



Select Board

Town of Hinesburg
10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461
802.482.2281 | hinesburg.org

Meeting Minutes – May 6, 2020

- Draft -

Attending the Meeting: Phil Pouech, Merrily Lovell, Jeff French, Mike Loner, Jeff Tobrocke, Renae Marshall, Joy Dubin Grossman, Al Barber, Darcie Mumley, Peter Mead, Kate Kelly, Chris Conant, Jeff Davis, Meg Handler, Saina Kasper, Sarah Harrington, Alison Lesure, Peter Erb, Melissa Levy, Elizabeth Deutch, Robert Hyams, Hunter Heden, Francine P., Scooter MacMillan,

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. via Zoom Remote Meeting

Additions / Deletions to the Agenda and Public Comment

No changes or comments.

Update on COVID 19 Response Efforts

Al reported they are seeing the usual type of calls and nothing COVID related.

The Town Clerk is in Town Hall for the morning hours if someone needs to access records. The Assistant Clerk is there in the afternoon.

Board/Committee Applicant Interview

Darcie Mumley is seeking a position on the Conservation Commission. She is looking to get involved in her community. Darcie has a degree in biology and is interested in conservation.

Merrily asked if she has attended meeting and what her impression was. Darcie said she has been to meetings and finds the members to be a great group of people with differing backgrounds working together.

Jeff F asked about her interest on wildlife being impacted by development. Darcie said wildlife and the outdoors is an interest she has in general, she wants to be sure we understand the impact on wildlife as a result of development.

Merrily spoke about the mapping being done by the Commission and suggests Darcie be involved with that.

Mike asked her thoughts on Hinesburg's smart growth. Darcie said she recognizes it is a growing community and feels it is important to think about how you want that growth to be.

Jeff T asked her opinion on lake invasives. Darcie said the milfoil is definitely a problem but has a lot of questions about the use of herbicides.

Merrily moved to appoint Darcie Mumley to a vacant seat on the Conservation Commission for a term that will expire on 1/01/23. Second by Jeff T and approved with 5 yes votes.

Discuss Revolving Loan Fund and How to Support Local Businesses

Renaë said the committee has created a business impact survey and have 21 responses. Help with property taxes is the largest concern. Renaë said that is not in our local control. She has reached out to legislators and the VLCT is also doing so. This also impacts the State Education Tax.

The RLF is now authorized to award grants up to \$5,000.

Phil asked if other towns are doing the same. Renaë said other towns are also involved.

The committee will review applications and make recommendations to the Select Board who will decide on the final approval of the grant.

Melissa Levy said the next step is to get the grant application out.

Review and Discuss Revised Draft RFP for Town and Community Solar PV Projects

Mike Webb, of the energy committee, said the committee is looking for approval to release the RFP. They plan to continue to collect feedback from the community on the project.

<p>Action Item - Mike said the energy committee will evaluate the proposals and give a summary to the Select Board.</p>

Jeff F asked if we need to specify it be a fixed price bid. Mike explained there is some flexibility to the business models.

Phil asked the energy committee to put together a matrix on how to evaluate the all the RFP's. Renaë said she can be involved in helping. Jeff F and Mike also volunteered to help out.

Mike moved to approve issuance of the RFP's for Town and Community Solar PV Projects as presented. Second by Jeff F. There was question regarding the timing and Mike amended the motion to have the due date pushed out to 4 weeks from the release date. Jeff F agreed to the amendment. Motion voted

and approved with 5 yes votes.

Update from Lake Iroquois Association on Draft Permit – ProcellaCOR Herbicide for Milfoil Mitigation

Chris Conant reviewed the problem of Eurasian Milfoil and the history of attempts to control the milfoil. Currently about 90 acres of the lake area is infested with milfoil. There has been a decline in native species of aquatic plants over the past 10 years. The two invasives in the lake are Pond Weed and Eurasian Milfoil.

Chris explained the opportunity the Association is looking to take advantage of in using ProcellaCOR which is a growth inhibitor specifically targeting the Eurasian Milfoil. The Association along with the Lake Iroquois Recreation District (LIRD) have applied to the State for an aquatic nuisance permit which is now under review with DEC. The comment period opened on May 1 and will be open till June 1.

Chris said he realizes it is a difficult decision regarding use of herbicides in the lake. He said ProcellCOR has been used successfully in four lakes in Vermont. Chris said the prescribed dosage approved by the EPA is 25 units. The state allows up to 7 units and they propose using less than 3 units. The herbicide was approved federally in 2016. The LIA feels this is a safe and effective product to use in the lake. Chris addressed the health of the fish and native species of aquatics in the lake as well as human safety with use of PorcellaCOR. If the permit is approved, notification will be made of the expected date of the treatment. All households that get drinking water from the lake will be provided with drinking water for whatever necessary time frame is determined. The contractor they will be working with is Solitude Lake Management. They will be required to do a post- treatment aquatic plant survey in the fall.

Chris said this will be a five-year program during which they will continue doing suction harvesting and using the barrier mats. The cost of the herbicide is about \$1,300 an acre for the first year. Over the next five years it would be about \$200,000.

Chris directed people to check out the website lakeiroquois.org which give information on the plan, the permit and review process and information on the herbicide.

Jeff Davis, Chair of the LIRD, spoke about projects completed to help eliminate run-off. The beach revenue has been declining due to declining use of the beach. They are not sure if the beach will be open this year due to COVID 19.

Phil thanked Chris and Jeff for the update and information. He noted there is no decision to be made by the Select Board.

Jeff F asked what the plan is to keep the milfoil from returning. Chris said they will do spot treatments in the following years once the water body has been brought back under control and will maintain with hand pulling.

Merrily said she appreciates all the work Chris has done and his balanced presentation given how difficult this issue is. She is wondering about the Cyanobacteria that is an issue in Shelburne Pond and

Lake Champlain but not in Lake Iroquois. She asked Chris if he thinks there is a relationship with the milfoil and cyanobacteria. Chris said he has no opinion other than hearsay on the issue. It is a valid concern and he can look into it.

Mike asked if they have a plan B if the permit is denied. Chris said the only option is mats and pulling. Jeff T asked what happens to the milfoil that is killed. Chris said it settles and becomes part of the bottom sediment. Jeff then asked if the four lakes that have been treated have tributaries that flow to other bodies of water. Chris said two of the four do.

Jeff F said he saw the safety pamphlet on the Lake web site and asked about putting up the EPA labelling of the product. He said Chris noted they would provide drinking water for a day but the information indicates it can take up to 14 days before it is gone depending on the application. Chris said they will provide water as needed. Jeff Davis added the half-life of the chemical is 1.5 hours.

James Bruce commented about the half-life, stating that just means the pesticide has a half-life and we don't actually know what that means if we do not know what it is dissipating into. He also noted the reference to the plants building up resistance to the chemicals. As this product has only been around a few years he is concerned with the safety data being complete. Chris said the resistance should be fairly insignificant as there was no prior use of chemical and if used only once or twice should not build up resistance.

Shaina said she is concerned with use of chemicals and we do not have long term information on the impacts. She urged the Select Board to have the LIA engage in long-term nontoxic milfoil management. Nancy B said she has lived at the south end of the lake for a long time and appreciates the lake. Her husband Steve has been involved with water quality control of the lake. She brought up the role of motorboats and asked if certain areas can be masked off from boat traffic. She said they have collected the milfoil that floats to the top by the dam and used it for compost. The literature regarding the use of the chemical states it can't be used in compost if treated. She feels the Select Board should applaud the LIA for their efforts to control the milfoil but not support use of pesticides. Chris responded to the question about boat traffic and noted the channel they created by the boat access, he said the State will not allow segregating certain areas of the lake from boating. Jeff D noted they have installed buoys 200 feet from shore which keeps motor boats out of the milfoil band along the edge of the lake.

Meg Handler said she feels the LIA is giving a dreary view of the lake. She lives on the lake and sees a thriving lake community. She said the milfoil will not spread beyond the shallow part of the lake. She is also concerned about the use of the herbicide and is concerned with destabilizing the balance of the lake. She urges the Select Board to take this under advisement and think carefully about what path we want to follow. We need non-chemical invasive control.

Bob Hyams asked if the Town has allocated money to LIA this year. Phil explained that over the past years the Town has allocated funds. He addressed this year's request and the \$7500 approved at Town meeting. Bob asked if LIA will be coming back for more money if the permit is approved. Chris noted this has been an ongoing multi-faceted approach that the funds are used for. Bob said before we invest money we need to be sure a successful program addresses the underlying causes that have resulted in this problem.

Peter Mead lives on the south end of the lake and supports the program being presented for application of the herbicide after seeing it deteriorate over the years.

Dena Monahan said she is opposed to the application. Does not agree with use of chemicals.

Elizabeth D opposes the use of PorcellaCOR. She also had some logistical questions about the plan. Since you can't compost the dead milfoil whether it floats to the top or sinks to the bottom what happens as it is degrading at the bottom of the lake and re-releasing into the water. She also questions the amount of drinking water that will be needed and if LIA has the finances to provide it. What is the plan for livestock and pets that will need water? Chris said they have not worked out all the details yet and the LIA needs to work out what will be required regarding water. Elizabeth asked if the Town be required to pay for water since the Town has a representative on the LIRD and the LIRD is one of the applicants.

Kate Kelly commented that EPA testing is not done on amphibians and she is concerned with the lack of knowledge in that area.

Phil said the Select Board can make recommendations concerning the permit and he proposed that at the next meeting the Board can decide if they want to send comments and what those comments would be.

Mike appreciates taking more time to think about this as does Merrily, and Jeff F. Jeff T asked how the Town will be made aware about what LIA is proposing.

Chris said LIA has been meeting with the Board since last October and have shared multiple times in the press. There is a month long comment period which gives people a chance to communicate. DEC may decide to hold a public forum as they did before.

Phil said his personal opinion is he does not feel this is a good approach for monetary and environmental reasons.

Review FY 20 Budget Status Report for Period Ending 4/30/20

Phil noted we are about 80% through the current year. Renae noted expenses are about where we expected, revenues are down some due to limitation in services. The biggest impact will be in FY21.

Town Administrator Report

Renae has been having conversations with the State about funding of the wastewater upgrade for towns dealing with this, specifically Hinesburg. She also is continuing to look for any funding sources available.

She has been working on how to support local businesses.

Monitoring any changes from the Governor regarding COVID 19 and making necessary adjustments.

Select Board Forum/Correspondence

The Board received a complaint about a brush fire and this has been resolved. Also a letter regarding the DRB meeting via Zoom. Phil said the Board encouraged the DBR to move ahead with their meetings. He will reach out to Mitch, Alex and Dennis to get an update on how this is working.

Phil addressed contracting for ambulance service.

<p>Action Item - Phil, Renae and Merrily will put together a RFP to bring to the Board to compare proposals and make a choice for coverage.</p>

Phil said Green Up Day will take place on May 30th. They will not hold a community meal. Jeff offered to help with the mapping to be put on the website.

Review Minutes from April 15, 2020

Phil moved to approve the minutes from April 15, 2020 as amended. Second by Merrily and approved with 4 yes votes and Merrily abstaining.

Consider Approving Warrants

Phil moved to approve the warrants, including payroll, as submitted by the Town Treasurer. Second by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

Mike moved to adjourn at 10:42 p.m., second by Merrily and approved with 5 yes votes.

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Spadaccini, Clerk of the Board