

Town of Burke
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September 3, 2019 Meeting
Burke Town Clerk's Office

Present: Christine Emmons, Ford Hubbard, Joe Allard, arrived 6:00 P.M. (Selectboard) Dave Kaufman (Road Foreman), Mike Harris (ZA). Linda Corey & Cathi Feeley

Visitors: Linda Lotti, Jessica Sechler, Kevin Mack, Amy Nixon, (Caledonian Record) John Badila, Brian Kelly, Dez Hertz, Daniel & Alyssa Kantor.

Chris called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

Review of August 5, 2019 meeting minutes, Chris noted that on Page 2 on the Paragraph of East Darling Hill issues, where it has the wording "to finish the Better Back Roads later", it should say defer crack sealing. With this change, Chris asked for a motion, Ford motioned, all in favor. Minutes approved as amended.

John Badila/ Brian Kelly

They have concerns on Darling Hill Road with unsafe speeding traffic. They both live on that road. The road is used by equestrians, pedestrians, bikers, and hikers. Heavy equipment and commercial trucks are on that road. Lowering the speed limit to 30 miles per hour.

They would like see a sign at the intersection of Darling Hill & West Darling Hill directing northbound traffic heading to RT 5. To West Burke. They feel that could help cut down on some of the traffic. They suggested the following signs:

A sign saying No thru Trucks.

A sign stating that the pavement ends in 1000 ft.

A sign showing silhouette of pedestrians, equestrians and cyclists to alert drivers.

Chris & Ford agreed that they will look into more signage. Change in the speed limit sign would require a traffic study. We have hired the sheriff's department to help with speeding in town, we will ask them to patrol more on Darling Hill.

Burke 2000

Jessica Sechler from Burke 2000, wanted to make the selectboard be aware of their plans to hold a weekend bike race event next August that they are touching base with the Town to make sure they have the necessary permits. They want to host the Endro World Series. This is a bike race that would take place on the mountain only. They expect 1000 to 4000 people. They will be using the McGill field for parking and camping. She said she has been in contact with Mike Harris on what they will need for permits. They will notify the neighbors.

Dan Kantor

He would like the Selectboard to reconsider their decision to stop picking up his trash. Paint had been put in the trash and the rubbish attendant and driver had said it came from his house. The town had sent Mr.

Kantor two (2) letters stating he couldn't put paint in the trash and that trash pick-up would stop. Mr. Kantor stated he has spoken to his son who puts out the trash and he said he never had put paint in the trash. It has been two months since this has happened. He feels he has paid for the incident which he didn't do in the first place. Chris asked Ford his thoughts, He feels the board should reconsider. They will discuss this at the end of the meeting.

One Burke

Linda Lotti & Desiree Hertz are seeking approval from the Selectboard, to apply for a grant to do a 3 year economic study on housing and growth. This is important information for the waste water system they are working on in West Burke Village. The total grant is \$47,500. The funds will come from various grants including a MPG rant of \$22,000, which the town will have a ten percent match. The town will have to submit paperwork regarding the grant which will be kept on file at the town office. They also need approval from the Planning Board for this resolution. Linda & Desiree will attend that meeting on September 19, 2019. On October 17, 2019 the second annual community supper from 5:30 to 7:30 at the Burke Town School. Desire would like Selectboard members to attend. Chris asked for a motion to allow One Burke to apply for the grant, Ford made the motion, all in favor. The money will be budgeted in the 2020 budget.

Flashing signs

Chris is close on getting the flashing signs for East Burke Village. Doug Morton has sent her the information. She is waiting for the traffic study. She has received information from V-Trans on other areas for flashing signs. Ford is in favor of reducing the speed limit in the villages to 25 mph. We will look into the next steps of doing that. It cost \$12,000 for the flashing sign we are getting in East Burke.

Zoning Administrator

Mike has sent Rick Schwag and Dave Ruggles violation letters and has gotten no response. He asked Dave Ruggles for a plan. The next step is contacting the Town Attorney. Chris asked for a motion/ Ford motioned. The Town attorney will be contacted.

The Board received a letter from Chad Hickey, regarding Kevin Lajoie. He is suggesting the town may want to hire an attorney to represent the Town if this case goes to Environmental Court. The Development Review Board upheld Mikes decision of not issuing the Certificate of Occupancy because of the setback issue. The Board also denied the variance Mr. Lajoie was seeking to correct the setback issue.

The Board felt they do not need an attorney to represent the town on this matter.

Tiann-Van-de-Linde

He is asking the Board to refund the money he had spent on a project that he had started which had been approved by the previous zoning administrator in error. The Board requested Jill Mathers to research this matter in which she did and suggested to the town submit this to our insurance company. Mike Harris the Zoning Administrator stated that on the building permits it does say, it is the applicant's responsibility to seek all state permits. He feels that the town is not responsible. The Board asked for this to be sent on to the insurance company.

Health Officer

The house in back of the Town Clerk's Office 268 School Street is not livable, but someone is living in it. Joe is the Health officer, and is working on this issue.

Road Foreman Report

- Newark Street is being reclaimed with drainage
- Pike will be paving Burke Hollow Road
- Gravel will get done in order to do the grading
- Flashing signs at school not working. He will contact Mark Brown
- Town Garage Committee has been talking with Gerald Ginuge. Some of his stipulations may be unreasonable.
- Dave will ask Pike for a quote on paving area at the recycling center for the glass dumpsters.
- No word yet on salt contracts
- Dave suggested we start looking for Rubbish Truck Driver for the beginning of the year. George Frank has taken his CDL test and passed. He gave the board a letter of interest. This position will be advertised. All interested applicants can send in a resume and letter of Interest.
- Gerald Ginuge submitted a bill for the gravel in Santo's pit that he would like to be paid for. The bill is for \$57,623.00. There is only \$20,293.85 left in the gravel budget this year. This amount will be paid to him now, with the remaining balance of \$37,329.15 paid in 2020.

Single File ordinance

The Selectboard have been looking into the idea of a single file ordinance that was suggested by the Sheriff's Dept. for the bikers. The Board has decided they need to some more research. We need to enforce the rules that we have already, which is two abreast for the bikers. Garden Drive has a trail now, which should help reduce the number of bikes on the road. Kingdom Trails is working on more signage.

VHB Meeting

On August 14, 2019 Chris & Ford met with VHB to discuss the East Darling Hill Project. The goals are to improve safety and improve structure.

Town & Bridge Standards

The Board filled out and signed the Town & Bridge Standards form from Shawna Clifford. Chris asked for a motion to accept this, Joe motioned all in favor. This will be emailed to Shawna, and filed.

Personal Policy Clarification

The employee sick pay part of the policy needs to be cleared up. Employees are allowed to have 30 days of sick time. Anything over that the employees are paid at the end of the year. When an employee retires, what happens to the 30 days of time they have accumulated? Can they be paid, do they lose it. The board decided that 15 days of the 30 would be paid. This will be added to the personal policy. In the past the employee's would not get paid for any of it.

Pigeon Problem

The attic at the town office has a pigeon problem. There are at least 40 pigeons in the attic along with their babies. They need to be removed. They have ruined the insulation. We have an estimate from the Eliminator for the removal and clean-up \$14,616.00. The Selectboard would like us to submit this to the insurance company to see if this is covered.

George Frank

He has been painting the Burke Hollow Church. He rented a lift to get the high areas. It still needs to be painted, and window sills need to be fixed. The roof has a leak which George will fix now. The painting will be done next year. Joe and George will come up with a maintenance plan for next year.

George would like to help with the pigeon problem. The board felt that this is serious and dangerous situation and they do not want him to get sick.

Priscilla & Gilbert Aldrich letter of resignation

Priscilla & Gilbert Aldrich's letters of resignation was read by Christine. It was accepted by the board with great regret.

The board will need to appoint someone to fill all of the position held by Priscilla. Cathi Feeley and Linda Corey expressed interest in continuing on.

The Accounts Payable were signed, Road Access permits, Cemetery lots, and Payroll Warrants.

The Board voted to pick up trash again from Dan Kantor's property starting September 11, 2019.

The auditors requested a list of equipment from the Highway and Office to do a report for the Town Report.

No other Business, Chris ask for a motion to adjourn, Joe motioned, All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Hackett- Corey
Assistant Town Clerk