

Town of Danby
Select Board Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2024
Town Office, Danby, VT 7:00pm
<https://www.danbyvt.org/government-information>
ZOOM MEETING ID: 813 2851 1750

Public Present – D. Stoddard, M. Bushee, T. Porter, R. Porter, C. Bicskei & F. Bicskei, L. Dever, K. Corey, M. Reed, S. Crosby, S. Corey, T. Jesmonth, T. Katz, C. Moran, I. Halligan, D. Tifft, B. Hodgins, A. Hodgins, B. Corey, R. Aylward, H. Solomon, B. Martin, M. Abbott, H. Abbott, C. Crandall,

Virtual Present – B. Thompson, D.R. White, S. White, H. Blucher, Z. Golden, Janice, C. Hardaway, T. Parker, G. Derr, A. Smith,

- **Call to order at 7:00pm**
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Roll Call**
 - **Abbott, Fuller, Haines, Bender – present**
 - **Powers - Absent**
- **Procedure for Remote Access and Public Comment Statement**
 - **Brad Bender**
- **Motion to set agenda**
 - **Add winter sand proposals**
 - **Presentation from Hillary Solomon - PMNRCD**
 - **Motion by Haines, Seconded by Fuller**
 - **Motion passes unanimously**
- **Motion to adopt minutes of Select Board Meeting of August 8, and 15, 2024**
 - **Motion by Haines, seconded by Fuller**
 - **Motion passes unanimously**
- **Public Comment**
 - **Mike Abbott**
 - **Wondering about the update on culvert request at the end of Holland Heights**
 - **Presented photos of damage**
 - **Would like it addressed**
 - **Town came and fixed ditches, and filled in damage along road**
 - **Temporary fix**
 - **Water has always come down**
 - **gotten worse**
 - **Kim Corey**
 - **Petition presented to the board with 103 signatures**
 - **Requesting that the land designation change does not happen**
 - **Ingrid Halligan**
 - **Finding it hard for the board to not be bias with a vote**
 - **Cheryl Bicskei**
 - **Would like to read a statement**
 - **Appalled from viewing the last meeting and hearing**
 - **Mentioned statements from individuals speaking against the land designation change**
 - **Negligence from the Select Board**
 - **Brought up legal immunity**

- Unethical behavior from the Select Board regarding the land designation change
- Renata Aylward
 - Reiterate what was stated prior in meetings
 - Not in favor of the land designation change
 - Need to consider what is happening in the village
 - the village is the heart of the town
- Dana Tifft
 - Wondering about the proposal of doing a test blast
 - Classification on discussion outside of meetings between board members
 - Can only be one on one, otherwise illegal and would be considered a meeting
- Lauren Dever
 - Wondering about time to discuss if new information has come up during the meeting regarding town plan change
- Annette Smith
 - Very concerned about how public engagement is addressed
 - Doesn't feel friendly
 - Is not in support of the land designation change
- Treasurer's Report - Michelle Bushee
 - Tax bills will be out by the end of next week
- Motion to accept the resignation of Select Board member Michael Powers
 - Motion by Haines seconded by Fuller
 - Discussion
 - Would like to thank him for his service
 - Brought a lot of knowledge to the board
 - Motion passes unanimously
 - How to proceed
 - The select board needs to appoint a replacement in a timely manner
 - Post and warn about vacancy
 - Would like to receive letters of interest for the October meeting
 - Motion to remove from the table the Land Use Designation change
 - Motion by Haines seconded by Abbott
 - Motion passes
 - Fuller abstained
- Motion to adopt Resolution to Amend the Land use districts shown in the 2020 Danby Town Plan to expand the land use Commercial/Industrial District depicted on the Draft Land use map dated 8/8/24 by increasing the tract shown west of South Main St. by 11.87 acres
 - Motion by Abbott seconded by Haines
 - Discussion
 - Brad Bender
 - 928 registered voters
 - Reviewed and considered comments from the 20 voters who spoke
 - Considered those who remained silent
 - 12 asked questions, 6 concerned about blasting, 3 spoke about fumes
 - Propane leak was a single event
 - Seismograph placement
 - Cannot see Maine Drilling & blasting risking license by tampering with readings
 - Ken Abbott Jr. – sand pit not a quarry
 - No legal interest in the real estate
 - Owned by Ken Abbott Sr.

- Asphalt plant will not be moving or closing
 - Fumes from existing asphalt plant
 - Will increase truck traffic over time when available material decreases
 - Can deal with blasting, not additional truck traffic
 - Real estate in village area has consistently gone up, in many cases dramatically, during quarry's existence
 - Quarrying has been part of this town's history
 - Expansion could continue to allow hydro electric
 - Steve Haines
 - Would like to see a test blast done before a decision is made
 - The direction of the blasting is said to be less
 - Ken Abbott
 - Agrees with the test blast conversation
 - A lot of the questions need to be address in the Act 250 process
 - Brad Bender
 - Select Board is not the act 250 board
 - Only amending the land designation
 - Not the actual use
 - Roll call on Vote
 - Abbott – yes
 - Haines – no
 - Bender – yes
 - Fuller – abstained
 - Motion does not carry in town attorney's opinion
 - A majority of the 5 member board would need to vote in affirmative
- Road Commissioners Report: T. Fuller Jr.
 - Winter Sand Bids
 - 3 prices
 - Pike Industries \$9.15 per ton
 - Peckham Industries \$15 per ton
 - Wallingford Crushed Stone \$12.90 per ton
 - Motion to buy majority of winter sand from Pike Industries
 - Motion by Haines, Seconded Fuller
 - Motion passes unanimously
 - Beaver Dam removal
 - Cleaned up tree after Towsley had it taken down
 - Ditching on Colvin Hill
 - Good start done
 - Limited grading with the dry ground
 - Brush and tree removal
 - Worked on truck maintenance
 - Working on the west side
 - Can we do some mowing along with current projects?
 - Maybe do the more traveled areas
 - Stop signs
 - Water system gate valves were exposed by Danby Hill/Brook Rd
 - One was paved over
 - No riser was put on, didn't realize there was a valve in there
 - Need to have spare covers, most cannot be removed easily
 - Whose responsibility is it to maintain the valves
 - The Fire District? Need replacement covers

- **Old Business**
 - **Hillary Solomon**
 - **Two updates**
 - **Working on flower brook project**
 - **Wondering about sediment build up**
 - **Better sense of what is happening**
 - **Particle sizes are small and travel through water**
 - **Stream is sinking deeper, and bank erosion**
 - **Some possible solutions**
 - **Leaving some debris in the brook helps with gravel retention**
 - **Will help the headwaters regain some water**
 - **Green Hill Rd – Purchase Brook Bridge**
 - **Available to look for funds to help with the bridge**
 - **The issue is the pool on the other side of the culvert is a water source for the fire department**
 - **The last time the board was approached**
 - **If funding could be found the board is on board with the project**
 - **Along with water for the fire department**
 - **New funding available**
 - **Vermont Clean water fund**
 - **Phosphorous credit available**
 - **Voluntary projects**
 - **Not required by a permit**
 - **Flexibility in funding and maintenance funds available**
 - **Available to come look at projects whenever needed**
 - **ARPA Money**
 - **Needs to be spent by December**
 - **\$130,420.07**
 - **Buy part of the truck with these funds**
 - **Radio Tower cost contribution conversation**
 - **\$23,365.45 invoiced for the tower installation**
 - **Paid \$5,913 already by the fire department**
 - **Truck radios should be here soon**
 - **Need tax exemption form to proceed**
 - **The town and fire department will be using the tower**
 - **Rescue is also moving their repeater to the new tower location**
 - **The state may be working off the tower as well**
 - **Fire department would appreciate any amount of funds contributions from the town**
 - **The tower is doing its job**
 - **Motion to reimburse the fire department for the tower project with \$25,000 from ARPA funds, and use the remaining funds from ARPA for the new truck payment**
 - **Motion by Fuller Seconded by Haines**
 - **Motion passes unanimously**
- **New Business**
 - **Mt. Tabor is now interested in doing a dump deal**
 - **Potentially interested in Danby taking over the location**
 - **Put on the October agenda**
 - **Sandy Pinsonault is asking to set up on the weekends by the dump to introduce herself to voters and talk with them**

- **Permission is not needed**
- **Motion to adjourn 8:13pm by Haines, Seconded by Abbott**
 - **motion passes unanimously**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Drea Stoddard

Minute Taker