

Town of Winhall Selectboard
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, October 16, 2019

PRESENT: Bill Schwartz, Stuart Coleman; Julie Isaacs; Lucia Wing (Secretary); Lissa Stark (Absent); Trevor Dryden (Roads); Scott Bushee (Facilities)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Richard Gurry, Justin Kojak, Bob VanBuren, James Vetter, Kathy Pijak (Old Snow Valley Road property owners), Frank Parent (engineer)

CALL TO ORDER: Schwartz called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM at the Town Hall.

POLICE/FIRE/RESCUE REPORT: (No report)

HIGHWAY REPORT:

1) Dryden reported the new Town plow had not been delivered to Winhall- but was imminent; guard rails near Intervale had not yet been installed but were in the works; the State would replace the “Stop” sign at the intersection of Old Snow Valley Road and Routes 11/30; the State had made the decision to discontinue the steep access entrance to Old Snow Valley Road; discussion followed. Dryden reported Town plows were in process of getting set-up for the winter; work on the Road to Millbrook was finished in an effort to satisfy residents. He reported there were 60-80 tons of salt on-site and ready to use; drilling was complete on the Access Road per the recent engineering study; and new wood chips had been installed at the Mountain School playground. At the suggestion of the Mountain School, Dryden and the Selectboard discussed the idea of scheduling an equipment day in the spring; all thought it was a positive idea.

2) After review, the Selectboard approved an access permit for Damon Ball on #45 Benson Fuller Drive; *motion by Coleman; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

TRANSFER STATION & FACILITIES REPORT:

Bushee reported Hazardous Waste Day at the Transfer Station was scheduled for Saturday, October 19th from 9AM-1PM; it was the final one for the season. Bushee reported Sparky had installed LED lights at the Transfer Station; they may have to be redirected. Green Mountain Power had removed two poles; it would likely save money. Bushee and the Selectboard discussed the “Charlie Hatt Memorial Bench” originally to be installed at the Community Center; however, family and friends never wanted the bench to be located there but rather in the Bondville Cemetery. The Cemetery Committee would take charge. Bushee reported the Highway Department had removed the rocks from the Fire Station parking lot; discussion followed about salt sheds at the Transfer Station and what was in them; Bushee reported the highway crew was fixing up the road around that area.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: OLD SNOW VALLEY ROAD; HOMEOWNERS’ PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION:

Residents on Old Snow Valley Road came before the Selectboard for guidance and advice about what might be done relative to improvements to the Road. Bob VanBuren, homeowner, presented photos and videos of the Road. He stated the biggest problem was excessive waterflow off the hillsides from culverts on Routes 11/30 which caused ditches and culverts to collapse. The volume of water run-off would also collapse existing gullies and overflow onto Old Snow Valley Road and Chickadee Lane on its way toward Bromley Brook. Van Buren pointed out that existing culverts in the road were old and undersized and clearly could not handle the volume of water run-off. Water often ran over them rather than thru them. All the water ultimately ran thru a 40-inch culvert; discussion followed. VanBuren added ditches were often full of debris as a result. Property owners on the Road had removed much of the debris in an effort to clean them up and allow water to run more smoothly. They also had recently regraded the road. Homeowners were asking the Town for help with improvement to ditches which included tree removal, reshaping swales, and reducing vertical drop; asking for help with the addition of rip rap to prevent ditch and road erosion; and asking for help with clean-up or replacement of collapsed culverts. They were not asking for help with snowplowing or general road maintenance.

The Selectboard reviewed land records from 2005 relative to the road which stated it was a Class 4 with portions a trail and portions discontinued. The Selectboard questioned whether or not the Town had any obligation or responsibility to maintain the Road; discussion followed relative to legal action; changing the character of the road; hiring an engineer to assess solutions; forming an Old Snow Valley Homeowners' Association; and a letter from David Hart (homeowner) supporting the idea of making the road public. After further discussion, the Selectboard agreed to research further and have the Town Administrator contact VLCT to see what the Town's legal responsibilities were; ***motion by Isaacs; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.***

ROAD COMMISSIONER: (No discussion)

TOWN MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT: (No discussion)

LEASE AGREEMENTS LIBRARY: (In process- Coleman update)


ADMINISTRATOR/CORRESPONDENCE: The Town Administrator had submitted grant information.

APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES: After review, the meeting minutes of October 2, 2019 were approved as presented; ***motion by Isaacs; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.***

WARRANTS: After review, the Selectboard approved warrant 10/16/19 as presented; ***motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.***

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM; ***motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.***

Lucia Wing, Secretary
Winhall Selectboard



William Schwartz, Chair



Stuart Coleman, Vice-Chair



Julie Isaacs, Member