

Town of New Haven Selectboard Meeting
7:00 pm
Tuesday, January 19, 2021
Town Offices

**** Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this meeting was held via GoToMeeting****

Selectboard: Chair, Steve Dupoise, Vice Chair, Kathy Barrett, Taborri Bruhl, John Roleau and Jim Walsh

Town Administrator / ZA: Aaron Brown

Selectboard Assistant: Pam Kingman

Visitors: Sara Smith, Laura Trieschman (Historic Preservation), Mike Winslow (ACRPC), Dan Morris (owner of Roundtree Const.), Harvey Smith, Scott Reiss (Roundtree), Ric Santa Maria (owner Roundtree Const.), Maxwell Krieger (Historic Preservation), Susan Smiley, Amanda Bodell, Diane Lanpher, Eleanor Hagopian, Tim Bouton, Dave Wolfson, Trini Brassard (VTRANS), Will Dodge (Attorney for VELCO), Peter Lind, Jake Reed and Dan Poulin Reps from VELCO

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None

VISITORS BUSINESS:

- 1. VTRANS – Future use of Historic Train Depot:** Laura Trieschman spoke about the history of the Depot. Built in 1850, it has sat in the same spot ever since. In 1975 the building was transferred from the Public Service Board to VTRANS and VTRANS has leased the building to Roundtree Construction for the past 30 years. It has been a co-op partnership ever since. In 1978 the building was dedicated to Historic Preservation. In 2016, Historic Preservation got a condition assessment on the building, which showed it needed a new roof and brick work. In 2017, VTRANS first notified Historic Preservation that there would need to be changes made to the building / property. VTRANS followed that up with a letter saying the building would have to move to accommodate AMTRAK. This is when Historic Preservation realized they need to find out who to talk to and who to work with including bringing the community in to play a part. They waited to contact the Town because they weren't sure what was going to happen with the property; would they have to move or could the building stay. They had many questions that needed to be answered by VTRANS. The lot where the Depot sits is odd, a lot of wetlands and a busy junction. The building has been hit in the past

by derailments and passenger cars. Moving forward they want what is best for the community / building.

Trini Brassard from VTRANS said over the past 5 years the State has been working on bringing AMTRAK to Burlington. There have been lots of funds spent on upgrading the line between Rutland and Burlington. VTRANS had to look at what it would take to remove "safety risks" along the tracks; the Depot was identified as such. The setback is an issue; they need to plan for safely for possible derailments. They also need space for an off-load area; this is used by Phoenix Feeds and other commodities that use rail service. Trini also mentioned AMTRAK will be coming through at 59mph, safety is of utmost concern.

Discussed the possibility of moving the building back on the site; VTRANS is concerned about the site line coming from the north. Dan Morris has been in the building for many years, the staging area has always been there. He has not known of any derailments or cars hitting the building since the 1980's. Discussed moving the building onsite, and if there is enough space. Part of the issue is the wetlands are so close; the building would sit in the water. More discussion about funding for moving the building and possible re-use ideas. Trini offered to help the town find a new location for the Depot, and figure out a way to pay for it. Roundtree Construction is looking at a time frame of 6-7 months left in the building before it needs to be relocated. Dan Morris said Roundtree has been the custodian for the building for so long; Historic Preservation needs to be top priority.

2. **VELCO re: Laydown yard:** Will Dodge, Attorney from Downs Rachlin Martin for VELCO, Peter Lind and Jake Reed gave a presentation to the New Haven DRB the night before. VELCO is proposing to use a 1 acre area on site for a lay down yard. Said "yard" will be used for storing wetland mats, culverts, concrete barriers and due to COVID, they need extra work trailers during the construction of the new building. The existing 15' berm will have added screening, using pollinators per the Agreement with the Town. The wetland mats will be stacked a maximum of 12' high. The lay down yard will take approximately 3 weeks to construct, to be used during construction of the new building and as long term storage for VELCO as well as other Vermont utilities such as GMP and VTRANS. Allowing other utilities to rent equipment during an emergency. Wetlands mats have been stored there for years; they are proposing the same level of use. VELCO is aware of the neighbors, therefore their hours of operation during construction will be as follows: Monday – Friday 6am - 7pm, Saturday 8am – 5 pm and no work on Sunday or holidays. These hours will be posted on the entrance gate as well as contact information for the public. Discussed VELCO's timeline for approval of lay down yard; the Selectboard needs to hear from the DRB before making a decision. Also discussed the need a for a site plan for the DRB and the impact on

soils. The direct impact on soils is being sent over to the Agency of Agriculture for review.

3. **Sara Smith, Town Events:** Sara thanked the Selectboard for allowing Events to come up with ideas. They would like to continue to hold events in 2021. The Board agreed and thanked them for doing what they are doing.
4. **Maple broadband** is a Communication Union District (CUD), an organization of towns working together to build a communication infrastructure. They have adopted the new name as a marketing strategy and have received grants for the expansion of fiber optics. Jim Walsh and Eleanor Hagopian are on the Board of Directors, and would like permission to put information on the Towns' website with a link directly to Maple Broadband.

TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT given by Aaron Brown:

1. **Road Update:** Road Crew has worked on stump removal and snow removal.
2. Aaron met with Larry Buck and Doug McKain on the Triangle Bike Loop re: small bike-ped grants that are coming available. They are looking at funding for signage for the Bike Loop.
3. The Planning Commission will meet tomorrow to hopefully update it's timeline to get the energy plan to the Selectboard.

AUTHORIZATIONS:

1. Kathy Barrett made a motion to approve pay orders for the week ending 1/19/21, in the amount of \$30,136.99, seconded by Taborri Bruhl. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
2. Taborri Bruhl made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 1/16/21, in the amount of \$4,565.72, seconded by Kathy Barrett. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
3. Kathy Barrett made a motion to approve the 2021 Town Meeting Warning as edited; deleting Article 2 and making Article 1 by Australian Ballot. Agree to keep Article 7 and the "first" Article 8 as written. Motion seconded by Taborri Bruhl
Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
4. Taborri Bruhl made a motion to approve the mileage reimbursement rate at \$.56 per mile for 2021. Motion seconded by John Roleau Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
5. VAST permission to use Town Trail – defer, didn't receive form
6. Discuss the purchase of a town credit card – defer to next meeting, more information is needed
7. ACRPC Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement for the Public Works Depts: Mike Winslow from ACRPC explained when Aaron Brown contacted him in regards to having something in place by way of mutual aid in the event road crew members get COVID. Mike said they had been working on such a document. Regional Planning is working on formalizing things with other area towns, this can be used

for COVID or storms; it gives the advantage over informal agreements and also gets FEMA involved. Having this Mutual Aid Agreement will help with reimbursement from FEMA. There are currently 7 area towns who have signed on. There is no formal obligation to help other towns. The Board would like more time to review the Agreement prior to signing it. Defer approval until next meeting.

- 8. John Roleau made a motion to approve the minutes from 1/12/21, seconded by Taborri Bruhl. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

Adjourn: 9:04 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Pam Kingman

Approved on 2-2-21

Chair, Steve Dupoise

Kathleen S Barrett
Vice Chair, Kathy Barrett

Taborri Bruhl
Taborri Bruhl

John Roleau
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Jim Walsh

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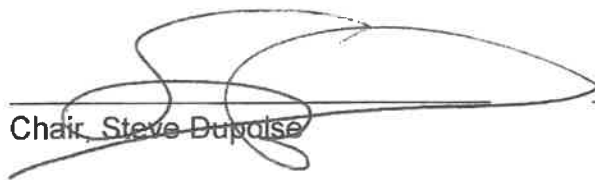
- 8. John Roleau made a motion to approve the minutes from 1/12/21, seconded by Taborri Bruhl. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

Adjourn: 9:04 pm

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