Special Select Board Meeting Notes Monday, June 9, 2025, 6pm

Board Members in Attendance: Harry, Nancy (Nate unable to attend due to emergency)

Attendance: 123

Via Zoom: 3

Harry called the meeting to order at 6pm

Any Items to Add to the Agenda: Nothing

Approve the minutes from the May Board meeting: Nancy Made a motion to approve the minutes; Harry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously

<u>Municipal Code of Ethics</u>: Nancy made a motion to adopt the new Municipal Code of Ethics that had been shared at the May Board meeting. Harry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

<u>Town-Owned Property Sale – 2157 River Road</u>: Clerk Gary reminded attendees that the townowned property sale of 2157 River Road continues. Bids are due July 7th at 3pm. Bids will be opened at the July Select Board meeting.

<u>Delinquent Tax Property Sale</u>: Delinquent Tax Collector Cindy ask the Board to vote to approve the sale of the following properties for delinquent taxes owed:

- -853 Lancaster Road \$19,452.65 due. (4 years behind). (Also liens of \$277.63)
- -152 Commercial Avenue \$6,288.19. (3 years behind)
- -254 Commercial Avenue \$9,793.45 (4 years behind)
- -124 Riverside Avenue \$4,106.47 (4 years behind)

Harry made a motion to put these properties up for tax sale; Nancy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Sale details will be forthcoming.

<u>Volunteer Day Project</u>: The project recommended by the community was repainting the Gazebo on Common. Clerk Gary will follow up with Top of the Common Chris to work out details.

<u>Covered Bridge Week Activities:</u> The week of August 2nd is Vermont Covered Bridge Week. Clerk Gary showed the banner that will be displayed during that work and also asked people to contact him if they have ideas of how the Town could celebrate Mt. Orne Bridge during this week.

<u>Mount Orne Covered Bridge Watcher</u>: Clerk Gary noted that our Town should appoint a Bridge Watcher because we have a covered bridge in the community. Covered Bridge watchers make sure to check the bridge every few weeks and report any condition or other problems. They also work with the Vermont Covered Bridge Association to keep information on the Mt. Orne Bridge up to date on the bridge.

Fox Chapel Event: Fox Chapel would like to hold a community party on Saturday, August 10th at the Gazebo in Gilman Park. Nancy made a motion to allow the use of the park and gazebo for this event. Harry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

<u>Planning Committee</u>: Clerk Gary nominated Board Member Nate Brown as a new member of the Planning Committee. Harry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Gary also noted the Planning Committee was looking for new members. Interested parties should reach out to Gary.

<u>Outdoor Recreation, Trails and Tourism</u>: Kate handed out the latest RTT newsletter. RTT's next meeting will be Wednesday, June 11th, 6pm. On Tuesday, July 29th the Northeast Forest Center will hold a trail asset mapping exercise, 6pm at the senior Center, in Gilman. On Tuesday, July 15th, 6pm, there is a rail corridor information meeting with Marian Borowski who plans to share updates on the VRS rail project. On Friday, June 13th, 9:30 am, the Trail Association Hub is doing an accessibility assessment for Fox Field for parking lot and field access. On June 28, 10am – 2pm, the first annual Hello Summer event will be held on Fox Field. Attendees will have a chance to. What design elements needed to make it more accessible.

<u>Hello Summer Event</u>: Clerk Gary updated people about the Hello Summer Celebration, being held on Fox Field on June 289, 10am – 2pm. Liz gave a shout out to those who been working on this event behind the scenes. This event is a great chance to reintroduce Fox Field to the community and for the community to weigh in on us what you want. Generations are coming together to celebrate this event. Email lunenburgoutdoors@gmail.com for more information. Hello Summer is being supported by donations from NEK Broadband, Macoma Bank, Ben & Jerry's.

<u>Highway</u>: Gregg reported that Austin Construction will begin hauling in materials this week for the Malliet Bridge project, which should begin in mid-July. This will become a culvert. Austin will likely move from the Maillet Road project to the large culvert project on Baptist Hill. Crew is currently working Thomas Road to W. Thomas Road because there was a brook running down the road. 2 culverts need to be replaced. Pike will confirm when they will start paving on River Road. Winter sand bids have gone out to Carroll, A&B and Beattie. Gregg learned that Carroll and A&B have been bought by a New York company.

Residents asked when Dance Hill Road can become a 2-lane road again and reported the ditches are very deep. Gregg reported we'd have to cut down trees to widen it. Gregg reported that water was up to the road, and it was saturated, and the sides of the road were being lost so ditching was necessary. Gregg noted that the culverts are above the ground and that should not be.

Residents shared concern about Monahan Road that goes down to Lake Road. There are washouts on the road that are beginning to take more and more roadway away. Residents shared a concern with expected increased summer traffic. This was a problem in 2024 and still hasn't been repaired. It was noted that rocks used during mud season (which worked well) are now popping up and causing flat tires. Residents asked why we don't grade a complete section of the road when the grader is on site or why we don't park the grader on the side of the road at the end of the day and return the next day to complete the work. Gregg noted that the grader has been left at times and windows have been broken out.

Residents asked what we were paying John Nelson to do the subcontract work that he is doing. Gregg reported that we've tried to get other contractors and they are not available on a consistent basis. Nelson charges us \$100 for use an excavator and his time. Gregg believes no one else would give us that type of deal. Nelson works on average 3 or 4 days/week.

Residents reported that they feel other community's roads, especially Concord's, are in better condition. And residents believe they should be able to drive 35 MPH on the dirt roads.

Gregg provided information as to why the work plan was as it is, some of which relates to FEMA project requirements. He reminded people that this was the first year that we did not have to close any roads during mud season.

Clerk Gary addressed attendees to remind them that Gregg has only been with us a year. He also noted that Concord has had the same Road Foreman for 20 years and he, like Gregg, has a long-term plan of improving our roads, but that it can't be done in one year. He reported that Town elected officials are working very hard to recover from past neglect. He reported on several grants that the Town has received that are helping our work, including AOT highway grants and FEMA road damage reimbursement grants. He also wanted to make sure people knew the number of hours Gregg puts in each week working on FEMA paperwork outside of his normal workday. FEMA requirements are extensive but will result in significant reimbursement to the Town. The Town received \$83,000 FEMA reimbursement for road damage from the 2023 July storms.

<u>Clerk/Treasurer</u>: Clerk Gary reported that the online payment option is now active on the website. Residents will be charged a 3% fee if a credit card is used or a \$1.50 fee if a checking account is used. The fees go to the software company and not the Town of Lunenburg.

Community Concerns:

Chris Lingley reported that the Fox Chapel Cookout on August 10th is a memorial event for Isadora Fox.

Clark Gary handed out an update sheet provided by Gilman Rescue's Steve Jones Harry made a motion to adjourn 7:18pm. Nancy seconded the motion, and it was unanimously. Passed.