

Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2022
1997 North Road, Mt. Vernon, ME 04352

Selectboard Members Present: Paul Crockett, Bob Grenier, Anna Libby (notetaker)

Staff and Guests (in person): Kerry Casey, Tom Ward

Guests (via Zoom): Susan Herman, Charlie Baeder, Michelle Pino

7:01 - Call to Order

SB Crockett calls the meeting to order at 7:01. We gathered 6:30 for the warrant.

7:01 - Review and Accept Minutes

Minutes accepted as marked up by Paul. Motion was made by SB Crockett, second by SB Grenier, approved by all.

7:02 - Aging in Place Update

Tom Ward provided an update on the work of the Aging in Place committee. The committee recently received the first \$20,000 of funding for a new grant. It is a two year grant, and we expect another \$30,000 in December for the second year. Ten percent of the funding goes to town for administrative expenses. The remaining funds support the efforts this year, and the main goal is to start a respite adult day program here in Mt. Vernon and the surrounding communities. It will not be a medical respite program, but it will provide day programming for 6-10 older adults facing various challenges such as dementia. The program hopes to be in place for up to 5 days a week for about 6 hours a day and will have games, activities, and many more activities. Locations may include the Community Center, as well as the Grange (Vienna) and Starling Hall (Fayette). The committee hopes to come back to the Selectboard with a job description for staff for this program in late February.

The committee has also been working to organize February Frolix which is about to kick off by distributing activity bags to 60+ households. The calendar of events includes many other fun activities including snowshoe events, chair yoga, skating, sledding, and more. Thank you from the committee to everyone for helping, and thank you especially to those who helped clear the ice on Minnehonk.

The Selectboard appreciates the update and all the great work from this committee.

7:18 - 7 Lakes Alliance re: Long Pond update

Charlie Baeder here with a report and update. The 7 Lakes Alliance is hoping to have town participation in a steering committee which is meeting to coordinate the writing of a Long Pond management plan. Other participants will include other local towns, lake association groups, the DEP, local businesses and more. A major goal of this planning work is to fix erosion issues around the watershed and ensure water quality is maintained. The group will be looking for funding to help support solutions to these challenges. Other solutions might include updates to various town ordinances.

Paul has some documents Charlie sent from last plan, he will forward to Anna and Bob to peruse. The group is looking at the next two to three weeks for initial meeting of the Long Pond Watershed Based Management Plan Steering Committee. Past documents can also be shared on the town website. The group also hopes have a public meeting in about a month.

SB Crockett motions to nominates SB Libby to participate on the committee, SB Grenier seconds. Passes.

7:34 ORC update

Susan and Michelle are here to update the Selectboard on the work of the Ordinance Review Committee. The committee has had three Zoom meetings and have made a lot of progress. They finished a draft firework ordinance and welcome comments. They plan to have a public hearing on everything underway so far in late March. If there are interim questions, please send them to Susan and the committee.

The committee has also made a lot of progress on the draft solar farm ordinance, and plan to have a draft to send to the Selectboard after their next meeting. Discussion about the work on this ordinance so far and the logistics of considering a moratorium until the ordinance is completed. Bob plans to touch base with Bill on this issue.

Bob also shared that he had discussed the Land Use Ordinance with Alice, who has been working to update formatting and integrate ordinances passed since the last time the document was updated. A draft will go the ORC soon, and Bob is willing to help review it with the committee. The Selectboard also plans to review the fee schedule before the document is finalized.

Thank you to the Ordinance Review Committee for all their work and to Susan and Michelle for this helpful update.

8:00 – Broadband Update

The Selectboard recently received the bill for the RedZone review of the area, it is only \$2000 since other area towns also decided to participate. The whole coalition working on RedZone right now and hoping it works well. Spectrum has also come back with a new offer to consider. The committee is doing phenomenal work and is hoping to come up with a recommendation so an article can be written in time for the warrant.

8:10 – Other Business

Town Lawyer: Paul emailed Tom Carey about being our town attorney and asked if he wanted to meet, will wait to hear back.

Plowing: John is doing a great job with the off road plowing, and Lee and crew are doing a great job with the on road plowing – thank you to all!

Landlocked land issue from last summer: We agreed to consider adding this to the warrant, and need to consider language.

Audio/video challenges: Paul did some research earlier to try to find potential solutions to the challenges with audio and video from the Selectboard meetings. One potential solution is an item called “the Owl” which is a gadget that is used to help improve meeting quality for those listening from a far. Would appreciate Mark and other’s opinions here.

LD1772: This is a bill being considered at the Maine legislature to relax rules for remote meetings moving forward, which could be helpful for many town committees. Bob will reach out to our representatives to let them know we would support this bill.

MMA Zoom on ARPA funds: There is a webinar coming up on March 2nd about final rulings on how ARPA funds can be used.

Bridge: We still haven’t been billed for the Cottle Hill bridge. Paul will email and ask for the bill. Paul will also email Andy about the Blake Hill Road bridge. We might need to use some ARPA funds to get the engineering work done for this project.

Audit: The audit is underway, and this second piece is remote so Kerry is scanning in materials from 2021. Discussion about how best to format hours for employees on the warrant. We can look at other area towns for inspiration.

Trio Update: Nadine called today and will be calling back soon about schedule for transitions. Discussion about the hosted version which we hope to include in the 2023 budget.

Spirit of America Award: We have a name in mind.

MMA University: We can sign up for this with current personnel after they swap systems if we wish.

8:30 – Adjourn

Motion to adjourn from SB Grenier, second from SB Crockett. Passes.