



Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Final
Town of Fairlee Town Hall
Monday, March 25, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: Peter Berger, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

PRESENT

Selectboard Members: Peter Berger, Chair; Lance Mills, Vice Chair; Miranda Clemson
A quorum was met.

Town Administrator: Ryan Lockwood

Lister: Noël Walker

Minutes Taker: Patty Tompkins

Visitors in person: Katherine Babbott, Tom Ward, Ross Cannon, Andrew Godfrey

Visitors on ZOOM: None

AGENDA APPROVAL AND MODIFICATIONS

MOTION: Lance Mills /Miranda Clemson moved/seconded the motion to approve the agenda as written. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC AND STAFF COMMENTS/REPORTS

Tom Ward – Wake Boats

Tom Ward came to present the status of the statewide ruling concerning wake boats. In particular, Ward is concerned about Lake Fairlee and Lake Morey. The rule will take effect this summer.

Ward pointed out the harm the wake boats could bring to a lake by destroying fishing nests and eroding shorelines with their powerful engines stirring up the water.

Katherine Babbott was concerned for the safety of others on the lake while fishing, sailing or swimming.

Noël Walker questioned how the wake boats may affect the Alum treatment.

Lake municipalities will be petitioning the ruling. Ward would like the Selectboard to consider supporting the petition.

Noël Walker – Equalized Education Property Value

The Listers requested and received a Redetermination of Equalized Education Property Value and Coefficient of Dispersion on three of the four properties in Town that they felt were not accurately appraised. These values would improve the tax rate.

MOTION: Lance Mills /Miranda Clemson moved/seconded the motion to accept the Redetermination of Equalized Education Property Value and Coefficient of Dispersion as presented and sign it. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Administrator's Report

Lockwood reviewed his report and gave the following updates:

- VTrans's plan to work on the cliffs along the interstate. One option is to divert the interstate traffic through Town.
- An upcoming meeting to plan the layout of the new vault.
- An upcoming interview for the Beach Manager position.
- The posting of the Alum treatment permit which will stay up until 4/18/24.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire and Fast Squad Discussion w/ Andrew Godfrey and Ross Cannon

Andrew Godfrey, Fire Chief of Fairlee, and Ross Cannon, Deputy Chief of the Fire Department and President of the Fairlee Fast Squad, came to discuss funding options to obtain a new fire truck.

The existing truck was obtained in 1993.

Many new fire trucks come devoid of contents inside the truck. It was questioned whether the existing hoses could be placed in a new truck.

A new truck will require inventory and training, which will contribute to the total cost.

Godfrey and Cannon will create a new cost structure for the purchase, while Berger will continue to look at grant and bond funding options.

2024 Appointment Slate

The position for an Animal Control Officer is still open.

MOTION: Lance Mills/Miranda Clemson moved/seconded the motion to approve the Appointment Slate for 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Winnie Bell Library Grant Discussion

The Library Director applied for this grant. Traditionally it was for \$500. This year the award is \$2,500. They would like to use this grant money to purchase an outdoor gazebo.

They asked for the Selectboard's input.

OLD BUSINESS

Town Projects Strategic Planning

The Selectboard is fleshing out the list of projects and plans to schedule a workshop in the next three weeks.

Lake Morey Alum Treatment Updates

SOLitude is still learning about the state requirements regarding follow up treatment monitoring and water testing.

Lake Morey Traffic Measures

Discussions continue about traffic calming measures such as: signs, speed bumps and stenciling pavement.

Microsoft Teams Updates

Still in development.

ORDERS & CORRESPONDENCE

Completed.

APPROVAL of March 18, 2024, Draft Minutes

MOTION: Lance Mills /Miranda Clemson moved/seconded the motion to approve the minutes from 03-18-24 as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS/ASSIGNMENTS/AGENDA

- Mills: Find a new policy to work on and update.
- Berger: Research grants/bonds for a fire truck.
- Clemson: Work with Wolf-Ludwig on centralizing fee schedules.
- All: Consider porta-potties for the expected traffic in Town for the Totality Eclipse event on 4/8/24.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

NEXT SELECTBOARD MEETING: Monday, April 1, 2024.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Lance Mills/Miranda Clemson moved/seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Attest: Patty Tompkins, Minutes Taker