

TOWN OF BURKE
212 SCHOOL STREET
WEST BURKE, VERMONT 05871
burke@burkevermont.org
802-467-3717 PHONE - 802-467-8623 FAX
February 3, 2020 – 5:00 p.m.
Burke Town Clerk's Office

Present: Christine Emmons, Ford Hubbard, Joe Allard, Linda H. Corey, Cathi Feeley, Dave Kaufman, Mike Harris, Valerie Desmarais.

Visitors: Jennifer Conley, Abby Long, Anthony Moccia, Heidi Myers, Mike Mathers, Gerard Gingue, Carol Krochak, Linda and John Lotti.

The Meeting was called to order at 5:00. Minutes from January 6 meeting were reviewed. Ford motioned to accept the minutes as presented, Christine seconded, all approved.

Rasputitsa: Anthony Moccia came to answer any questions about the 04.18. 20 Gravel Road Race. Riders from 43 states are registered so far. There are 2 courses, a 100k that will go out to Wheelock and Sutton and a 70k that will be in the Burke and Newark area. There are staggered start times and they have plans to have Sheriff's department staff to transition the riders through town from the Burke Mt. Base Lodge. The event is capped at 1500 participants. They have submitted a permit for bikes to ride more than 2 abreast. Communications to riders prior to the race include instructions to respect landowners, respect the laws of the road and to refrain from littering. Ford had questions re: flaggers. Anthony confirmed that there will be volunteers at critical junction to escort and assist as necessary.

Jennifer Conley -VHB -East Darling Hill Road Project: A hill long climbing lane is being developed for the uphill side of E. Darling Hill Road. A NBRC Grant has allowed the project to go forward, it will be managed locally which will make it more cost efficient. The scoping study will eventually address the junction at Burke Hollow Rd. and E. Darling Hill. A 4-way stop is being considered, this will create a bigger "landing area" for coming off E. Darling Hill. The pavement and road underneath are in very bad shape, there is no gravel, it is all sand which will need to be hauled out and possible re-used with new gravel to make a good road bed. There are wetlands at the foot of the hill and along Burke Hollow Road, these areas will be addressed through a permitting process. Slope easement, grading, ditching and culverts will reduce impact to adjacent property owners and to enhance drainage. The lane will be striped and marked with bike symbols. A bike bridge over the E. Branch of the Passumpsic had been considered but is outside the scope of the current project; there are weight considerations for the bridge that is there and it is not advised to hang more off the structure. The staging area will be available to snow travellers as well. **Next Steps:** Finalize the design, submit plans, compile data and process permits. It will be up to the town to speak with property owners re: slope easements. The final plans are to be done in May 2020 with anticipated construction to commence in the fall of 2020. Jennifer noted that the town has a lot of control over the bid process, including "dis-incentives" to steer the construction process. VHB will provide construction oversight and will provide a full set of plans. There will be a public comment period. The need for good communication and a working timeline was reiterated.

Linda Lotti - One Burke : Linda reported that the Economic Development and Strategic Plan efforts have been the recipient of many grants and has received a small surplus. The money will allow for an infrastructure study in West Burke which will include water and soil testing via the Department of Environmental Conservation. Fairweather Consulting has been chosen to do the work. A motion was made to approve the study and was passed.

Gerard Gingue- Town Shed Site : Gerard approached the Selectboard with information and a proposal for the new town shed site. He has 35-40 acres with 3 phase power and a gravel pit. There is water and septic as well. He

would like \$168K. There may be 2-3 years worth of good gravel; it was suggested that the site be examined in the spring to better assess the access and the gravel. Christine noted that it is a reasonable site to consider.

Mike Mathers - Winter Events: Mike addressed the board to advise them that he is considering 3-4 (1x monthly) events for the fatbike riders.

Mike Harris - Zoning Administrator Report: Mike stated that he is still in conversation with Dave Ruggles about cleaning up the rubble from the fire at his property. It has been 2 years. The options of a payment plan was discussed in the event that the town get it cleaned up. There is a cost for the equipment and the dumpster. The material there is considered construction debris. The town does not want to set a precedent for this type of activity. It was suggested that George Wagner clean it and set up a payment plan, Cathi suggested that there be a legal document to finalize the plan. Christine will contact Att'y. Ed Zaccaro to determine his availability to assist Mike. The Schwag property in West Burke is still occupied and Rick Schwag owns the building until July 2020. Mike will send a letter to Howard Bailey on Rt. 5 requesting that he clean up the property there. The selectboard will send a letter as well. He has repeatedly stated that he will get it cleaned up but nothing is changing. The entrance to the Kevin Lajoie property at 1248 Marshall Newland Road is being impacted by wetlands. They are asking for more time to assess the options.

Mike met with the Planning Commission to discuss short and long term rentals; he would like these to go through a permitting process to involve fire marshal and water and sewer inspections. This would be an addition to the by-laws. The fire marshal determines the occupancy capacity of a building. Mike also noted that internally lit signs have been a topic of discussion. This is ongoing.

Dave Kaufman - Road Foreman Report: There are still issues with people plowing their snow into and across town roads. This is a violation with up to \$1000.00 fine. Christine recommends hand delivering a letter to property owners and plow drivers who are in violation. Dave and the crew have repaired a steering box and a coolant hose. The new truck has a virtual technician; when it throws a code, Dave gets an email and the issue can be troubleshot and repaired quickly. The town has used a lot of sand this winter but there is still plenty. The frost heaves are very bad already. He is looking at paving projects and crack sealing. The damaged plow is going to need to be replaced, the blade dug in and got twisted. The cost is \$3500.00. He said the 1 Ton truck will need a new plow too. Town Garage Update: the crew visited 3 town garages to get ideas what is working well in other towns. They went to Glover, Montgomery and St. Albans. The facility in Montgomery was new and had 5 bays and radiant heat. Dave thinks the town could save money by utilizing a set of plans that have already been drawn up. He noted that the Dave Patoine property on Rt. 5 would be a good site for the new Town Garage. There is sand and gravel there too.

Other Business:

- * Census Boundary Line- the map must be reviewed and confirmed by March 1.
- *Corrected Equalization Study for the Grand List: Original letter incorrectly stated EGL as 1%. This did not change the number of 98.39 after this correction was made.
- * Gingue Construction Survey- the gravel pit on 114 may have more gravel than the map shows. If the town buys the entire pile it may be a better value than buying it piecemeal. The permit is in place until July 1 2020. It was decided to keep this as it is, and pay as we go.
- * Carol Krochak came to express her interest in joining the Planning Commission. Motion made and approved and she was appointed to the PC, to join new member Todd Vendituoli as well.
- * Hayden Crossing Bridge-The two property owners Nicholas Nichelson and Tim Roberts will be meeting on 02.19.20 at 1:00 P.M. and 1:45 P.M. to discuss the impact this project will have on their properties. The meeting will be with V Trans. There is a proposed wetland report that has been approved.
- *Priscilla Aldrich sent the board a Thank You card.
- *Sanctuary Town: We got correspondence which asked that Burke be considered a Sanctuary Town for gun laws. It is too late to put this on the ballot for this year.
- * Disability Rights Report on Town Voting Facilities- Town Office parking lot needs more signage and striping.

* The Selectboard signed: Accounts Payable Warrants, Payroll Warrants, Liquor Licenses and Overweight Permits.

Christine asked for a motion to adjourn, all in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Desmarais