all so need speed limit signs first aid station for first aid kit, blanket, and stretcher.

The products that come from our pit are inferior in a couple different ways. The gravel we produce does not contain crushed rock, therefore does not pack down, requires more maintenance on our end, and is more susceptible to being washed away.

The sand we produce cannot be washed during production, therefore it makes our road surfaces slicker during rain events and clogs up our ditches, thus requiring more maintenance.

I've been told that a wash plant in our pit would be impossible due to permitting, cost to do so, etc. I've also been told that we cannot have a crusher in our pit due to some preexisting agreement, so we can't produce the ideal gravel product on site, nor hire a contractor to do so.

Another thing to consider is that our screen unit is 40+ years old and in need of replacing. Its current value is \$15,000-\$20,000. There is a handshake agreement in place saying that Nadeau's have first right of refusal for purchasing it if we choose to sell or upgrade. I've spoken with them and they would like to buy it. The cost to replace this unit with a proper unit to continue doing what we're doing is at least \$150,000.

If you'd like my opinion on this, I'm happy to provide it. The road crew has plenty to do during the summer months without being in the pit. During the summer months, we are rarely at full staff. This is the time of year where at least one person is out each week, trying to use their CTO. There are culverts that need replacing, miles of ditching that needs to happen to meet the new state specifications, more and more roadside and rail trail mowing to accomplish, and grading that needs to routinely happen.

Having our own pit would be a future asset. If the price is right for the purchase of the property that would allow expanding the pit, I'm for it. I would leave it alone until the acquisition of materials from vendors becomes an issue. Then we have the property and can utilize it.

But as it stands right now, I feel like we should adjust our material budget for both winter sand and gravel, and dedicate the crew time to maintaining our roads and not mining.

## JPL Recommendation for Appointment

smrossi30@gmail.com <smrossi30@gmail.com>

Fri 6/16/2023 7:06 AM

To:TOJ Administrator-Shared Mailbox <tojadministrator@townofjohnson.com>

Cc:Lydia Putvain <lputvain@townofjohnson.com>

Good morning,

After meeting all the interested potential trustees, the current library board would like to recommend that Krystal Woodward be appointed to fill the vacant trustee seat at the library.

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Sabrina Rossi

## Conflict of interest, VTDOL contact

smrossi30@gmail.com <smrossi30@gmail.com>

Fri 6/16/2023 7:24 AM

To:TOJ Administrator-Shared Mailbox <tojadministrator@townofjohnson.com>;Lydia Putvain <lputvain@townofjohnson.com>;Beth Foy <bfoy@townofjohnson.com>

Good morning!

A bit of an oops here and information on VT Dept of Libraries Contact.

As part of my e-mail sent requesting that Krystal Woodward be appointed to the library board, I forgot to discuss conflict of interest. Since Mark and Krystal are siblings, we propose that we need an alternate liaison to the library from the Selectboard.

Additionally, as part of that discussion, one of the questions outstanding from the recent meeting where we visited regarding the checking account is the representative from the state working on legal/budgetary information for Vermont Department of Libraries that started at the end of May. That information is below to be shared with whomever is designated as liaison with the library.

### **Library Consultant - Library Operations**

Helps public libraries in Vermont be as strong, sustainable, and essential to their communities as possible. Works with library trustees and library directors to address issues related to public libraries, including policy development and trainings; consulting on topics including municipal and non-profit operations, building management, budget and finance, strategic planning, community relations, and library boards.

Kevin Unrath

[kevin.unrath@vermont.gov](mailto:kevin.unrath@vermont.gov)

(802) 272-4386

Thank you!

Sabrina

May 17, 2023

Elizabeth Lathey Faracini  
1040 Plot Rd  
Johnson, VT 05656

To the Johnson Selectboard:

I am writing to request that you consider appointing me to the Pizza Oven Committee. As a Johnson resident for nearly nine years, I am interested in becoming involved in volunteering to ensure that our town continues to be a vibrant, welcoming and community-oriented place to live. I would love to have the opportunity to collaborate with other residents to organize and hold events centering around the pizza oven that promote a sense of community cohesion, belonging and support.

I am aware of the commitment required of the role and am confident that I have the necessary time and energy to make a meaningful contribution to the Committee's activities.

Thank you for your consideration.

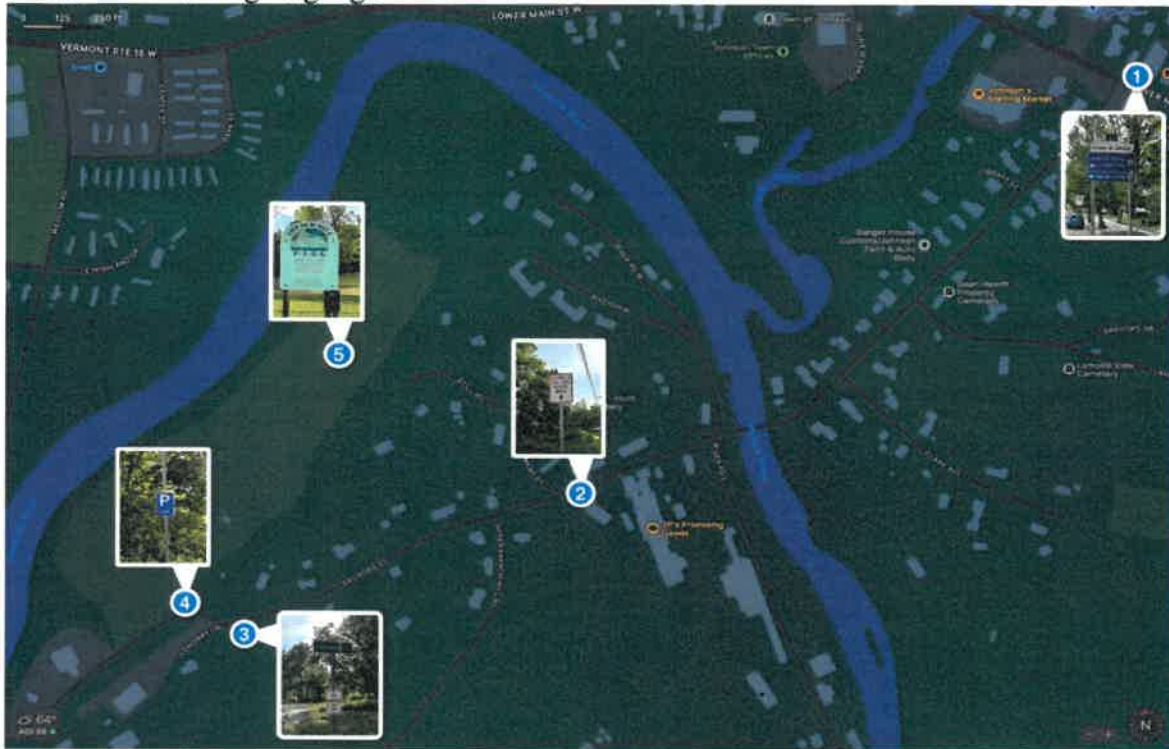
Kindest regards,

Liz

## Rail Trail Advisory Committee Report to Selectboard, 6/16/2023

1. Bike Lane Proposal for Railroad St.
2. Signage, with sample of Parking signage need near the Welcome Center.
3. July 15 Event ideas:
  - Fun, food etc. with help from Johnson Works & others;
  - Time-specific for Gov. Scott's: photo-op with railcar art & proposal for a Selectboard certificate.

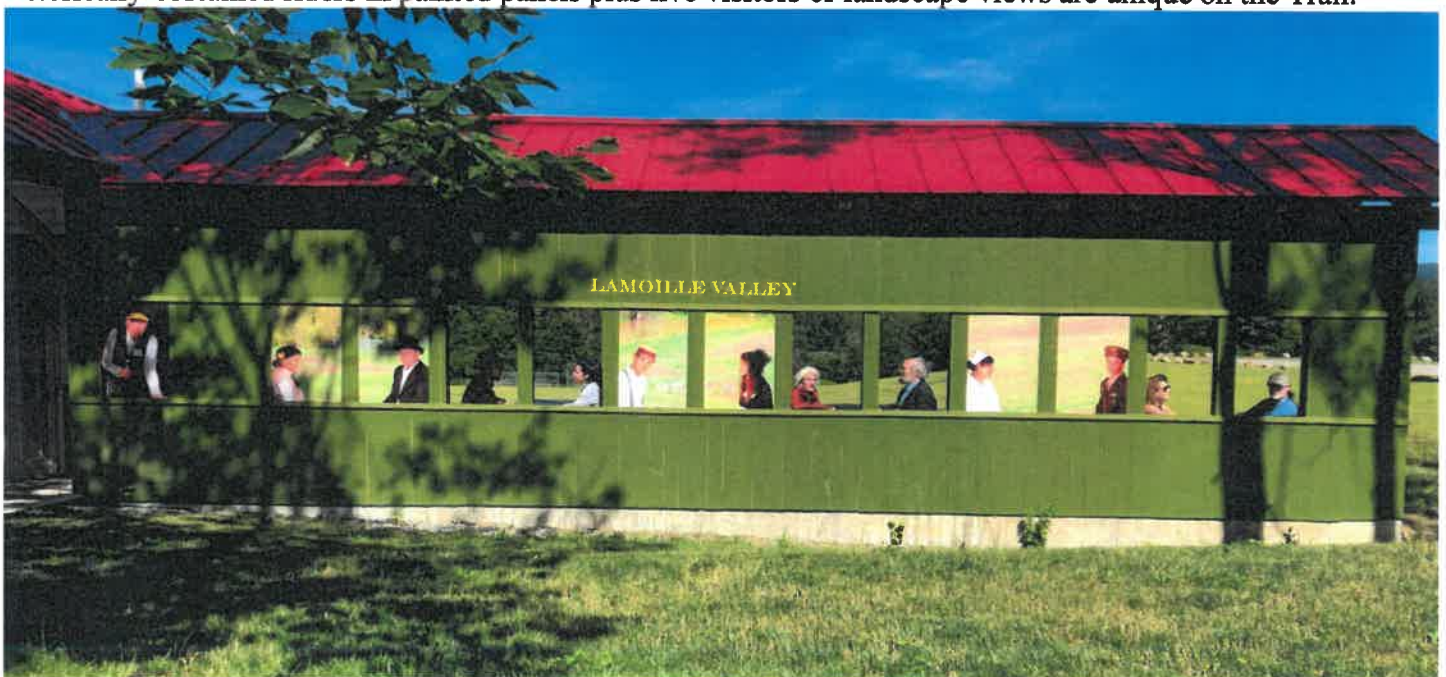
### “Search for Parking” signage:



**Rail Trail Parking Journey**

1. Off of Main Street you are directed to turn at Railroad Street. Sign indicates that Lamoille Valley Rail Trail parking is separate from Old Mill Parking.
2. Long stretch down Railroad Street with out further signage of parking.
3. Arrive at trail crossing, met with two signs that both Old Mill Park and Trail parking are ahead.
4. Arrive at Lendway Lane where there is a sign says “No Parking at Any Time” with no arrows to indicate where. At this point user might think they have missed parking and turn around.
5. If user keeps going they cross over the trail and see a parking sign that points to Old Mill Park.
6. There is no signage in park that indicates where to park for Rail Trail just a sign about Old Mill Park.

**Railroad car photo opportunity:** Ideally, Gov. Scott have his photo taken while he’s seated inside the car. Historically-costumed riders in painted panels plus live visitors or landscape views are unique on the Trail.



**From:** Yva Rose <yvast109@gmail.com>

**Date:** June 16, 2023 at 10:46:34 AM EDT

**To:** Casey <casey@pshift.com>, adiestevson@gmail.com, pwilliams@ithica.edu, jangearhart9@gmail.com, adkratzat@gmail.com, d.molde@pshift.com, bjputvain@townofjohnson.com, Kyle Nuse <kyle.yoga@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Bike lane pitch

Hi all,

While researching the history of the impact of rail trails on communities throughout Canada and the United States I observed a direct relationship between the prosperity of a rail trail community and the establishment of a bike lane. In fact, the first communities to implement them were the ones that prospered the most economically as a result of their rail trail. While studying the towns that had more attractions and amenities to offer trail travelers and those that had less but had a bike lane, I observed the towns with bike lanes still received a greater economic impact from their trail than those that could offer more but did not have the same level of accessibility. In addition, the first towns to establish bike lanes remained one of the most prosperous, long after other communities established them. In conclusion, rail trail towns with bike lanes are a main destination for trail travelers. Bikers prefer safe access to a village over amenities and attractions.

So far, all 18 towns along the LVRT do not have bike lanes. Our neighboring towns, Morrisville and Jeffersonville, have the economic means and forward-thinking municipalities to create bike lanes. If Johnson can put plans in place to create bike lanes ahead of our two competing towns, and any other of the 18 rail trail towns, it will most likely give Johnson an advantage from travelers looking for food, amenities, attractions, and accommodations over neighboring towns. It will make Johnson the midpoint rail trail destination.

I hope this is helpful if I cannot make it. Have a great weekend everyone!

Best,

Yva

## TOJ Administrator-Shared Mailbox

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**From:** Kyle Nuse <kyle.yoga@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2023 1:22 PM  
**To:** Erik Bailey; TOJ Administrator-Shared Mailbox; Beth Foy  
**Subject:** Fwd: H 479 Transportation bil

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Eric Nuse <ericnuse@gmail.com>  
**Date:** June 13, 2023 at 8:56:45 AM EDT  
**To:** Doug Molde <d.molde@pshift.com>, Kyle Nuse <kyle.yoga@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** H 479 Transportation bil

Hey Doug and Kyle,  
In case you haven't seen the details yet of H479 which Scott just signed:

(2) Bike and Pedestrian Facilities Program.

4 (A) This act provides for a fiscal year expenditure, including local  
5 match, of \$13,039,521.00, which will fund 33 bike and pedestrian construction  
6 projects; 18 bike and pedestrian design, right-of-way, or design and right-of  
7 way projects for construction in future fiscal years; 15 scoping studies; and  
8 three projects to improve signage. The construction projects include the  
9 creation, improvement, or rehabilitation of walkways, sidewalks, shared-use  
10 paths, bike paths, and cycling lanes. Projects are funded in Arlington,  
11 Bennington, Berlin, Bethel, Brattleboro, Bristol, Burke, Burlington, Castleton,  
12 Chester, Coventry, Dorset, Dover, Enosburg Falls, Fair Haven, Fairfax,  
13 Franklin, Hartford, Hartland, Hinesburg, Jericho, Lyndonville, Middlebury,  
14 Middlesex, Montpelier, Moretown, New Haven, Newfane, Newport City,  
15 Northfield, Pawlet, Proctor, Richford, Royalton, Rutland City, Rutland Town,  
16 Shaftsbury, Shelburne, South Burlington, South Hero, Springfield, St. Albans  
17 City, St. Albans Town, Sunderland, Swanton, Tunbridge, Vergennes,  
18 Wallingford, Waterbury, West Rutland, and Wilmington. This act also  
19 provides funding for:

20 (i) some of Local Motion's operation costs to run the Bike Ferry  
21 on the Colchester Causeway, which is part of the Island Line Trail;  
VT LEG #370608 v.1

AS PASSED BY HOUSE AND SENATE H.479  
2023 Page 6 of 71

1 (ii) the small-scale municipal bicycle and pedestrian grant  
2 program for projects to be selected during the fiscal year;  
3 (iii) projects funded through the Safe Routes to School program;  
4 (iv) education and outreach to K-8 schools to encourage higher  
5 levels of walking and bicycling to school; and  
6 (v) community grants along the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail  
7 (LVRT).



8 (B) Sec. 7 of this act also creates the Rail Trail Community  
9 Connectivity Grants, with the purpose to continue the build out and  
10 enhancement of LVRT amenities and improve visitor experience.  
11 (3) Transportation Alternatives Program. This act provides for a fiscal  
12 year expenditure of \$5,195,346.00, including local funds, which will fund 22  
13 transportation alternatives construction projects; 19 transportation alternatives  
14 design, right-of-way, or design and right-of-way projects; and seven studies,  
15 including scoping, historic preservation, and connectivity. Of these 48  
16 projects, 16 involve environmental mitigation related to clean water or  
17 stormwater concerns, or both clean water and stormwater concerns, and 29  
18 involve bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Projects are funded in Bennington,  
19 Brandon, Bridgewater, Bristol, Burke, Burlington, Colchester, Derby,  
20 Duxbury, Enosburg, Fair Haven, Fairfax, Franklin, Hartford, Hinesburg, Hyde  
21 Park, Jericho, Johnson, Killington, Mendon, Milton, Montgomery, Moretown,  
VT LEG #370608 v.1

AS PASSED BY HOUSE AND SENATE H.479

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1 Newfane, Norwich, Proctor, Putney, Rockingham, Rutland City, South  
2 Burlington, Stowe, Swanton, Tinmouth, Vergennes, Wardsboro, Warren, West  
3 Rutland, Williston, Wilmington, and Winooski.

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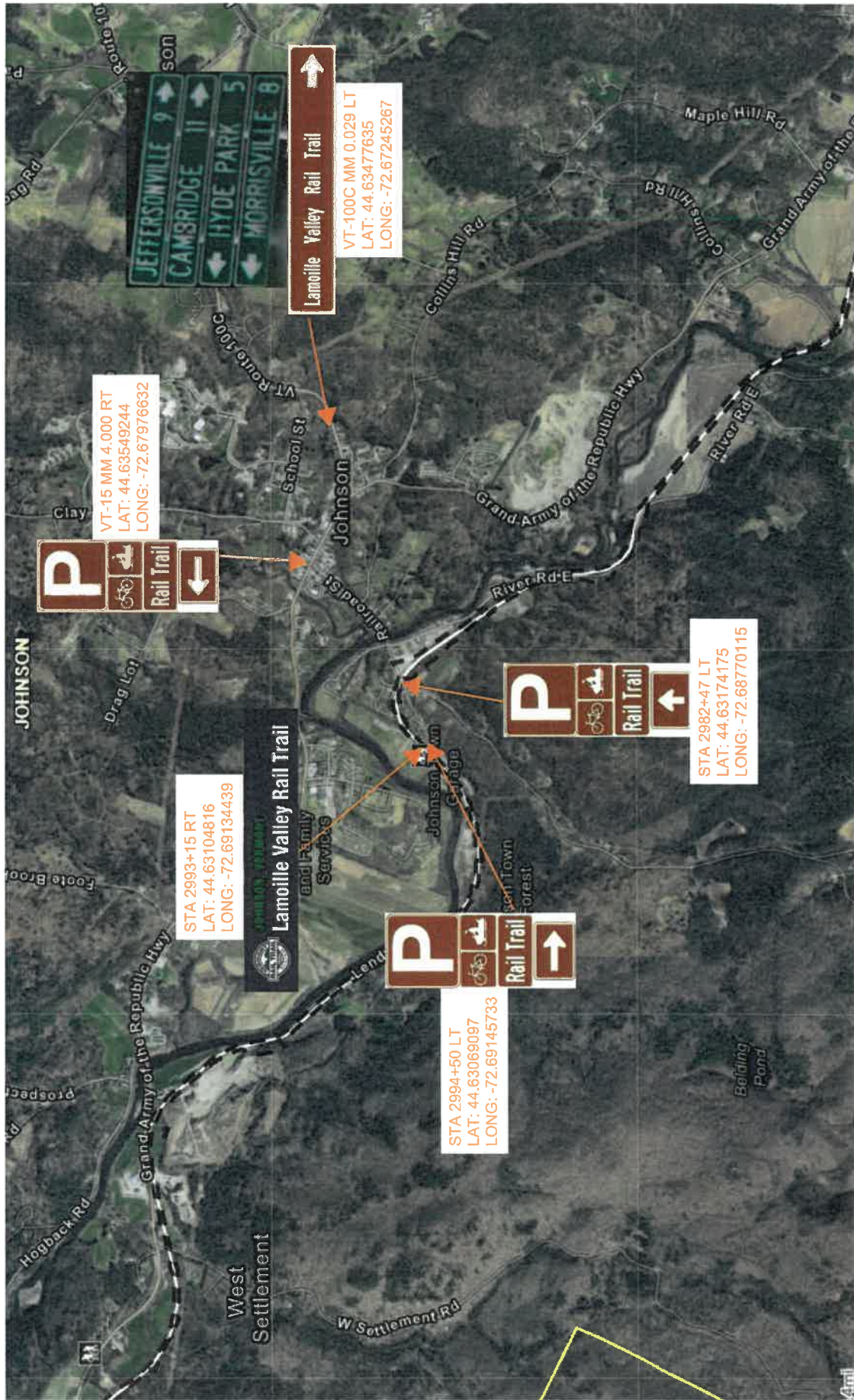
Eric C. Nuse  
657 Maple Hill Rd  
Johnson, VT 05656  
Office: 802-730-8111  
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers  
Orion-The Hunters' Institute

A society or culture is ultimately measured not by what it develops or consumes, but rather by what it  
has nurtured and preserved.

Jim Posewitz

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Johnson: Off VT-15 on Railroad St (TH-2)



## TOJ Administrator-Shared Mailbox

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**From:** Cassino, Jackie <Jackie.Cassino@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 6, 2023 4:18 PM  
**To:** Cassino, Jackie  
**Subject:** SAVE THE DATE! 7/15 LVRT Celebration

**Importance:** High

### SAVE THE DATE!

#### Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Celebration

**Governor Phil Scott and Senator Bernie Sanders invite towns to showcase their communities and participate in a celebration of the completed rail trail**

**What:** Governor Scott and Senator Sanders invite communities and the public to participate in a celebration of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail -- recently completed and now the longest rail trail in New England!

The Governor will bike the entire 93-mile trail from Swanton to St. Johnsbury and make brief water stops along the trail with Senator Sanders (more details on those stops to come). The public is invited to join all or part of the governor's ride and any of the planned brief stops. The LVRT Celebration team will work with communities to plan for these short visits, so please distribute this announcement to your LVRT-related contacts and leaders, and we will follow up with you.

**The Ask:** We are encouraging all communities along the LVRT to plan their own celebratory events for July 15. The State and Senator's office will help promote local events to get the word out about all trail-wide celebrations and what all the LVRT communities have to offer. (Please note, the Governor and Senator will not be able to participate in these events).

**When:** Saturday, July 15, 2023; 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

7:30 a.m. – 7:50 a.m.: Swanton (location TBD), kick off and brief remarks  
7:50 a.m. - 12:55 p.m.: Ride from Swanton to Morrisville (schedule of brief stops to come)  
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.: Morrisville (location TBD), main event and celebration  
2:00 p.m. - 6:25 p.m.: Ride from Morristown to St. Johnsbury (schedule of brief stops to come)  
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. St. Johnsbury (location TBD), end of ride celebration

\*all times are approximate; a more detailed schedule will be issued closer to the event.

**Please help us celebrate and promote this extraordinary transportation and recreation asset, Vermont's beautiful landscape, and our diverse and beloved communities along the trail!**

**Jackie Cassino** | Rail Trails Program Manager  
PPAID | Rail and Aviation Bureau  
Vermont Agency of Transportation  
Barre City Place | 219 N. Main Street, Suite #402 | Barre, VT 05641-4129  
802-505-8193 phone | [jackie.cassino@vermont.gov](mailto:jackie.cassino@vermont.gov)  
[vtrans.vermont.gov](http://vtrans.vermont.gov)



### 2023 student assistant proposal for Johnson SkatePark

We propose hiring an LUHS student rider as a “Student Assistant” who would:

- Do general light Park maintenance tasks,
- Assist and learn from Town employee Ashton Schriber,
- Attend Committee meetings when possible,
- Learn about Committee work, and how the Park is supported by the Selectboard and taxpayers.

Compensation would be by stipend, based on set amounts for a certain number of hours. This reflects reality of the need to accommodate hours and schedule for the student’s primary job. Accounting would be done with Town time sheets as was done when Ashton was a student.

Our Committee approved this proposal at our 6/14/2023 meeting, pending Selectboard and administrative approval. We have a candidate in mind, Ronan Stefanski, suggested by Ashton and Casey (separately). He is well-known to the Park community and is a good role model for younger riders.

Ronan is interested in this opportunity if it can be balanced with his work at Sterling Market. If we need to find another student, he/she/they must be well-known to the Park community, a good communicator, and a good role model for younger riders.

The Student Assistant would report to and supervised primarily by Casey Romero, with supporting supervision by Ashton Schriber.

### Draft ad for adult professional coach for Let’s Roll program

“Let’s Roll” is a fun new program at the Johnson Sk8Park. We need a professional coach for 6-7 weeks, for a few hours per week (5:30-6:45 p.m., plus planning & prep), you’ll help kids age 6-12 gain basic skills on skateboards, scooters, or rollerskates/blades. Fun and friendships are also part of the “Let’s Roll” program. You’ll also help parents learn how to help their kids keep practicing at the Park.

Information and the full position description is on the opening page of theTown website, [townofjohnson.com](http://townofjohnson.com). Send a cover letter & current resume to [casey@pshift.com](mailto:casey@pshift.com), or mail them to Casey Romero & SkatePark Committee, Town of Johnson, P.O.Box 383, Johnson VT. E.O.E.

*I’d modify the info I sent to earlier candidates*

## **Article VII Organization: Administrative Officer and Development Review Board**

### **Section 7.01 Administrative Officer:**

- A. Appointment:** The Administrative Officer is nominated for appointment by the Planning Commission and is appointed by the Selectboard for a term of three (3) years to carry out the provisions of this Regulation. The compensation is determined by the Selectboard. The Administrative Officer may be removed by the Selectboard for cause after consultation with the Planning Commission.
- B. Duties:** The Administrative Officer:
  - 1. Administer and strictly enforce this Regulation. The Administrative Officer does not have the power to authorize or permit any land development except in conformance with this Regulation, other Town ordinances and any applicable conditions of the DRB.
  - 2. Inspect properties for compliance with this Regulation and Town permits, conduct enforcement activities, maintain accurate records and perform related tasks.
  - 3. Provide applicants with all forms required to obtain Permits, to apply for DRB Approval and to appeal to the DRB.
  - 4. Assist persons seeking permits and in navigating the Town's regulatory processes in a helpful and responsive manner.
  - 5. Periodically meet with and provide reports to the Planning Commission.
- C. The Administrative Officer shall not be a member of the Planning Commission, DRB or a Select Board.**