

**MINUTES
TOWN OF SWANTON
SELECTBOARD MEETING
Town Office Building
1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT 05488
In-Person & By Zoom
Tuesday, April 19, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Present: James Guilmette, Chair, Nicole Draper, Earl Fournier, Members, Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk; Amy Giroux, Zoning Administrator, Brian Savage, Town Administrator; Patrick Parah; Rebecca Brace; Joel Clark; Mark Nolan; Priscilla Connelly; George Connelly; Albert Norman; Michelle Nordberg; WS; Elisabeth Nance; Roger George.

*All motions carried unanimously unless specified otherwise.

A. Call to Order – Mr. Guilmette called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance – Mr. Guilmette led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Agenda Review

D. Meeting Topics

1. Minutes

a) April 5, 2022 Regular and Zoom Selectboard Meeting

Mr. Fournier made a motion to approve the Draft Minutes of the April 5, 2022 Selectboard meeting, seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

2. Public Comments

Mr. Nolan commended the road crew on the great job they have done clearing the snow this winter.

3. Liquor Control

a) Recess Selectboard Meeting and convene Liquor Control Board

Mr. Fournier made a motion at 7:20 p.m., seconded by Ms. Draper, to exit the Selectboard meeting and enter the Liquor Control Commission meeting. Motion Carried.

New Liquor License Application – Mama Bear Inc. (Swanton House of Pizza) & Champlain Farms formerly known as Pump N Munch.

Ms. Brace came before the commission as a first-time applicant for Mama Bear Inc.

Mr. Fournier made a motion, seconded by Ms. Draper, to approve the license for Mama Bear Inc. (Swanton House of Pizza) and Champlain Farms formerly known as Pump N Munch. Motion carried.

b) Adjourn Liquor Control Board and re-enter Selectboard Meeting

Ms. Draper made a motion at 7:27 p.m., seconded by Mr. Fournier, to exit the Liquor Control Commission meeting and re-enter the Selectboard meeting. Motion carried.

4. Law Enforcement

a) Swanton Animal Control Officer Monthly Report

The Board had no questions on the report.

b) Swanton Health Officer Report

No Health Officer Report

5. Old Town Business

a) RTP Grant/Executing Lease Agreements with State of Vermont (Joel Clark)

Mr. Clark stated the deadline for the RTP grant has been moved from the end of April to May 26, 2022. The State is ready to have the Selectboard sign the document to lease the property at the western terminus of the rail trail for 5 years at a time. One of the conditions of the grant is for the lease to be executed prior to the submission date of the grant. The grant is \$30,000 maximum. If the grant is approved for \$30,000 Mr. Clark is hoping to work with the highway department to clear the land and put some gravel out for the parking area to make it more accessible. Mr. Savage stated there is a \$300.00 document fee and recording fees.

Mr. Fournier made a motion, seconded by Ms. Draper to sign the lease agreement with State of Vermont so that we can secure the property at the trail head. Motion carried.

b) SPAN – Memorandum of Understanding on Art Boards

Ms. Connelly stated it has been over a year since they have been before the board. SPAN has a MOU with the Village for the Art Boards and would like to know where SPAN stands with the Town. Ms. Connelly also answered one of the questions the Board had; SPAN does have insurance through the Arts Council. This is about public art; not just the art boards. Ms. Nordberg echoed that SPAN is asking to establish a partnership with the Board. Mr. Guilmette stated he was on board now that he knows that SPAN has insurance. Ms. Nordberg asked that this becomes part of the Municipal Plan and possibly zoning. Mr. Fournier has concern about regulating too much through zoning.

Mr. Fournier made a motion, seconded by Ms. Draper to approve the MOU with SPAN. Motion carried.

Ms. Draper made a motion to authorize Mr. Savage to sign the MOU document, seconded by Mr. Fournier. Motion carried.

6. New Town Business

a) Swanton Arts Council – Gathering of the Realms (David Stous)

This agenda item is tabled; no one was present.

b) Swanton Public Library – appointment to fill Board of Trustees vacancy

This agenda item is tabled as Mr. Guilmette stated the full Board should be present for the appointment.

c) Swanton Public Library – grant possibilities

Mr. Savage received an email about grant possibilities for the library. Ms. Rupp ran across some other grants that are available. RFP for heating system to replace the boiler, insulation issue and paint on the exterior of the building. Mr. Guilmette asked when is the grant deadline. Ms. Nance stated it was the 1st of May, 2022. Mr. Guilmette stated that if the grant is a 50% match that would be a lot of money to add to the budget. Ms. Nance listed what would be an acceptable use for the grant money. Ms. Nance will start working on the application for the grant. Mr. Guilmette will work on getting estimates for the work that needs to be done at the library.

d) Appoint Elisabeth Nance as Swanton Representative to NWCUD

Mr. Fournier made a motion to appoint Ms. Nance as Swanton Representative to NWCUD, seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

e) Maquam Shore Water Quality Study

Mr. Guilmette stated we did not receive the grant for the Maquam Shore study. There is another grant that Ms. Nance has applied for. This grant was an appropriation requested through Congressman Welch's office. It is not money for this year but for the year 2023. Ms. Draper read a letter from some of the residents of Maquam Shore. The letter asked that the Board consider using Federal Stimulus Funds for the study. Mr. Norman stated he is here to give any history and background on this issue and Mr. George is here as well. Mr. Fournier stated we don't have a grant right now. Ms. Draper feels the full board should be present to make a decision on spending stimulus money. Mr. Fournier has concern about piece mealing the stimulus funds and the board has not gone out to the public yet. Mr. Guilmette stated that the board has not even started discussing how we are going to use the stimulus funds. Mr. Guilmette asked Mr. Savage to look into whether the AARPA monies we spend have to go out to bid.

7. Community & Economic Development

a) Leader Evaporator

Mr. Savage stated that the purchase of Leader Evaporator is a positive all the way around. Ms. Draper stated they are having an open house and Mr. Fournier said the Board had talked about going to the open house.

Ms. Nance community wide yard sale will be May 22 and the rain date is May 23rd. Ms. Nance was very happy to hear that Mr. Savage got an email from VTRANS that the grant was approved for the scoping study that was done for the down town area. Ms. Nance said that progress is being made on the Riviere Hotel project. Progress is slow but is moving forward.

8. Highway Department

a) Updates

Mr. Savage is working on bids for paving projects. The Fourth Street garage area will be getting new sidewalks and a new crosswalk. We are waiting to see if we are approved for the grant for Beebe Road. Wheeler Round needs to be paved and the Town and Village will have to get together to see where to go with paving that Street as the man hole covers need to be raised. Mr. Guilmette stated the four Streets on the list to be paved is Beebe Road, Wheeler Round, part of Bushey Road and Campbell Bay Road.

Mr. Guilmette does not want to pay the bill for the body of the truck until some research is done. The highway crew has been picking up trash. Ms. Draper, on behalf of the Recreation Department, would like to thank them for help fixing the driveway.

9. Expenditures

- a) General Orders - Mr. Fournier made a motion to approve the General Orders of 3/16/2022 through 4/19/2022, seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.
- b) Highway Orders – Mr. Fournier made a motion to approve the Highway Orders of 3/16/2022 through 4/19/2022, seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.
- c) Payroll Orders – Ms. Draper made a motion to approve the payroll orders of 3/16/2022 to 4/19/2022, seconded by Mr. Fournier. Motion carried.
- d) Library Payroll Orders – Ms. Draper made a motion to approve the payroll orders of 3/16/2022 to 4/19/2022, seconded by Mr. Fournier. Motion carried.

10. Any Other Necessary Business

a) H.715 position

Mr. LaRose, owner of the liquor store, stopped into see Mr. Savage with paperwork from Bourne's about the clean heat standard. If this passes it is going to make those of us who are not heating with electricity, pay more if they cannot afford to switch over their heating system.

Ms. Draper made a motion to write a letter to our Senators regarding H.715, seconded by Mr. Fournier. Motion carried.

11. Correspondence

Mr. Centabar resigned from the Cemetery Commission.

12. Public Comments (Reprise)

13. Upcoming Events

- a) Thursday – 4/21/2022 – Joint Town and Village Information Meeting for Special Town and Village Vote – 7:00 pm – Village Complex
- b) Tuesday – 4/26/2022 – Special Town Vote, Special Village Vote, and Missisquoi Valley School District Vote – polls open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm – Swanton Village Complex – 120 First street
- c) Wednesday – 4/27/2022 – Planning Commission – 6:00 pm – Swanton Town Offices – 1 Academy Street
- d) Thursday – 4/28/2022 – DRB – 6:00 pm – Swanton Town Offices – 1 Academy Street
- e) Tuesday – 5/3/2022 – Regular Selectboard Meeting - 7:00 pm Swanton Town Offices – 1 Academy St. – in person or via Zoom

14. Executive Session (Personnel, Real Estate)

Ms. Draper made a motion to enter executive session at 8:50 p.m., seconded by Mr. Fournier. Motion carried.

Ms. Draper made a motion to exit executive session at 9:46 p.m., seconded by Mr. Fournier. Motion carried.

No action taken.

E. Adjournment –

Ms. Draper made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 p.m., seconded by Mr. Fournier. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Giroux

Received and filed by:

Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk

Date