

**Stowe Selectboard Meeting
Monday October 28, 2019
Akeley Memorial Hall**

Present:

Selectboard Members: William Noyes, Lisa Hagerty; Morgan Nichols; Neil Van Dyke, William Adams
Public Works Director Harry Shepard, Parks & Recreation Director Matt Frazee, Arena Superintendent
Tony Whitaker, Paul Sakash, Jed Lipsky, Lynn Altadonna, Mary Skelton, Cathy Davis, Adam Davis,
Terrie Whese, Ben Novogroski, Dominick Donza, Kelly Hickey, Matthew Luce

Call to Order

Chair William Noyes called the Stowe Selectboard and Liquor Commission meeting to order at 5:31pm.

Approve the Agenda

On a motion by Mr. Billy Adams, seconded by Ms. Morgan Nichols, the Board approved the agenda For the Liquor Commission and Selectboard as presented.

Approve the Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hagerty, the Board approved the minutes of October 15, 2019 as presented.

Liquor Commission

Chair Noyes opened the Liquor Commission meeting at 5:33pm

Liquor Consent Items

2019 Annual Liquor License:

- Some Saucy LLC dba Stowe Public House @ 109 Main Street First Class Restaurant, Second Class sales and Outside Consumption (year-round 10:00am to 8:00pm)

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

Selectboard Meeting

Chair Noyes opened the Selectboard Meeting at 5:35pm

Consent Items

1. Maple Run Motorized Trail Access for Sugaring
2. Health Officer Appointment

On a motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Neil Van Dyke, the Board approved the Consent Items as presented.

Motor Vehicle Ordinance Amendment Public Hearing

Chair Noyes opened a Public Hearing to discuss putting a cross walk at Depot Street and Thomas Lane. This was requested as it is an area that is frequently traveled by school-aged children and this would make it easier for them to cross. Public Works Director Harry Shepard has assessed the sight lines found it will be acceptable with pedestrian crossing ahead signs posted on the hill. There was no comment from the public.

On a motion by Ms. Nichols, seconded by Ms. Hagerty, the Board approved the amendment to the Motor Vehicle Ordinance to add a crosswalk across Depot Street at its intersection with Thomas Lane.

Rec Task Force Summer Ice Report

Recreation Commission Chair Lynn Altadonna presented to the Selectboard their report analyzing if summer ice is an appropriate option for the Stowe Arena. This was spurred on by the departure of NAHA, although they have since committed to returning for one tournament and one summer camp. Mr. Altadonna noted that the task force was made up of Recreation Commission members as well as public participants, who met several times over September and October to provide the recommendation to the Selectboard on whether the Stowe Arena should have ice for summer 2020. Mr. Altadonna reported that the Task Force found that projected revenues for Summer of 2020 will be \$50,730.00, similar to those of Summer 2019 which was \$50,942. They found that other summer events, such as an additional week of Kellian Hockey camp and of Pelky Hockey camp. Make A Wish has requested to hold a tournament in the summer of 2020 if given a 50% discount. It was discussed that the major expenses of running the Arena are electricity and personnel, but that even if the Arena were closed in the summer, a substantial portion of the electricity costs due to the demand charges would still exist without any offsetting revenue. They also looked at using the Arena for summer camp children in the summer; but found it would be less utilized than summer ice and would also make preparation for the Labor Day Ice Hockey Tournament difficult.

It was noted by members of the Arena community that taking out ice in the summer would cause them to take their programs to other rinks not only in the summer but year-round.

The Task Force touched on staffing, which Town Manager Charles Safford noted has been reduced from 4 full time staff to 3 at the Arena, and from 3 full time staff in the Recreation department to 2.

Additionally, the Task Force recommended a \$20,000 earmark in FY21 budget for arena promotion. This would be someone in the hockey network who could work on getting more tournaments and camps. The Selectboard asked the Recreation Commission to further define the goals and process for the expenditure of these funds. They also discussed looking into charging of the school for usage of the Arena. They instructed the Town Manager to include this topic for further discussion on their November 28th meeting agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Van Dyke, the Board approved the Rec Task Force recommendation to have ice in summer 2020.

On a motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Ms. Hagerty, the Board approved the Make A Wish Foundation request to book an ice tournament in summer 2020 at a discount of 50% from the current rates.

Personnel Rules Amendments

Staff recommended a number of amendments to the Stowe Personnel Rules. This included defining provisional employees as those who are regular full-time employees that have been promoted or transferred to another position in the first 6 months while they are evaluated to see if they are suitable for the position. The second amendment included a 10% of current rate of pay payment for time employees under Personnel Rules spend on call. This mirrors IBEW language and will encompass Parks employees who need to be readily available for plowing and other emergencies. A section was added to include a yearly \$500 clothing and \$150 safety shoe allowance for the Fire Chief. This is in line with the Police and EMS chief, as well as Wastewater Superintendent and Parks and Arena employees. Wording was changed from “Stowe Rescue Squad” to “Stowe Emergency Medical Service Department” and from

:Stowe Emergency Management Agency” to “Stowe Public Safety Agency.” Mr. Safford also noted a change to remove pro-rated benefits for regular part-time employees. This is a move away from having regular part-time employees to having only “at will” irregular e employees. At-will employees can work up to an average of 30 hours per week within a calendar year without being eligible for benefits.

Manager’s Report

Mr. Safford presented the Board with comments from the Lamoille County Planning Commission regarding the draft General Permit for Operational Stormwater Discharges (a.k.a. three-acre rule). Of major concern is the implementation timeline and the anticipated costs of compliance without financial assistance. Under the current draft, Memorial Park and the Highway Garage are listed as needing to comply with the three-acre rule stormwater permitting requirements. Public Works Director Harry Shepard noted that the timeline for this including having engineering completed and permit applications in place by 1/1/2021, which would fall into the next budget year. There is a yearly - opt out fee, but it appears that it is going to be expensive to opt out. Mr. Shepard also noted that the concern will be getting qualified engineers to do the work as many towns in the State are facing these same deadlines, and it includes private lands as well. No action is necessary at this time, but it does need to be a consideration as we enter into the FY21 budgeting season.

Mr. Safford also presented the Board with a legal opinion from the Town attorney stating that Class 1 E-Bikes are allowed by State Law on the recreation path. Class 1 E-Bikes are pedal assisted and designed to go no faster than 20mph. Staff will be working to update the ordinance to reflect this and have asked the Recreation Commission to explore if there should be a speed limit on the Rec Path. If so, should what should it be?

Mr. Shepard provided a construction update, noting that this week the last large branch of conduits near Mac’s is being installed. A final conduit installation behind Shaw’s General Store will occur the first week in November. There is still paving to be completed including the trenches on Main Street, the Mountain Road intersection and along the newly installed curb on Mountain Road. This paving, along with miscellaneous punch list items, will occur within the next few weeks as the construction season draws to an end. Looking ahead at spring 2020, there is still a large part of the project to be completed. This is removing the concrete slabs under South Main Street, replacing a water main and then rebuilding the road. This will be accomplished with a mixture of night and day work, as the State has plans to pave Class 1 Roads in Stowe just after the 4th of July. Work will also be done to behind the scenes pulling wires through the conduits and connecting each building.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Earle