

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
June 15, 2023
(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Pamela Tworig, Kurt Gamari, Michael G. Denault, and Marie Kelly-Whitney.

Visitors: Carolyn Brooks, Debra Burchard, Laura Champagne, Marta Miller, Thomas Nazzewski, Sheila Pecor, Deborah Righi, James Righi, Brian Rower, Jessica Tatro, ___ Yorke, and Natalie Yorke.
David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.
William Levine, Emergency Management Director.
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed everyone, and read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting. There were no additions to the agenda.

MOTION by Pam Tworig to move the Reading and Approval of Records and Orders, Sign hazard mitigation plan grant extension, 2022 audit, Selectboard Report, Sign Agreement of Understanding with DVFiber and Sign Capitalization Policy prior to Hearing of Visitors. SECONDED by Marie Kelly-Whitney. The reason given was that people wanted to attend the Schoolboard meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. this evening. Mike Denault questioned whether the visitors had any objections. There were no objections. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of June 1, 2023 as written. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

Sheila Pecor requested a revision to her statement in the June 1, 2023 minutes that people were unhappy with the Stamford sign. She clarified that the statement she made was that she has not heard one person say they liked the sign. Nancy Bushika said Lori Shepard transcribes the minutes as best as she can.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #23 \$ 7,736.23 payroll
WARRANT #24 \$345,881.91 accounts payable

HAZARDOUS MITIGATION PLAN GRANT

MOTION by Pam Tworig to accept and sign the Hazard Mitigation Plan grant extension agreement. SECONDED by Marie Kelly-Whitney. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

DVFIBER AGREEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

Mike Denault said he's not happy with the match. It feels like we got something, but something was taken away. He summarized that we're as happy as we can be with the agreement.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to accept and sign the Agreement of Understanding with DVFiber. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2022 AUDIT

Nancy Bushika asked if the Selectboard wanted to submit their Selectboard Report which was prepared for the Town Report to the auditors for inclusion in the 2022 final audit report, or if someone wanted to prepare a new report.

MOTION by Pam Tworig to submit the Selectboard Report from the 2022 Town Report to the auditors. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

CAPITALIZATION POLICY

The Selectboard signed the Capitalization Policy which was approved at their last meeting.

WOODFORD SNOWBUSTERS/SNOWMOBILE TRAIL

Laura Champagne, on behalf of the Woodford Snowbusters, asked for permission for local residents to use County Road to access the secondary trail in order to reach the main corridor snowmobile trail. Pam Tworig provided a large map for Laura Champagne to point out the trails to the Selectboard. She provided the Selectboard with a letter from the Woodford Snowbusters and a copy of their Certificate of Insurance. The town's right of way on Stamford Pond Road is 0.85 miles long. Snowmobiles have the right to ride on unmaintained, unplowed roads already. The board asked about the permission for only local residents only. What about Woodford Snowbusters members who live in Bennington. They are looking for permission to ride on both the Class 3 and Class 4 sections of County Road. The Woodford Snowbusters needs to have this permission for the VAST trail to remain open. Dave Tatro explained that this trail has always been used by residents since the 1960's. Tom Nazzewski said that this permission will allow the Woodford Snowbusters to access funding. Mike Denault stated that if the board gave permission and there were problems, the Selectboard could revoke the permission. Pam Tworig noted that she has a video of twenty ATVs driving illegally on County Road. Mike Denault said the Selectboard has a responsibility to all town residents and the 1% are just as important as the 99% and he would consider granting permission. If the snowmobilers mess up, the board could reconsider. The road cannot be gated since there are several private landowners and camp owners who are entitled to access their property. Natalie Yorke suggested the board should contact Collin Fisher from the National Forest. Pam Tworig does not want the VAST or any other clubs coming here. Dave Tatro said the problem is that the trail can't deadhead. Allowing snowmobile use on County Road will provide a loop. He feels that there won't be any out-of-towners if there is no parking area. They will be riding in Woodford and north of here, but they won't come down to Stamford. He said the Selectboard will only be helping local residents to access the trails. Pam Tworig wants to know all of their legal rights regarding the trail. Dave Tatro said the town has no responsibility for maintenance of safety on a legal trail. Jess Tatro explained that the secondary trail will not be a groomed or maintained trail so a lot of people won't want to ride it since it will be a very bumpy, lousy snowmobile trail. Pam Tworig submitted a written list of questions to Laura Champagne and gave copies to the other board members.

MOTION by Pam Tworig to allow the Selectboard to review her packet of questions, allow Laura Champagne to do her research, and have Collin Fisher from the National Forest attend the next, or a future Selectboard meeting. SECONDED by Marie Kelly-Whitney. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. Dave Tatro has been working on ditching and culverts on Rondeau Road and will begin mowing soon.
2. Deb Burchard asked about a large rock in Mill Road near the highway garage. She feels it could cause an accident people have to straddle it or go around it. Dave Tatro said the rock isn't so high, it's an illusion. It gets covered up when he grades and then the rains exposes it again.

VASA REMINDERS

Jessica Tatro reminded everyone that to ride legally on a VASA trail, riders must wear helmets, have insurance and also a VASA sticker. It was noted that riders should be single file and do not have permission to ride on Class 3 roads.

SPAGETTI SUPPER FUNDRAISER

The Stamford Ridge Riders Club will hold a spaghetti dinner on Thursday, June 29, 2023 at the VFW in North Adams from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. to raise money to clean up the sippy hole on Risky Ranch Road. She asks people to come support the local club.

VASA RIDER SAFETY COURSE

Jess Tatro has received her Rider Safety Certificate and will offer her first VASA rider safety course on June 25, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 180 Sportsmen Road in Stamford.

MOTION by Pam Tworig to adjourn. SECONDED by Marie Kelly-Whitney. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 6:50 p.m.

Marie Kelly-Whitney
Clerk

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REMINDERS

1. All dogs 6 months and older must be licensed by April 1st of each year. State law requires a valid rabies vaccination certificate to be filed with the Town Clerk's office. Licensing your dog is very easy. Rabies certificates can be faxed to the town office at 802-694-1636 or emailed to the town office at townclerk@stamfordvt.net. Once the current rabies certificate is on file, license renewals can be handled in person, by mailing a check, by utilizing the mail slot in the back wall of the town office or by telephone with a credit card. License fees are \$9.00 for each spayed/neutered dog or \$13.00 for each intact dog. Checks should be made payable to the Town of Stamford.
2. The Stamford Ridge Riders Club will hold a spaghetti dinner on Thursday, June 29, 2023 at the VFW in North Adams from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. to raise money to clean up the sippy hole on Risky Ranch Road.
3. A VASA rider safety course will be offered by Jessica Tatro on June 25, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 180 Sportsmen Road in Stamford.
4. The town office is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and on Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Closed Mondays.