

Town Administrator's Report for Selectboard Meeting on May 23, 2016

Thompson's Point leases—the camps are to be sold, so the current leases are to be terminated; the new leases are using the new provisions for Lane's Lane, which will require the lots to be connected to the municipal system when the ordinance is amended (by the Selectboard), and in the meantime, leaseholders can use their existing septic systems as provided in the current lease. As of this writing, the new lease language is receiving a final review from Steve Stitzel.

CSWD Budget—Tom Moreau, the current General Manager (who will be retiring in the next few months), will present the budget with the Town's representative to the CSWD Board, Abby Foulk, and alternate representative, Rachel Stein. The Selectboard will be asked to approve the budget as per the CSWD charter.

Review Financials—the Treasurer will provide financials to be reviewed.

Request for Proposals for Bicycle & Pedestrian Scoping Study—the Town (via an application generated by the Trails Committee) obtained a \$45,000 grant to conduct a "scoping study" to evaluate extensions of the constructed portions of the Town Link Trail from its current southern terminus to Mount Philo State Park, and from its current northern terminus to the West Charlotte village. The Trails Committee developed the RFP with the assistance of VTrans staff. The town's match of \$5,000 was included in the FY17 approved budget, and the Trails Committee has also engaged in raising funds privately. VTrans would like to see the town proceed with the scoping study in a timely manner, to make efficient use of the grant funds—so the goal is for the Selectboard to review proposals at its meeting on June 27th and approve a contract in July. The RFP will be advertised on the VTrans web-site and in the local newspaper.

Burns property conservation easement—this has been the works for quite a while. It was envisioned by the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) and the Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTV) when they assisted the town with the purchase of the property in 2000; it was a recommendation of the Burns Parcel Steering Committee's report issued in 2005; and it was approved by voters at Town Meeting 2009 when Article 7, an advisory article to conserve the approximately 15 acre clayplain forest on the Burns property, passed by voice vote.

On February 23, 2015, the Selectboard approved a revised Memorandum of Agreement with VLT and PTV, and it also approved a Letter of Agreement with VLT which describes the process for finalizing the conservation easement. Since then, Vermont Land Trust has updated the easement document and associated map, reviewed it with the Town's attorney and made some edits as requested by the Town's attorney.

In the process of finalizing the map, VLT found that the adjoining property owner to the north may be encroaching—i.e. mowing and maintaining a trail on the town property. VLT will be requiring the Town to notify the adjoining landowner of the possible encroachment as indicated in the letter in the packet re "Possible Encroachment."

Since the easement indicates that VLT might ask the Town to reimburse VLT for “extraordinary costs” associated with the easement, I asked VLT to provide some indication as to what situations would trigger such a request—VLT provided a letter (included in the packet) which indicates that violations and/or amending the easement could trigger such a request.

In the Letter of Agreement the Town agreed to contribute \$10,000 towards the stewardship and closing costs associated with the project, to be paid from the town's Conservation Fund. As part of the process of applying for funding from the Conservation Fund, projects are reviewed by the Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, Trails Committee and the Charlotte Land Trust. The review by these groups will be completed on Tuesday May 24—so the application for use of the Conservation Fund will be on the Selectboard's agenda for June 13.

So, since the application to the Conservation Fund will be on the June 13th agenda, the purpose of this agenda item is to “approve-in-concept” the conservation easement; staff from the Vermont Land Trust will be attending the meeting, as will Kate Lampton, who has facilitated the easement process.

Interviews—all interviews are for reappointments for the terms indicated.

VT State Police—semi annual update—no action is needed. There will be an opportunity to discuss the any coverage issues, as well as renewal of the annual contract.

Burns property agricultural lease—there are three proposals to hay the 15 acre field:

- Robert Mack proposed paying \$25/acre/year = \$375/year
- Richard Preston proposed no payment, but he would brush-hog the swale and mound on the Burns property (the Selectboard indicated at its last meeting this is the only “barter” that would be allowed). Based on Dale Knowles brush-hogging bid, this would be valued at \$120).
- Chris Fortin proposed a payment of \$650/year provided he is awarded the brush-hogging bid. This would not be considered a barter since it would involve monetary payments on the part of both parties. He is willing to lease the Burns property for one year so the lease period would be the same term as the brush-hogging contract.

Brush-hogging Bid—there were three bids submitted by the original deadline of March 31st:

- Dales Knowles' total bid = \$2,235
- Richard Preston's total bid = \$2,550
- Adam Dantzschers' total bid = \$2,285

Chris Fortin submitted a late bid of \$1,750

Old Lantern Mediation—the Selectboard should designate a member to participate in the mediation; the participant would be empowered to sign any settlement, which would require final approval by the whole Selectboard.

Peck Electric solar project net metering application—the Selectboard should decide if it wants to request intervenor status in order to be able to provide testimony for the scheduled technical hearing.

Formation of Charter Advisory Committee—this was requested by a Selectboard member.

Selectboard communications—this was requested by a Selectboard member.