

MINUTES FROM MAY 26, 2009
WARREN SELECTBOARD
WARREN MUNICIPAL BUILDING
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andy Cunningham, Kirstin Reilly, Matt Groom.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Burt Bauchner, Chair, Erin Russell-Story.

OTHERS PRESENT: Ramon Weston, Rudy Elliott, Margo Wade, George Schenk, Damon Reed, Barry Simpson, Robin Bennett, Susan Hemmeter, Kara, (VR), Alex Maclay (TV 44), Cindi Hartshorn-Jones.

7:05 PM – Meeting called to order by Mr. Cunningham.

7:00 PM – ROAD CREW CHECK IN – RAEMON WESTON –

Mr. Weston started off the discussion by updating the board on road crew activities that things are going well. The road crews have been shaping up the roads from mud season and are being graded with an application of chloride. If there are any complaints or suggestions from the public, please feel free to call. The new truck is at Charliebois having the body installed on the truck body and the town is in hopes of getting it in two weeks. Gravel is being applied on some back roads that were not planned on as the Selectboard did not opt to throw up any roads and at the same time they are checking culverts. Work on some of the more majored gravel roads will be begin once culverts have been purchased and arrived and replaced allowing for the road and culverts to settle. The crew has a lot of shoulder work to do and they will use some of the reclaimed pavement. There are a lot of roads that need drainage work such as Fuller Hill past the Jack Jones property and in Prickly Mountain. There is some under drain in the area up on Prickly Mountain helping to maintain some drainage issues.

Mr. Cunningham inquired about how the hauling contract was going with Salvas. To date they have hauled in about 1325 yards and are about a ¼ done. Mr. Weston apprised the board that the town is out of drainage/erosion control stone and any further purchases will have to come out of the gravel budget. They have been looking at Tucker in Northfield which is crushed ledge. The biggest problem with crushed ledge is it causes flat tires as the rock is so sharp. Mr. Elliott spoke up and suggested looking at Varin's drainage stone. Mr. Weston would check into it. Mr. Cunningham inquired about culverts. Mr. Weston indicated that all the culverts would be received at once and is within budget. The road crew also has the Dump Road Erosion control project to start as the town has received a \$7,000 grant for the project from Better Backroads. Mr. Elliott thanked the road crew for applying chloride to the roads.

7:15 PM – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CHECK IN – BARRY SIMPSON -

Town Hall Update: The elevator has been inspected and the town is waiting on the state certification permit. Ruggco is near completion on the building and needs to finish up putting the stucco on the outside of the rigid insulation of the foundation. The Town will be withholding the \$7,000 and part of the 5% retainage fee for a total of \$17,000 for completion of the above items. (Verified with Ellen).

Elevator Entry Pad – The Town will do the work on the entry level pad into the elevator. There are some issues with this. If the Town paves the entry there are issues of frost heaves issues. Some thoughts are possibly putting a heated pad under the pavement. Removing the gravel, put in layer of 2" urethane foam, water proof membrane, gravel and they pave it. Other avenues are being explored as well.

Library Expenditure – The library board has approved expenditure from their fund raising funds to scrape and repaint the front steps to be done by Peter Forsthuber for around \$500.00. They also want to put on the front of the building a flat panel sign like the one they have now and open/closed sign. Mr. Cunningham indicated that they would have to go see the Town Zoning Dept for sign requirements.

Mr. Simpson also stated that he has received a quote back from Whitney Tree Service on removal of the 2 ash trees on Carl Lobel's Property line, the pine tree by the church and the two small dead maples by the cemetery fence for \$3,000. Ms. Jones inquired if he had gone back to Farr's Tree Service for a re-quote. Mr. Simpson stated that he had not as it was his feeling that it should be kept local. He also was working on the quote for demolition of the shed via the road crew and dumpster cost.

Hiring Additional Road Crew Member – Mr. Simpson has been talking with the road crew on the prospect of hiring a person on a part-time basis since there is a 90 probationary period. Still working with a 4 man crew for the summer and 5 in the winter months. He asked Ms. Jones to review the budget and to see what balance of funds that were available for this.

Main Street Bridge Paving – The coordination of the Main Street Paving/Membrane is being worked out with Blow & Cote (Bridge Contractor) and S.T. Paving.

Wheeler Brook – The base and top coat paving have been completed at the Wheeler Brook Project on the Access Road Cut. The contractor paved a 5' wide turnout with the funds that were available and also paved around the fire line "T" as requested by the Warren Fire Dept.

Speed Tables – Mr. Simpson met with Jon Reynolds of S.T. Paving and inquired about putting in speed tables in the village. Mr. Reynolds responded they do work but at high appropriate speeds and are not good for low grade, low speeds area. They are about \$2,500 each and it requires hand paving and whenever the road is repaved, they have to

be torn out. Mr. Weston indicated that they are not good for truck traffic and low beds will hit them as they are about 5' high. They are also very difficult to plow and cause a lot of damage to the plow trucks. Some thoughts suggested were to put in the "yield to pedestrian" signs like they have in the middle of Main Street in Waterbury. They also could paint white or yellow cross walks.

Inferno Road Rumble Strip – Mr. Simpson also spoke to Mr. Reynolds about a rumble strip down the side of the Inferno Road for the pedestrian Path. Mr. Reynolds indicated that the rumble strip would disappear in the winter and you need a lot of signage to designate the pedestrian path. He indicated that you could put in bollards with reflective stripes down the side of the road. However, the Town would plow the road and Sugarbush would plow the path but there would need to be a lot of coordination of plowing as it would create double the amount of plowing for both parties concerned.

Culvert Purchase – Mr. Simpson indicated to the board that through the bulk culvert purchasing program that Johnson Hardware had won the contract to supply aluminum/steel culverts that would last for 25 years. Supplier is getting information on this. Mr. Simpson is also checking to see if the pricing includes delivery to Warren and checking with Mr. Weston on how many is needed.

Town Garage Ingenuity – The road crew has also built a v-box pavement distributor out of an old sander. This keeps the pavement cold patch hot and adheres better to the area that is being patched. They have also taken the old stainless steel tank in the pit and built a chloride tank to utilized spreading the chloride better. It holds about 1800 gallons and works quite well.

The Flag – The old historic flag has been wrapped and is being stored under the school stage presently. The garden locations have now been moved and are behind the backstop out of the road and playing fields.

Windows – Mr. Simpson has been proceeding with talking with local contractors on windows. From discussions with Ellen Strauss, Sanford & Strauss, Mr. Bauchner, and the Planning Commission concerns, it appears that the windows are moving toward the historic preservation look. The cost will be more than vinyl or fiber glass.

8:00 PM – CONSERVATION CHECK IN – KNOTWEED – CONSERVATION COMMISSION –

The Commission members presented to the Selectboard their proposal for controlling knotweed on the upland roadsides. Ms. Hemmeter presented to the board a map of the area's showing the fast growing invasive plant. The two hardest hit areas are Fuller Hill and Lincoln Gap and West Hill Road. There would be about 4 pickup loads of on West Hill Road and 1 pickup load on Fuller Hill and maybe 4 on Lincoln Gap. There is a lot of this evasive weed growing along the riparian barrier along the Mad River. The Friends of the Mad River are trying to deal with this issue along the banks of the Mad River. The Commission will be asking private land owners to take care of the problem located on

their properties. The Commission will be having two cut backs one in June and the last in September. They would like to partner with the highway crew to developing a plan of action for the knotweed control on upland roadsides. They are looking for a place to store the bags or layer them up and burn the bags and weed. Mr. Weston did not want it located in the pit and thought that the town could rent a 40 yard dumpster that would be located on the backside of the town garage. Ms. Hemmeter indicated that the Nature Conservatory is also available to help the town find a dedicated, open spot in the sun that would help dry it and where it can be burned.

Mr. Cunningham wanted the commission to have a firm plan on what method and where the knotweed would be stored. He felt that the board did not want to add anymore burden to the road crew as they are short on help and have various projects to complete. He also inquired if other towns were active in controlling knotweed? Ms. Hemmeter's reply was Warren is the first to be active in controlling knotweed. She indicated that Fayston did have some interest as the knotweed was along German Flats in Fayston. The Commission was asking if the road crew could come along and pickup the bags along the roadside and provides the trucks. Mr. Cunningham stated that the road crew members get paid a good wage and this was a poor use of their time when they had road projects to do, i.e. graveling, changing out culverts, drainage work, and grading.

Mr. Schenk commented on both methods of controlling knotweed and wanted to know what kind of resources the town had to expend public money on this invasive plant. He commented that the town would have to invest some money into the project in the future or live with consequences as this evasive weed invades prime agricultural land and changes the vegetative landscape along with infecting the wildlife habitat. Mr. Schenk asked if people would step up to the task to volunteer time on this. He also stated that he has a spot down at his Flat Bread Location that the knotweed could be stored and burned in the open. He commended Ms. Hemmeter for her efforts in bring this project into the open to help educate the public and organizing volunteers to help cut back this evasive weed. He would like to also see the measure of change when cutting it back twice a year to see if the plan of cutting it back twice a year is working to control it. The Commission would also communicate with the road crew on their mowing schedule to work in that area of mowing.

Mr. Cunningham charged the task of the Conservation Commission to come up with budget contained within their budget for measures to control knotweed. 2) Offering to provide a dumpster behind the Town Garage and pay to have it hauled away. 3) Or hauling it down to Mr. Schenks' site to burn at a later date and 4) Come back to the board with a plan. Mr. Weston indicated that he would provide a dump truck at the location where it was off the road and safe for the volunteers to throw the bags into. The crew would come back later in the day and pickup the truck and dump it into a 40 yarder walk in dumpster if this is what the Commission wants.

8:50 PM – OTHER BUSINESS –

Approval of Minutes for May 12, 2009 – Motion by Mr. Groom to approve the Minutes of May 12, 2009, second by Ms. Reilly. All in Favor: VOTE: 3-0.

June 1st Education State Payment \$3.1+ Million Dollars Warrant – Ms. Jones reminded the board that 3 members would have to sign the warrant for authorization of sending the State Education Payment.

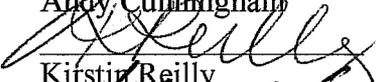
9:00 PM – Motion by Ms. Reilly to adjourn, second by Mr. Groom. All in Favor: VOTE: 3-0.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,
Cindi Hartshorn-Jones
Warren Town Administrator

Warren Selectboard



Andy Cunningham



Kirstin Reilly



Matt Groom

Erin Russell-Story

Burt Bauchner