

Select Board Meeting Notes
Monday, October 6, 2025, 6pm

Select Board in Attendance: Harry, Nancy and Nate

Attendance: 20

Attendance via Zoom: 2

Chair Harry called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

Any items to add to the agenda? An update on knotweed treatment was requested and provided.

Approve the minutes of the September Board Meeting: Board Member Nancy made a motion to approve the September Board Meeting notes. Board member Nate seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Volunteer Day Project: Chris Lingley noted that Gerald Mertens completed painting of the Common bandstand. Vents will be replaced soon.

Ampersand Solar Panel Project Update: There hasn't been any notification that the application for the solar panel project has been submitted. Clerk Gary will reach out to Annemarie at Ampersand for an update.

Town-Owned Property Committee: Clerk Garry noted that there is a need for the original Town-Owned Property Committee to continue to do the work that was originally outlined. The Town still lacks a complete and verified list of Town-owned properties. Question: Is the current committee members interested in continuing to do the original work. The Board will reach out to determine the status of existing committee members.

Board Chair Harry reiterated that the the Town does not want to own property. Planning Committee member Tina mentioned that there might be a reason to own a piece of property if the conditions were such that it benefited the Town, especially related to housing. Harry noted VLCT recommends that the Town does not own property.

Planning Committee/Housing Subcommittee Proposal: Planning Committee member Tina reported that the Planning Committee held a housing information session at their last meeting. The meeting included a healthy discussing about housing and the needs of the community. At that meeting it was shared that the Planning Committee voted to endorse the creation of a housing subcommittee and that was presented to the Select Board for approval, which it was approved. Those interested in being part of the housing subcommittee should submit their interest to the Select Board before the November Board meeting at selectboard@lunenburg-gilmanvt.gov

NEKWMD Board Representative. Brian White was not at the Board meeting, so this item was tabled for a future update.

Health Officer Update: Health Officer Luke provided an update on the radon testing initiative that occurred earlier this year. Luke explained that data from Lunenburg related to radon testing was lacking and the goal was to get at least 10 samples to provide to the State so our Town information would be updated with the State. Luke noted that he had partnered with Sean Campbell (Vermont Department of Health) to secure radon kits. We received approx. 36 free kits. Luke reported that a few property owners volunteered to have their properties tested, along with some Town-owned properties. Luke reported we will request more kits next year once our state profile has been set up with the State. Luke noted that the lack of radon testing in Lunenburg has made us somewhat invisible to the VT Department of Health.

Related to Health Officer work, Luke reported that most complaints received are tenant/landlord relate. Luke has conducted 10 inspections of which 4 resulted in a health order being issued. Often complaints are from landlords noting that their tenant is not respecting the property as required. Some complaints are related to the landlord not properly maintaining the property. If there are questions or concerns related to health violations in the community, contact Luke via Facebook or the Town Clerk's office. The Town Health Officer has a dedicated email address: lunenburgtho@gmail.com

Planning Committee Tina mentioned that Sean Campbell had provided us with 36 radon kits. Questions were asked about what happened to the approximately 20 kits received that had not been used. Luke reported these kits are available for residents who want them. Luke noted that he had originally planned to survey 16 properties, but there was concern expressed about the testing being done at a previous meeting, so he stopped testing at the 10 properties that had already tested.

Task Force Chair Kate suggested that the 20 available radon kits be made available at the Town Office. Luke indicated that he would bring those to the Clerk's office so they can be available to residents. Luke also noted there is a website where you can request a test kit be mailed to you.... Luke also noted if you request a free kit via the State, you automatically get added to the State's radon testing map.

Board member Nancy noted that the Atheneum in St. J used to give out free radon kits and would advertise that in the paper.

Luke noted that the Vermont Department of Health recommends that you test your property every 5 years, and that FHA requires testing within the last 5 years.

Plowing Bid for 2025/2026 and 2026/2027: The RFP for plowing bids is available and posted on the Town's website. An RFP announcement will appear in the Caledonian shortly.

Merp Grant Update; Clerk Gary provided a status update on the MERP energy grant received in 2024 that will bring energy efficient projects to 5 of our Town-owned properties. Projects must be completed by the end of 2026. Will provide continued updates at Board meetings.

Community Events, Social Engagement and Recreation Task Force: Fund raiser night on October 18th...hoping to start building a small bank roll...have been reaching out to grant funders and have submitted 2 to date.

Outdoor Recreation, Trails and Tourism: Task Force Chair Kate reported that this Wednesday, 10/8, she is invited to be on a panel with the Vermont Recreation Trails group. This group helped us get the accessibility design for the trails at Fox Field. She'll highlight the work being done in our community related to trails. Kate hoping to connect with other people to help us how to navigate the grant world for future work at Fox Field.

Kate noted that we have been referring to the area as Fox Field Outdoor Recreation Area. There is a plaque at Fox Field dedicated to Rev. Fox. Have been working towards grants. LGCT helped apply to Two for the Trails Grant. Also applied for Onyx grant...will hear in November.

Railroad: Kate reported they have been very active on the rail corridor clearing the tracks. No negotiations have progressed between CSX and VRS for the tracks beyond Gilman. Hoping to hold a planning meeting with VRS representatives and Town representatives in October on the rail line to discuss how we can have safe passage for the trails when crossing the tracks. Date TBA.

The Chief Engineer from VRS came to the October event at Fox Field and provided information and swag.

Lunenburg ATV Group: Jim Sullivan reported on his involvement in starting an ATV group to allow the Town to have more control over the trails in the community. Model would be like the Polar Bears. Keep marked trails away from problem areas, reroute trails, etc. It was agreed that we need a listing of the Town roadways that are open to ATVs. It's likely that a Town ordinance needs to be created so we fall under the State's guidance regarding speed limits, etc. Road Foreman Gregg and Clerk Gary will meet to put a draft ordinance together. 98% of survey respondents wanted an ATV club in Town. Goal is to have marked trails for people to follow. Kate reported that Top of the World came to a RTT meeting and urged Lunenburg to start their own club. 60% of Lunenburg riders are paid members in the Concord club. First meeting is this Thursday, 7pm at the Community Room. lunenburgatv@gmail.com

Gregg noted that he would be able to get signage that needs to be posted on roads where ATVs are allowed. New Game Warden is watching ATVs carefully in the area.

Rep John Kascenska reported that the Town of Burke just went through this process.

Vermont Community Foundation \$5,000 Grant: Clerk Gary report that we received a \$5,000 grant from the Vermont Community Foundation that will fund welcome signs on Route 2 at the East and West entrances to Lunenburg. Funding also includes a placemaking sign for Fox Field. It was noted that we need to determine where the signs are going as part of the design process and get State and landowner approval.

MPG Grant: Due to the level of grant work that is already occurring in Town, it was decided to pass on this year's MPG grant application.

Highway: Road Foreman Gregg is working on speed limit signs. There was an accident near Pelletier's garage this past weekend. Gregg has reached out to Trevor. State must do a speed analysis. Gregg wants to move the 30 MPG near Pelletier's garage farther up the road. South Lunenburg Road also needs a speed assessment done.

Trevor wants Gregg to work with State on speed limit coming into Route 2 because it goes quickly from 50 to 40 to 30 and the 30 area should be extended.

Gregg has ordered some school signs...Bobbin Mill 20 hours per mile extended area for the Elementary School. The issue of cameras was asked about...does the Town have any. We do not. Attendees discussed radar speed signs. "School" needs to be painted in the pavement on Bobbin Mill. Residents wondered how lower speed limits on Route 2 might affect truckers navigate the hills. Task Force Chair Kate noted that we are asking the State for some Share the Roads sign...especially for horses...and bicycle share the road signs. Gregg has 6 share the road signs ordered for Baptist, Kimball and Pond Hill. Can get more for Dance Hall Rd. Concern was raised about what happens if horses do damage to a property owner's lawn...who pays for it. Kate will inquire with the Vermont Horse Council.

Jesse Boemig has taken a new job with Fire District #2/Gilman Water Sewer. Buddy is still the primary contact for all things water. Road crew is looking for a replacement. Will get something posted shortly.

Gary reminded people that property taxes are due on Friday, October 10th by 9:00pm. He updated the extended hours for tax payment week. TOTC Chris asked whether Friday closure was just for the summer. Gary reported that the office will continue to be closed Fridays in exchanged for Tuesday evening hours of 5-7pm and first Saturday of the month hours from 10am-1pm.

Gingerbread Bazaar is December 6th. TOTC Chris reported that the Gingerbread Bazaar will be held on Saturday, December 6th. Currently taking vendor applications. TOTC and Historical Society says, "Thank you to every volunteer who made our recent crazy event schedule possible".

Rep. John Kascenska: Rep. John attended the meeting and spoke about housing: He has met with the Vermont Housing Conservation Board and will share contact information for that group.

Education Transformation Bill: Rep. John reported the Committee continues their work on redistricting. The committee has put together 4 very rough drafts. Public Hearings: October 10, Oxbow High School; October 16th at Leland and Gray; and October 22 at Rutland High School; and October 28 at Winooski High School. Zoom options will be available. Have a deadline of December 1st to identify what the districts will look like. Will likely put 2 or 3 options to share with legislature.

Land Use Review Board: Planning Committee Member Tina reported that a representative from the Land Use Review Board will be at the next Planning Committee Meeting. The agenda for that meeting has been posted on the website. Watch for additional information.

The new legislative season opens on January 6th.

Fundraising: John went to a pie auction. Suggested as a fun fundraising idea.

Task Force Chair Kate asked what can be done about the extreme slowdown of background check (up to 3 months) by the State as it is impacting applicants for jobs. Residents also shared that bussing is also an issue and wondered whether discussions about bussing was part of the Education Transformation Bill? Board Chair Harry reported that most of the bussing is hired out to a contractor. Rep. John noted that he doesn't recall that being in the bill.

Chris saw online an opportunity to do a survey about Act 73. Wondered if that was legitimate. Says the survey comes from the Agency of Education. Following is a link to the public survey: https://www.svsu.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=4454727&type=d&pREC_ID=2712635

Residents noted the new AED units in the community room. Concern was expressed about who knew how to operate those and would training be available. It was noted that training videos are available online. It was suggested to check with Gilman Rescue to see about a training seminar.

Board member Nancy motioned to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Nate Seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm