

**TOWN OF WOODSTOCK
SELECT BOARD MEETING
November 19, 2019 @ 6:00 PM
Town Hall
Draft Minutes**

Draft Subject to approval.

Present: Chair L.D. Sutherland, Mary Riley, Jill Davies, Ray Bourgeois, John Doten, Frank Heald, Beth Fish, Fire Chief Green, Don Wheeler, Allison Clarkson, Macy Lawrence, Scott Johnston, Aaron Tesavis, Allison Clarkson, Jonathan Spector, Serena Nelson, Roger Logan, Allen Stein, Jennifer Waite, Randy Richardson, Susie Stulz, Wendy Merrinan

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair L.D. Sutherland called the November 19, 2019 meeting of the Select Board to order at 6:02pm.

II. ADDITIONS TO AND DELETIONS FROM THE POSTED AGENDA -None

III. CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

IV. TREE WARDEN REPORT

A. Sooty Mold on Trees

i. A few trees from the Town Hall to the Covered Bridge in the Village have Sooty Mold. Sooty

1. The solution that the Village Trustees have asked for more information on is spraying the trees in the spring with a non-toxic dormant oil and pruning the trees. The oil is non-toxic to humans and plants. It is a neem oil-based product. The pruning would reduce the sooty mold and allow sunlight into the tree canopies.

a. Pricing : \$650 for spraying and \$800-900 for pruning

B. Emerald Ash Borer

i. The Emerald Ash Borer infestations are getting close to Woodstock and the timing is unknown as to when it will reach the Town and Village. Currently, the Emerald Ash Borer is as close as Londonderry, VT. A plan needs to be put in place so that when it happens, the trees can be dealt with in a timely manner.

ii. Mr. Wheeler has been attending meetings on the Emerald Ash Borer and is gathering information to come up with a plan to deal with the trees when the Emerald Ash Borer gets here.

1. In the meantime, Mr. Wheeler is going to get an inventory of the Ash Trees within the Town and Village that are owned by the Town and Village and those that are in the right of way.

iii. The Billings Park Commission is working with Red Start Forestry to make a plan for the Emerald Ash Borer. It is an option to have this company come in and make a plan for the Town.

1. Ms. Clarkson has found that Red Start Forestry has contracted out to other municipalities to make Emerald Ash Borer Control Plans.

2. Ms. Clarkson was shocked to hear that Rutland is preemptively cutting down their trees, but it has been explained by Red Start Forestry that the cost for removal or treatment goes up significantly once the tree is infected. Also, the price of the trees goes down, so the cost offset would be less.

- C. Tree Management Plan for the Village
 - i. Mr. Wheeler is currently working on this plan, which will include tree planting and maintenance.
 - ii. Trees in the Village are the responsibility of the Village according to Mr. Wheeler.

V. FAULKNER TRUST PRESENTATION

- A. Background: Proposed Conveyance of Faulkner Park and Trails to the Town of Woodstock
 - i. A proposed donation to the Town of Woodstock of 25.23 acres of land and a \$850,000 endowment to maintain the park and trails was presented by Mr. Tesavis and Mr. Johnston from the Faulkner Trust.
 - ii. When the Faulkner Trust opened a conversation with the Billings Park Commission about transferring Faulkner Park to the Town of Woodstock, both the BPC and the Trust reviewed records of expenses for management and maintenance of the Park, as well as investments into the restoration of Faulkner Trail. The proposal is to have the Town of Woodstock manage the Faulkner Park and Trail System. The Faulkner Trustees have suggested \$850,000 endowment from the Faulkner Trust to the Town of Woodstock for the management of the park and trail system for a 20-year period. A 20-year historic average cost of \$47,000 with \$22,000 for general maintenance and the remaining balance is a floating cost for trail maintenance. The endowment would be managed by the Town of Woodstock like the Rockefeller Endowment Fund. Chippers is contracted out for tree removal and the leaf removal in the fall is sub-contracted as well. All of this is covered by the maintenance cost.
 - iii. The Town would be responsible for the park and the trail system. The terms are that the park is to be used for quiet space and that the plaque for Mrs. Faulkner that is currently there remain and be maintained. The agreement would stipulate that the land must stay as a “quiet” park and the trail system maintained. No building of condos or such.
 - iv. The funds given by the Faulkner Trust are to be used for maintenance of the trails and the park only.
- B. Mr. Sutherland asked if this would impact Jim Worth’s job? Mr. Worth is the current caretaker of the park and trail system. This would be up to the Town of Woodstock to decide how to proceed.
- C. If the Select Board agrees in principal, an agreement would be drafted and then the court and the Town of Woodstock would approve it.
- D. Ms. Merrinan – Asked why the Faulkner Trust would like to give up 1/3rd of the Trust when they can currently use any of the money however, they want. The Faulkner Trustees replied that they are not able to accommodate requests in a timely manner due to the processes they have in place and that they are in Rochester, NY and not able to see the property on a daily basis. The \$850,000 is on par with the historic numbers for a 20-year endowment and they feel that the park and trail system would be better managed by the Town of Woodstock.
- E. Chair Sutherland asked if there was a chance that the Faulkner Fund would want to transfer over the Woodstock Recreation Center portion to the Town as well. The Faulkner Trustees informed the Select Board that the Rec Center gets a lump sum grant every year in the amount of \$30,000. There is no plans or thoughts to transfer the endowment for the Rec Center.
- F. Mr. Richardson spoke in support of the property and management and said, “The original intention is to maintain the integrity of the park.” This endowment makes sense to him and gives local control, but the written agreement will make sure that the park and trail system stay as they are.
- G. Ms. Waite talked about how the Billings Park Commission spearheaded the trail improvement program, which has improved the Faulkner Trail System and that wasn’t the case prior to 2009.

- i. Ms. Clarkson talked about how the Billings Park Commission has included Mrs. Faulkner in their literature and pamphlets that are available to the public.
- H. Ms. Merrinan - It is her understanding that the Faulkner Trustees currently work with the abutting property owners. Chair Sutherland clarified that there is a probate hearing once a year that abutters can attend. The Faulkner Trustees clarified that the hearing now only happens every 3 years. There have been no concerns from neighbors. Ms. Merrinan asked if the Faulkner Trust pays an annual property tax to the Town of Woodstock. The Faulkner Trust pays an in lieu of taxes amount, but it has not occurred in the past few years. Mrs. Faulkner suggested that money be given but did not mandate it in her will.
 - i. Mr. Richardson supports the in lieu of taxes and believes that the benefit to the people is huge and is contributing to the Town in a larger way than a tax contribution. The park is overused during certain times of the year and the Town could be more hands on in the management of this.
- I. The Select Board would like to review the information given to them and come back to the Faulkner Trustees with questions regarding this proposed conveyance.
 - i. Ms. Merrinan would like for the Select Board to read Mrs. Faulkner's Will. A copy was given to Ms. Fish for the Select Board to review.

VI. OLD BUSINESS - None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Public Notice of Highways Open to Snowmobile Travel for 2019-2020 Season
 - i. Class III Town Highways #'s
 - 10 Larry Curtis Road
 - 11 Quinn Road
 - 20 Grassy Lane
 - 34 Arthur Morgan Road
 - 37 Noah Wood Road
 - 82 Academy Circle
 - i. Town Highway #35 from the Lincoln Covered Bridge east, approximately 1000 feet
 - ii. Town Highway #47 from the Trailer Park to the edge of Beaver Meadow
 - iii. Class IV sections Town Highways #'s #38 Bourdon Rd.
#12 Long Hill

Motion: by Mr. Doten to approve the Public Notice of Highways Open to Snowmobile Travel for 2019-2020 as submitted.

Seconded: by Ms. Davies

Discussion: None

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

II. PERMITS - None

III. BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS - None

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Manager's Report
 - i. The budget workbooks have been distributed to the Select Board and will continue to be refined. The Capital Budget is being worked on. The Emergency Services Building (ESB) footprint of the buildings are in the conference room and at the NWPL for viewing. All are encouraged to take a tour of the ESB on December 4th. Several meetings will be scheduled after the December 4th walkthrough for public input.
 - 1. If the Select Board would like, Chief Green can give them a private tour.
 - ii. The skim coat of the roads in the village has been postponed until spring.
 - iii. The Manager's Search Committee has finished its work and it is down to 4 prospective candidates. The onsite interviews are being scheduled now. The 4

candidates will arrive mid-morning and do an in-car tour and have lunch at the Town Hall and have interviews in the early afternoon with the Select Board.

1. Mr. Heald was very impressed with the efforts of the Search Committee.
 - iv. Taftsville WWTP – It has taken longer than expected, but completion should be done by next Tuesday.
 - v. Lincoln Covered Bridge- Wright Construction thinks it will be done by mid-December, and Mr. Heald still believes that it will be January.
 - vi. Main Plant WWTP – Roof replacement. It has been decided to replace the flue as well, so that has been added to the project.
 - vii. Personnel Policy – will be ready for review by the Select Board in December.
- B. Financial Report
- i. A financial report was reviewed by the Select Board.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. October 15, 2019 Minutes
 - i. Add Ms. Barry to section IV, A, vi where it says a Sustainable Woodstock.
- B. November 06, 2019 Minutes
- C. November 14, 2019 Minutes

Motion: by Ms. Davies to approve the minutes as submitted with the change of October 15, 2019 minutes to add Ms. Barry to section IV, A, vi where it says a Sustainable Woodstock.

Seconded: by Ms. Riley

Discussion: None

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

VI. ADJOURNMENT PENDING REVIEW EXPENSE WARRANTS

Motion: by Mr. Bourgeois to adjourn the meeting at 7:15pm pending review of expense warrants.

Seconded: by Mr. Doten

Discussion: None

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Fish