

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

July 27, 2015

Members of the Selectboard present: Larry Courcelle, Geoff Wells, Richard Wilcox

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator, Bill Ellis, Road Commissioner, Phil Douglas, Constable

Residents and Visitors present: None

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM at the Town Office.

Additions/deletions to the Agenda Motion by L. Courcelle to add to the agenda Mendon Emergency Response Trailer to the agenda. Motion seconded by R. Wilcox. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders were reviewed and signed.

Minutes of Previous Meetings: L. Courcelle moved to approve the minutes of July 13, 2015. Motion seconded by G. Wells. L. Courcelle and G. Wells approved the motion.

Business

HS-122 Late Penalty Waiver The Selectboard agreed to waive the penalty for late filing of the Homestead declarations.

Jim Jeffords Forest The Mendon Selectboard supports the creation of the Jim Jeffords State Forest through the acquisition of the 446 acres in Mendon currently owned by Holland, Heathcote and Walloomsac Forestry Co. An additional 1346 acres located in the Town of Shrewsbury will also become part of the Jim Jeffords State Forest. The total taxes charged in 2014-2015 on all three parcels in Mendon was \$2,169 with most of the acreage currently in Land Use. The Trust for Public Land and the State of Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation are requesting a letter of support to approve the transfer of this land to the State of Vermont which would remove the parcels from the Mendon Grand List. The Selectboard supports the conservation of this land as it will connect the Aitken State Forest and the Coolidge State Forest. The town of Shrewsbury has already submitted their letter of support. The Selectboard discussed some concerns that center around emergency planning and increased traffic on the legal trail that is the primary access to the southern part of Mendon. The Town of Mendon has spent \$120,000 since TS Irene to upgrade the legal trail after the Notch Road was destroyed and determined to be unrepairable after the storm. The upgrades to this road were based on the current volume of traffic. Mendon plans to reclassify the legal trail to a class 4 road in the upcoming year. At this time, Mendon does not support promoting access to the Jim Jeffords Forest via the legal trail in Mendon. The Selectboard supports the access and parking to be located in Shrewsbury. The letter of support will note that the Selectboard would expect financial help from the State of Vermont to upgrade the road if access is promoted through Mendon. Mendon continues to support access to the Aitken State Forest off the Notch Road and

potentially moving the existing parking area near the old Girl Scout Camp to the intersection of the Notch Road and Wheelerville Road to increase visibility and safety. A discussion was also had about emergency planning and access from Mendon to Shrewsbury from the southern border of Mendon. It was discussed that the legal trail that follows along the North Branch Cold River connects to the municipal road system in Shrewsbury.

Salt Shed B. Ellis and P. Douglas have discussed the options for constructing a new Salt Shed at the Town Garage and utilizing the existing shed as cold storage. The Selectboard requested B. Ellis tour the Salt Sheds in W. Rutland and Hubbardton. S. Tully laid out the timeline in order to construct a building next summer. Plans and expected costs would need to be finalized by the end of December.

False Alarm Fire Call Fines P. Douglas submitted second notices of false alarm fire call fines for approval by the Selectboard. If payment is not received upon receipt of the second notice P. Douglas requested the final notice be issued with a lien on the property. The Selectboard approved this payment procedure once the owner of the property has received three notices for payment and has had ample warning that a lien will be issued for non-payment of the fine. The town will consult the town attorney when issuing the lien on the property.

Animal Control: Burns Violation #3 Video evidence was submitted to S. Tully by Officer B. Howard which showed Ms. Burns dog running at large and creating a nuisance and disturbance on the adjacent property on July 16, 2015. Violation #3 will be issued to Ms. Burns along with a course of action for impoundment of the dog. This course of action will also be turned over to the town attorney.

Evaluations Motion by L. Courcelle to enter executive session at 8:45 PM to discuss personnel with the Selectboard S. Tully and P. Douglas present. The motion was seconded by G. Wells. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion. The chair declared the Board out of Executive Session at 9:08 PM.

There being no further business, L. Courcelle moved to adjourn the Selectboard Meeting at 9:09 PM. The motion carried.

Date approved _____

Larry Courcelle

Sara Tully- Clerk

Geoff Wells

Richard Wilcox