

**TOWN OF STAMFORD  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
October 2, 2020  
(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Carol A. Fachini, Daniel J. Potvin, and Christopher Warren.  
Michael G. Denault was not present.

Visitors: Chad Best, David Capozza, and Aaron Malachuk.  
Kate Wanner, Trust for Public Lands.  
Chris Mattrick, Green Mountain National Forest  
William Levine, Emergency Management Director.  
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed everyone. She read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting. There were no changes to the agenda or its order.

**PROPOSED SALE OF LAND TO NATIONAL FOREST**

Kate Wanner from the Trust for Public Lands and Chris Mattrick from the Green Mountain National Forest were available to answer questions and discuss the National Forest's desire to purchase of 1,025 acres in Stamford. Nancy Bushika asked if they had resolved the erroneous XC ski/snowmobile trail across County Road. Chris Mattrick said the National Forest does not have the trail listed on any of their maps. It is the Vermont Association of Snowmobile Trails (VAST) Group that is listing the trail as part of their system and the town should bring the error to their attention. Nancy Bushika felt the Planning Commission and/or Conservation Commission should be consulted before the Selectboard makes a decision to support or oppose the sale. Dan Potvin questioned whether the town should interfere with a private sale. Dan Potvin said sales to the National Forest hurt the town economically. He usually doesn't support any government ownership of land. Around 90% of Woodford is owned by National Forest and it has shut down any potential growth of the town; Glastonbury hardly exists because of the National Forest. Nancy Bushika noted that when the Forest takes over, they shut down snowmobile and 4-wheeler access to the land. Lori Shepard asked if the board could approve the sale of the 161 acres off of Basin Road which is located over the 2500' line but oppose the 1,063 acres off from County and Sumner Road which is beautiful, potentially buildable land where many camps and seasonal structures exist. Kate Warner said the proposal is for both pieces together, or not at all. Nancy Bushika suggested that the Forest Service could renegotiate with the land owner. Dan Potvin felt that it is hard to find buyers. Chris Mattrick stated that they have a couple trails in town that allow snowmobiles and OHVs (Off-Highway Vehicles). Chad Best supports the people's use of the National Forest for recreation but would like to see a more dedicated access route that would not infringe on private property. The Forest Service does not construct warming huts or shelters and does not have a formal program to promote recreation on their land. They suggested the town could work with other local groups to encourage use of the trails for hiking, mountain biking and cross country skiing.

MOTION by Dan Potvin to not oppose the sale of 1,025 acres by Park Forestry to the Green Mountain National Forest. SECONDED by Chris Warren. 3 in favor. 1 opposed (Nancy Bushika). Motion APPROVED. Nancy Bushika clarified that she is not opposed to Park Forestry selling, but she preferred input from the Planning Commission and Conservation Commission first and feels there is a lot of useable property below the 2500' line. Chris Mattrick said he enjoyed the discussion and thanked the town.

## HALLOWEEN HOURS

The Selectboard agreed to set Halloween hours from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on October 31st and recommends following the CDC safety guidelines. Nancy Bushika asked if the Fire Department was willing to come out with trucks and flashing lights again. Bill Levine will talk them and anticipates that they will be happy to participate.

## PUMPKIN PATCH

Aaron Malachuk and Luke McKay are hosting family days through the month of October. They will have horse-drawn wagon rides, pony rides, pumpkins for sale and the petty zoo. K's Creamery will be open with ice cream and donuts along with other vendors. The hours will be Fridays from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

## TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Aaron Malachuk stated they will have Trunk-or-Treat at the ice cream stand on Halloween night. He is looking for volunteers to dress up and decorate the trunks of their cars. They will offer Grab-and-Go, no contact, candy distribution and Luke McKay will be offering wagon rides into the night.

## RECOGNITION OF TOWN VETERANS

Dan Potvin acknowledged that we will not be able to hold a Veterans Dinner this year because of COVID-19. He has considered another way to honor our veterans. He and a friend would like to contact the vets, take their picture and maybe get a few words from them which can be compiled for the town. He asked if the Selectboard would be interested in care packages that could be delivered in honor of their service. Nancy Bushika suggested putting their pictures on a poster board like families did for graduates. Aaron Malachuk suggested a large banner in front of the school. The board thought they were great ideas.

## MINUTES

MOTION by Dan Potvin to accept the regular meeting minutes of September 17, 2020 as written.  
SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

## SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #39 \$ 7,021.28 payroll
- WARRANT #40 \$12,631.84 accounts payable

## ROAD CONDITIONS

1. Dave Tatro requested a price from Eilers Bros. for washed winter sand. They quoted \$19.25/ton which is the same as last year.

MOTION BY Dan Potvin to accept the bid of \$19.25/ton from Eilers Bros. for washed winter sand.

SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. The Bellows driveway on Sumner Road has been repaired and Dave Tatro is happy with the work.

3. The two driveways on East Road are still not in compliance. Dave Tatro will work with Lori Shepard to draft letters to the property owners.

4. Dave Tatro would like to send a letter to Green Mountain Power and Davey Tree Service explaining the problems the town has had with their tree trimming work.

## RECYCLING

1. The state has not taken any action concerning the town's application to recertify the transfer station.

2. Nancy Bushika said the hauler bid letter is almost ready to send out. The board agreed that it will send a bid to Casella since they are the current hauler. She will ask Dave Tatro about a pre-bid informational meeting.
3. The Selectboard reviewed and finalized the Recycling Update form. The fees will remain the same for another year. The new access card will be required to use the transfer station beginning November 1, 2020 even though punches are not required because of the COVID restrictions.
4. Buzz Wheeler received permission from his doctor to return to work with restrictions. He will begin next weekend.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Zacharias Clay has volunteered to serve on the Finance Committee. Heather Tietgens and Tyna Senecal will be contacted to confirm that they will participate for another year.

#### FENCE VIEWER REQUEST

The Selectboard contacted the Bennington County Regional Commission for assistance who advised that the town did not need to appoint Fence Viewers and were not required to act as such.

#### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Nothing new to report.

#### ZONING BYLAWS

MOTION by Chris Warren to accept the Zoning Bylaws as presented. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

1. The Selectboard received a complaint but no action was taken because it was not signed.
2. A response was received from one of the Selectboard's brush and shrubs in the right-of-way letters. They apologized and explained the difficulties they are up against.

#### NOVEMBER ELECTION

The town clerk has received a request for police presence during the November election. The Selectboard did not feel it was necessary.

#### REAPPRAISAL CONTRACT

Nancy Bushika had requested a job description from Lisa Wright for the Data Collector position. Lisa Wright has decided she will hire her son to work with her so the town does not need to advertise and hire someone for this position anymore.

#### SELECTBOARD USE OF THE GYM/MULTIPURPOSE ROOM FOR SELECTBOARD MEETINGS

1. Nancy Bushika has talked with Rich Cristofolini, the school custodian, who will charge the town one hour at his current school rate to set up, take down, and if used, clean the gym.
2. The Selectboard did not send a letter to the School Directors in response to the use of the gym for meetings. Dan Potvin summarized that the Selectboard will follow the Governor's guidelines. Discussion ensued as to how they would get into the gym if too many people arrived and they needed to use it. Bill Levine said for him to use the key from the emergency box, the Selectboard would have to sign a Declaration of Local Emergency which could have repercussions when the form was filed with the state. Lori Shepard will talk to Rich Cristofolini about leaving the red door open at the end of the day.

MOTION by Dan Potvin to adjourn. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini  
Clerk

CAF/las

#### REMINDERS

1. The town office continues to be closed in accordance with the Governor's Stay Home – Stay Safe Order to slow the spread of COVID-19, but we are open by appointment and are willing to assist our residents by email, regular mail, or telephone.
2. Anyone interested in serving on the Finance Committee should contact a member of the Selectboard.
3. Tax bills have been issued and are due in hand by 8 p.m. on Thursday, November 19, 2020. By town vote, postmarks will not be accepted. Any unpaid tax will be subject to a one-time 8% penalty and 1% interest per month for the first 3 months and 1.5% interest per month thereafter until paid.
4. The general election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 at the Stamford Elementary School from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
5. Applications for addition to the checklist will be accepted through Election Day. Application forms can be requested by calling the town office at 802-694-1361 or you can register to vote online through Vermont's My Voter Page at <https://www.mvp.sec.state.vt.us/>.
6. Absentee ballots will be available until 12:00 p.m. on Friday, October 30, 2020. Please call the town office at 802-694-1361.
7. A ballot drop off slot is being installed in the rear of the town clerk's office to provide a safe and secure way to drop off your completed ballot at any time, day or night.
8. Please visit the town's official website: [townofstamfordvermont.org](http://townofstamfordvermont.org).