

**Dover Select Board
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 2, 2021**

THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL THEY HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE DOVER SELECT BOARD

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86800444071?pwd=RIU2WDQ0cDM3d3AwSGREeFNON2tnQT09>

Meeting ID: 868 0044 4071

Password: 052648

Dial in: 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 868 0044 4071

Password: 052648

Select Board via Zoom: Victoria Capitani, Sarah Shippee, Dan Baliotti, Joe Mahon, Scott Salway
Also, present: Office Manager, Jeannette Eckert

Public present via Zoom: Jim McDevitt, Shannon Wheeler, Mike Eldred, Marc Schaubert, Randy Johnson, Becky Arbella, Michelle Pinkham, Diane McCormick, Tracy Bartels, Eric Durocher, Linda Sherman, Dana Sorice, Dana Strout, Martina Barnes, Richard Sedlack, Kevin Stine, Peter MacDonald, Rich Werner, Andy McLean, Jessica Lee Smith, Ryan Todd, Cliff Duncan

Regular Meeting Call to Order at 6:30pm

I. Public Comments:

Sarah Shippee had a phone meeting with Becky White of Efficiency Vermont. Deerfield Valley has been selected as one of the target communities for \$4000 grants for energy efficiency updates to town buildings; unfortunately, windows do not qualify but furnaces should; also, would include efficiency evaluations on all the Town buildings; other programs for homeowners, renters, and small business owners. Sarah volunteered to be the point person in this project

II. New Business:

A. Agreement with Necrason Group for Fairness Advocates

a. Approve Agreement & Authorize \$20,000 Expenditure

- The Select board and School board met to discuss this agreement
 - Both boards are in agreement on the proposal
- It would employ lobbyists to work on our behalf to push legislation in the Senate and the House on the weighting study
- Josh, Rich & Vicki met with the Necrason Group of Montpelier last spring just before Covid
- Money will come from the already established legal defense fund; \$20,000 now but could be as much as \$60,000
- The goal is for schools to properly get the amount of money based on their population and demographics
- Need to register with the State of Vermont as lobbyist employers; need to come up with a name
- The name *Rural Vermont School's Fairness Advocates* was applauded by Marc Schaubert as a strong name
- Scott suggested reiterating branding us correctly. The concept of fighting for everyone is key
- Sarah: Not all the towns involved are rural schools such as Burlington, Brattleboro
- Shannon suggested *Equitable Education Advocates*
- Attorney Chris Dugan has reviewed the agreement
- May be entering this agreement for an extended time period

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On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Joe Mahon, the Board unanimously agreed to sign the agreement and expend \$20,000 using the name Equitable Education Advocates

- B. Introduction & Update from New Forest Service District Ranger Martina Barnes
- New District Ranger in the Manchester office, started in November 2020
 - David Francone was the ranger previously and he went on to a position in Idaho
 - Goal is to reach out to the 30 or so Select boards whose towns have National Forest lands
 - Somerset Resource Project which includes the Deerfield Ridge Trail system project
 - Working with Andy McLean and the SoVTA to see that completed
 - Desire an open line of communication
 - Lots of projects across southern Vermont; doing our best to get the projects completed but may not be as fast as you hope
 - Looking to work through any concerns that may come up
 - Hoping to meet up again in the summer and do an in person field visit

The Board introduced themselves to Martina and Dana and expressed excitement for the ongoing projects

Associate Dana Strout shared some updates on the projects being worked on in our area

- Andy has been very enthusiastic for years on enhancing the connection between the community and the National Forest
- Working with SoVTA on the project which includes a connector trail from a trail head that would be constructed near Handle Rd that would go up to Deerfield Ridge Trail that runs from Chimney Hill to Mt Snow
 - Specifically, back country skiing off the Deerfield Ridge Trail
 - Gladed back country ski areas that people could skin up and ski down
 - Similar to Old Dutch Hill ski area in Readsboro
 - Lower area for a mountain bike trail constructed with a short beginner loop
 - There are some bridges that need to be designed and constructed
- Working to develop the relationship with SoVTA; there is no funding for this project, so relying on volunteer work
- Flagging the trail location should start this summer; construction would not likely happen until 2022 or 2023
- Dover is a recreation destination—also working with DVSJ to replace an older bridge that is failing and get that trail up to standard
- Exciting things happening but they will take some time

III. Fire Dept.: Rich Werner

A. Revisit Renovations at Firehouse

- John Guminak drew up the plans which were shared with the Board
- Approved by Brian Johnson initially but would like his review again
- Would like to put this out for an RFQ—for a 30-day period
- Will revisit quotes at a future Board meeting in April
- A small bit of demolition will be involved but it won't affect the use of the building
- North Branch will be involved
- Approval by Zoning Dept. as well

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- B. Update on Hazard Mitigation Plan—Schedule Public Hearing Date
- Would like to have a couple of board members present, not necessarily the whole board
 - Thursday March 25 from 3 to 6pm
 - Will confirm with Alyssa Sabetto of WRC on the time
 - Sarah would like to attend as liaison, Dan also
 - Last time Road commissioner, Police chief, East Dover fire, DVR, public, Planning Commission were in attendance
 - Will warn as a SB meeting in case there is a quorum of board members present

IV. Assessor: Linda Sherman

A. CAI Tax Map Annual Maintenance Contract

- Annual maintenance agreement for \$1850
 - Plus \$15.00 per additional map
 - Has not been needed in the past as Linda uploads the property sketches to the map
- Having the wide format printer has saved us money as well since we can scan inhouse
- Has space for all Board members to sign which involves a lot of back and forth signing
 - Consider authorizing Jeannette to sign for all this time
- Consider providing electronic signatures for each board member in future to allow for easier group signing

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Dan Baliotti, the Board unanimously agreed to allow Jeannette to sign the annual maintenance contract on the Board's behalf

V. Unfinished Business:

A. Revisit Town Meeting Options/Confirm Date

The Board thanked Andy for the Town Meeting book each rec'd

- Consider week of May 17 for Town Meeting
 - Tuesday, May 18 at 10am
- That is a normal SB meeting night, could push that meeting off to the Wed night
- Consider a weekend day?
 - Changing the meeting day and time to a weekend doesn't always increase attendance—typically hurts attendance
- Consider tent rentals for outdoor meeting
- Consider gathering indoors at Mt Snow
- Gather information on the different venue options---create a subgroup to research and look at logistics
 - Dan, Sarah, Rich, Andy will form that subgroup
- Covid guidelines change every day on gatherings

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Joe Mahon, the Board unanimously set the date for Dover's Town Meeting to Tuesday, May 18 at 10am, location to be determined

B. Revisit Planning Commission Vacancy

a. Consider Increasing Number of Members on Commission

Interviews were conducted with the applicants by Kevin Stine, Brendan McGrail, Sarah Shippee & Dan Baliotti

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On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Dan Baliotti, the Board unanimously agreed to increase the commission to 5 members with one alternate position

b. Announce Appointments

The interview committee recommends that the Select board appoint Becky Arbella, Michelle Pinkham and Dana Sorice as members and Peter MacDonald as alternate

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Dan Baliotti, the Board unanimously agreed to appoint Becky Arbella, Michelle Pinkham, Dana Sorice as members and Peter MacDonald as alternate

- Sarah suggested that Kevin Stine act as Chair and call a meeting of the PC
- Jeannette will look into the set up as there is currently no Chair to begin the re-organization meeting

The Board expressed thanks to all for their interest in being selected and welcomed everyone

C. Revisit Duncan Cable Agreement

- Agreement was reviewed by Chris Dugan; he was fine with it. The only issue he had was with the transferring of the file to Duncan Cable by a Town of Dover employee
- Eric is already doing the YouTube upload and can easily transfer the file to a Google drive which Duncan can then access
 - Will create a greater level of transparency on what the Town is working on
- This agreement is only to have Zoom meetings on Duncan Cable, not approving robotic cameras at this time; will revisit when in-person meetings resume

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Dan Baliotti, the Board unanimously agreed to have Vicki Capitani sign the agreement on behalf of the Town

VI. Economic Development:

A. General ED Updates from Eric

- Working on regaining Village Center Designation for both East and West Dover
- Grants depend on this designation; small business within the designation can apply for tax credits as well
- Lapsed for more than 90-days as such need to re-submit the entire application
- Working with Jeff Nugent at WRC to make sure the maps are correct
 - Also, Sue Westa and John Bennett are assisting
- Hope to have it ready by the next meeting for approval & signatures prior to submitting to the State

Vicki stressed the importance of an active Planning Commission as this designation had lapsed because the Town plan had expired; the Plan was reaffirmed but no one had re-applied for the designation; appreciate Econ Dev picking it up

- Also met with Ross Guion who is the contact on the Bogle Rd/Valley Trail project
- Need an “*at the ready municipal project manager*” for the Town
- State has a pool of projects managers with their scope of work
 - Need to select one from this listing
 - Will place this in the Trails and Rec committee hands for selection process

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- Will create a scoring matrix
- Funding should come out of the grant money—Eric will confirm with Ross
- Financial portion details would need to be up front

VII. Consent Agenda:

- A. Approve the Minutes of January 19, 2021 & January 25, 2021

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Dan Baliotti, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of January 19, 2021

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Scott Salway, the Board voted 4-0-1 to approve the minutes of January 25, 2021 (Baliotti abstained)

- B. Approve the Warrants of January 23, 2021 for \$876,008.14

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Vicki Capitani, the Board unanimously approved the warrants of January 23, 2021

VIII. FYI:

- A. Dog License Renewals and Liquor License Renewals are now being accepted
- B. Trails & Rec Committee meeting 2/9 @ 6:30 PM—open to the public, attendance encouraged
- C. Update on the YouTube stats—41 views on one of our videos!!

IX. Liaison Reports: none

X. Executive Session as needed: none

XI. Adjournment at 7:42pm by Chair Capitani

Respectfully submitted by Jeannette Eckert

Public notices of these minutes have been posted at the following locations:
Dover Town Clerk's Bulletin Board, Dover Town Meeting Bulletin Board, Dover School
Dover Free Library, East Dover Post Office, Town of Dover Website: www.doververmont.com