

**GRAND ISLE SELECTBOARD  
MINUTES  
Monday October 7, 2019  
Town Office Community Room  
9 Hyde Road, Grand Isle, VT**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** AnnaMarie DeMars called the meeting to order at 7:00PM

**Board Members Present:** AnnaMarie DeMars - Chair, Eric Godin - Vice Chair, Jeff Parizo, Diane Cota and Rachael Griggs

**Community Members Present:** Joe Longo and Sue Lawrence – Listers, Dave Rugh, Town Attorney from SPF, Emily Clark, Denise Abbott Douglass, Jean Prouty and Lucille Campbell – G.I. Historical Society, Sullivan Crady, Jerry Hebda, Bill Maksym, Ron Bushway and Lara Gentchos

**Amend Agenda For Matters Not Listed:**

Denise Douglass – Voter Turnout & Trash Trouble  
Emily Clark – Cell Tower Update  
Jeff Parizo – Draw Bridge Project

**II. GUESTS: Attorney David Rugh: Town Right of Way of Barn at 14 Adams Landing Road:**

- David Rugh stated he came to discuss the property of 14 Adams Landing Road regarding the red barn that is in the Towns roads right-of-way
- This is not a problem unique to Grand Isle and Vermont
- The attorney for the new property owners, Lara and George Gentchos is asking if the Town is willing to grant an easement or some other permit to allow for the continued placement of this barn in the right-of-way
- As far as town records are concerned the barn has been there at least since 1978 and probably earlier than that
- David Rugh said there is a permitting process in place in the existing State law under Title 19, which is the Highways Chapter called the 1111 (eleven-eleven) permit
- Attorney Rugh said from his perspective this permit is more akin to a license than a permanent property right like an easement would be
- There are certain procedural steps the Town would have to follow to give an easement and that right would be permanent and would last forever for as long as the encroachment existed
- David said his recommendation is instead, if the Town is willing to issue a permit for this would be to follow the 1111 process. That would basically give the property owner a license to have the barn there for as long as it existed but we would include conditions that would say if the barn is ever destroyed or burns down you cannot put it right back in the Towns right-of-way. If doing any work on the barn that affects the ground within the Towns right-of-way the ground has to be restored to the way it was before.
- David also spoke of other conditions that he suggested
- Diane Cota asked Ron Bushway, Road Commissioner if there is a problem plowing the road now. Ron said there is no problem with plowing or grading.
- Joe Longo asked about liability. Liability would be on the owners of the property.
- Jeff asked what is the easiest and cleanest way to do this.
- David said he could draft a permit and have it ready for the Board to sign at our next meeting

Jeff Parizo motions to allow David Rugh, Town Attorney to draft an 1111 permit for the property located at 14 Adams Landing Road for a barn. Diane Cota seconds the motion. No further discussion. All in favor and the motion passes.

David Rugh will send the draft to the Board and he is thanked for coming.

**Jean Prouty – Historical Society re: electricity to bathroom:** Jean said she has three things to bring up.

1. The barn is built and the east gable will be put up tomorrow. We would like permission to put electricity into the barn, the bathroom and storage area and would hook up to the Block Schoolhouse. The Historical Society will pay for it.
2. We are in the process of putting insurance on it and are dealing with Kenney Insurance. Last year we had a problem with the decorations on the Christmas tree. The extension cords were removed but the lights were still left on the tree until May. Jean said she and Lucille Campbell took the lights down themselves. They want the Recreation Department to be responsible for the decorations and that the lights be removed from the Christmas tree by January 15<sup>th</sup>.
1. The new roof is completely installed on the Block Schoolhouse. Jean said there is some rot on the molding on the west side crown molding of the schoolhouse

Jeff motions to allow the Historical Society to put electricity in the bathroom, the barn, and the schoolhouse, wherever you want to put it. Eric Godin seconds the motion. No further discussion. All in favor and the motion passes.

Jeff said if the tree lights don't come down they are to let him know.

**III. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES: September 16, September 19 and September 23, 2019:** Jeff Parizo motions to approve the minutes of September 16, September 19 and September 23, 2019. Diane Cota seconds the motion. No further discussion. All in favor and the motion passes.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS: Drawbridge Project:**

Jeff read parts of an email he received today from HazMat Waste Coordination – V-Trans dated July 25, 2019 about test that were done in June 2019 and lead and PCB was found. North Hero's Selectboard was notified but Grand Isle's Selectboard was not informed of the test until today. Jeff wanted to have this on record and would like to see the results of the findings.

**Voter Turnout – Denise Abbott Douglass:**

Denise said on voting day for the new highway garage bond vote she spent a lot of time on the phone contacting voters to let them know of the bond vote. She said a lot of people said they were not aware of the vote and that puzzles her as a new garage has been talked about since 2008. She also said some voters came the day after to vote, which is unheard of. Eric said he noticed the very same thing and looking at the comments on FaceBook noticed there were some harsh things said. A lot of people think there isn't enough done to get information to the voters.

Rachael said the mailer was printed and taken to the Post Office. There were a little over 100 left over which the Post Mistress said is correct because a lot of people who leave for the winter had already put in their request for forwarding their mail. She said she is sure the two delivery people had put one in every mailbox.

Joe Longo said there were about 33 absentee ballots, which is a good amount for a vote that is not on a regular voting date.

Jeff said at the end of the day people don't vote.

Jerry Hebda said it should be on FPF and Rachael said she did post it there.

Eric said Social Media is the way to go now and he plans look into this.

Denise suggested putting signs out in town from now on regarding upcoming votes.

## V. **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Review and motion for MOU between YOGI and the Town of Grand Isle:**

Jeff Parizo made a motion to approve the MOU between YOGI and the Town of Grand Isle with corrections. Eric Godin seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

Rachael will contact YOGI to make the correction and get the MOU signed by YOGI, the Recreation Department and the Town.

**Road Study:** AnnaMarie said she talked with Sheriff Allan and he hopes to be able to get to this by the end of the month. Hyde and Reynolds roads are the two roads that need to be reduced to 35MPH. Lovers Lane, Adams Landing and Hanson Lane should be reduced to 15 MPH. Diane had asked Sheriff Allen how it would be enforced and he said it makes it easier for the police to enforce it. Jeff said all the town roads that are above 35MPH should be lowered to 35MPH.

**Cell Tower Update:** Emily Clark asked if there are any updates the Board can share. Jeff said no, the two attorneys are communicating and when there is information we can share they will be the first to know. She said the Planning Commission made a blanket motion to do everything that is enumerated in the law under Act 248a and asked if the Selectboard thought about doing the same thing. Jeff said we are allowing our Town Attorney to do all of that. Rachael Griggs said she is recusing herself from all Selectboard discussions (regarding the proposed 41 Lovers Lane location).

**Trash Trouble - Denise Abbott Douglass:** Denise said there is an old TV and file cabinet that was dumped on private property and it was moved to the stop sign on Donaldson. Denise is concerned the TV may be a safety hazard. Rachael suggested that Denise might let the landowner know to notify the Sheriff and suggest putting up cameras.

## VI. **Highway Department Update: Ron Bushway reported:**

- Moccasin Avenue culvert is done and guardrails will be installed soon
- Ron Bushway asked if the invoice from Island Excavating has been received. Jeff said it has and the amount was reduced by \$10,000 due to a change order credit. The following motion was made.

Eric Godin motions to authorize the Town (Treasurer) Clerk, to pay the amount of \$113,860 to Island Excavating (for culvert work on Moccasin Avenue). Diane Cota seconds the motion. No further discussion. Jeff Parizo recuses himself, four in favor and the motion passes.

10-07-2019

- Ron said G.I. Highway Department went to South Hero to help them with a big culvert project. They in turn helped us last week with culverts on West Shore and Quaker Roads. Next we will be replacing a culvert on Hyde Road
- Riprap at Marycrest Beach has been installed to protect the road, they pretty much built a wall. Ron instructed Brad Sheridan, Road Foreman to put in four sets of stairs using the cut stones removed from the old culvert on Moccasin Avenue. Handrails will be added to the stairs in the spring. The parking area has been widened.
- Ron said about a month ago he was asked by the State to test the water at Marycrest Beach for blue/green algae and he reported there was none

**Buildings Facilities Manager Update: Ron Bushway reported:**

- Already discussed roof at the Block Schoolhouse
- Alan Landry is going to repoint the chimney at the Annex this week and fix the brace
- Alan will be replacing the last three windows to be replaced. He said if we need more insulation to use fiberglass. Jeff said he believes more insulation is needed to bring it up to the energy code and then we can say that building will be done.

**VII. REVIEW AND SIGN WARRANTS:** Jeff Parizo motion to approve the warrants and let Anna(Marie DeMars) sign them. Eric Godin seconds the motion. No further discussion. All in favor and the motion passes.

**VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:**

**1. Appointment of Public Officer: Inviting in Listers Sue Lawrence and Joe Longo:**

AnnaMarie DeMars motions to go into executive session at 8:15PM to discuss appointment of a public officer citing 1V.S.A. § 313(a)(2) that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage.

Eric Godin motions to come out of executive session at (8:25PM) with the decision to appoint Charles L. Hollon III to the vacant Lister Position. Jeff Parizo seconds the motion. Joe Longo said he will let him know he will have to get on the ballot and will need to get a petition going. All in favor and the motion passes.

**2. Contracts Pending:** AnnaMarie DeMars motions to go into executive session at 8:15PM to discuss contracts pending citing 1V.S.A. § 313(a)(2) that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Eric Godin seconds the motion. Rachael Griggs recuses herself from this executive session and leaves the office.

Eric Godin states they are coming out of executive session at 8:41PM that no decision reached.

**3. Personnel Matter: Inviting in Melissa Boutin:** AnnaMarie DeMars motions to go into executive session at 8:41PM to discuss a personnel matter citing 1V.S.A. § 313(a)(2) that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage, inviting Melissa Boutin into this executive session and Rachael Griggs will be back. Eric Godin seconds the motion. No further discussion and the motion Passes

Eric Godin states they are coming out of executive session at 9:13PM with no decision reached.

- IX. **ADJOURNMENT:** Eric Godin motions to adjourn this meeting at 9:14PM. Jeff Parizo seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rachael Griggs, Selectboard Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
AnnaMarie DeMars, Selectboard Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_