

Stowe Selectboard and Water & Sewer Commissioners Meeting
Monday March 11, 2019
Akeley Memorial Hall

Present:

Selectboard Members: William Adams, William Noyes, Morgan Nichols, Neil Van Dyke, Lisa Hagerty
Public Works Director Harry Shepard; Planning Director Tom Jackman; Caleigh Cross; Charles Lusk;
Robert Murphy; Robert Moore; Candace Elmquist

Call to Order

Chair William Adams called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Approve the Agenda

On a motion by Ms. Morgan Nichols, seconded by Mr. William Noyes, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

Election of Officers

Traditionally, at the first meeting after Annual Town Meeting, the Selectboard Members elect a new Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk.

On a motion by Ms. Lisa Hagerty, seconded by Mr. Adams, the Board appointed Mr. William Noyes as Chair.

On a motion by Ms. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Neil Van Dyke, the Board appointed Ms. Lisa Hagerty as Vice Chair.

On a motion by Ms. Hagerty, seconded by Mr. Van Dyke, the Board appointed Ms. Abigail Earle as Selectboard Clerk.

Consent Items

- a. Minutes of February 25, 2019
- b. Designation of Official Newspaper
- c. Designation of Regular Selectboard Meeting Time & Location
- d. Revocation of Mayo Farm Stormwater Permit
- e. Water-Sewer Allocation 57 Meadow Lane

On a motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Ms. Nichols, the Board approved the Consent Items.

Liquor Consent Items

Special Event Permit Application:

- White Mountain Distillery dba Stowe Cider: Demo @ Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center
March 9, 2019 6:00pm – 11:00pm
- Go America Go Beverages dba WhistlePig Whiskey: Tasting at Spruce Peak @ 142 Red Sled Drive
March 16, 2019 3:00pm – 5:00pm
- Mill River Brewing: Tasting at Stowe Public House @ 109 Main Street
March 23, 2019 12:00pm – 3:00pm
- Appalachian Gap Distillery Inc: Tasting at Skinny Pancake @ 7416 Mountain Road

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March 30, 2019 1:00pm – 5:00pm

- Vermont Beer Shapers dba Trout River Brewing: Educational Testing @ Stowe Public House
April 20, 2019 4:00pm – 7:00pm

Art Gallery, Book Store, Museum or Library Serving Permit:

- Vermont Ski Museum: @ 1 South Main Street
March 23, 2019 5:00pm – 8:00pm
- Vermont Ski Museum: @ 1 South Main Street
April 11, 2019 5:30pm – 8:30pm

Request to Cater:

- Trapp Family Lodge: Season Pass Holder's Party @ Trapps Outdoor Center
March 31, 2019 12:00pm – 5:00pm
- Trapp Family Lodge: Catamount Ultra Marathon @ Trapps Outdoor Center
June 22, 2019 7:00am – 5:00pm
- Trapp Family Lodge: Kids Adventure Games @ Trapps Outdoor Center
July 27, 2019 12:00pm – 5:00pm
- Trapp Family Lodge: Trapp Mountain Marathon @ Trapps Outdoor Center
October 19, 2019 7:00am – 5:00pm

2019 Annual Liquor License:

- Maplewood Holdings Inc dba The Backyard Tavern @ 395 Mountain Road: First Class & Outside Consumption
- Cork Wine Bar & Market of Stowe dba Cork Wine Bar & Deli @ 35 School Street: First Class, Second Class & Outside Consumption
- 1500 Edson Hill Operations LLC dba Edson Hill Manor @ 1500 Edson Hill Road: First Class
- Dinand Real Estate Associates dba Golden Eagle Resort & Spa @ 511 Mountain Road: First Class & Outside Consumption
- Grey Fox Inn (Kocisko) Corporation Inc dba Grey Fox Inn & Resort @ 990 Mountain Road: First Class & Outside Consumption
- Carpenter Food Company dba Harvest Market @ 1031 Mountain Road: Second Class
- Jack Fox Enterprises dba Moscow Schoolhouse @ 383 Moscow Road: Second Class
- Bourne Food Mart Inc. dba Notchbrook General Store @ 4968 Mountain Road: Second Class
- Sang Thong LLC dba Saensook Thai Kitchen Sushi & Martini Bar @ 504 Mountain Road: First Class
- POPI LLC dba Salute @ 18 Edson Hill Road: First Class
- Sherman Enterprises Inc dba Stowe Mercantile @ 38 Main Street: Second Class
- Baraw Enterprises dba Stoweflake Resort & Conference Center @ 1746 Mountain Road: First Class & Outside Consumption
- Tap 25 Craft Beer Inc dba Tap 25 @ 151 Main Street: First Class & Outside Consumption

On a motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Ms. Hagerty, the Board approved the Liquor Consent Items as listed.

FY18 Audit Report

Fred Duplessis from Sullivan & Powers was present to discuss the FY18 Audit and Management Letter. Mr. Duplessis explained that their role as auditor is to provide an opinion on the Town's financial statements compliance with governmental auditing standards. In their opinion, the Town of Stowe does comply with generally accepted accounting principles, with no major changes from previous years. He pointed out a minor concern about the amount of money in the unassigned fund balance getting low. This fund has been used to give back to the voters to stabilize tax rates, but currently contains about \$450,000 which is about a two-week cash flow. Currently the Town utilizes the Water and Sewer funds for cash flow by internal borrowing during the time between the new Fiscal Year and the first tax payment installment. This fund is also needed for unplanned emergencies. Right now the fund is about 3.5% of the total budget, and the auditors recommended working to increase that to 10% over time. There were no other material weaknesses or deficiencies found. All other recommendations from the auditors have been addressed by staff to their satisfaction.

Emerald Ash Borer Plan

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a highly invasive insect that kills ash trees of any species, size or vigor once it has established itself in an area. It spreads through flight and by transportation on firewood, logs, and nursery stock. In 2018 EAB has been found for the first time in several areas of Vermont, with the closest location being Montpelier. The High Risk Area extends into Waterbury. The Conservation Commission has drafted an Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness Plan to provide an action plan for what Stowe can do now and in the future to attempt to deal with the EAB threat.

Rob Moore, chair of the Conservation Commission, spoke to the action steps of the plan, noting that it will be an evolving document as the EAB threat gets closer and will be subject to modifications going forward as appropriate. At this time the recommended plan for public trees is to wait until the tree dies and deal with it on a case by case basis. Mr. Charlie Lusk, Town Tree Warden, warned that when ash trees die, they get very brittle and can be difficult to remove.

Specific private property owners have also been contacted, and Mr. Moore indicated that a number are planning to treat their trees, including those on Ampersand property and the Post Office property. At this point it is unclear what the State plans to do with state forests, as the vast amounts of land make it difficult to have a full timber inventory.

This is an emerging issue that will increasingly become a budgetary issue overtime. The plan is currently located on the Town Website and a public seminar is being hosted by the Conservation Commission on Wednesday March 20.

On a motion Mr. Adams, seconded by Ms. Nichols, the Board accepted the Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness Plan.

Manager's Report

Town Manager Charles Safford provided an update on the David Gale Recreation Center. Recently the Department of Children and Families sent a letter notifying them that in order to continue to offer the After School Program it would be required to license the After School Program, which would impact any the Summer Camp Program because it is over 13 weeks and provided by the same provider. - Licensing the After School Program - would require limiting registration to a maximum of 30 children for either program based on the square footage and number of restrooms and wash stations at the Gale Center. While this wouldn't be a problem for the After School Program, which currently has up to 25 children per day, it would impact the Summer Camp which currently has up to 70 children per day. There is no restriction or requirement to license the summer camp if the municipality didn't have the After School

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Program. It is atypical for the municipality to run an after school program, they are usually run through the schools. Parks & Recreation is exploring alternatives, including seeing if the school or another private provider is interested in assuming the after school program. The Recreation Commission will explore the various alternatives and make a recommendation to the Selectboard.

Mr. Safford also updated the Board on the February Year-to-Date Financials. The budget is tracking well overall, with overbudgeted expenses in highway due to the winter severity and in finance due to moving from a part-time to a full-time finance director.

On a motion by Ms. Hagerty, seconded by Mr. Van Dyke, the Board went into executive session to discuss personnel and contracts at 6:17pm.

The Board came out of executive session at 6:32pm. On a motion by Ms. Nichols, seconded by Ms. Hagerty, the Board appointed Candace Elmquist to the Recreation Commission to fill a vacant seat which will expire April 30, 2020.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Earle