

**MINUTES
TOWN OF SWANTON
SELECTBOARD MEETING
In-Person & By Zoom
Town Office Building
1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT 05488
Tuesday, July 5, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Present: James Guilmette, Chair; Mark Rocheleau, Vice Chair; Earl Fournier, Nicole Draper, Members; Brian Savage, Town Administrator; Joseph Cava, Administrative Assistant; Patrick Parah; Joel Clark; Betsy Fournier; Ron Kilburn; Sandy Skeels Kilburn; Gordon Winters; Matthew Sullivan, Swanton Police Chief; Liz Curry, Common Land Solutions, LLC (Zoom User); Jamie (Zoom User); Kate (Zoom User)

*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) June 21, 2022, Regular and Zoom Selectboard Meeting

- Mr. Rocheleau made a motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the 6/21/22 Selectboard meeting, seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

- 2. Public Comments - None

- 3. Law Enforcement

- a) Swanton Police Chief Report

- Members of the Town Selectboard briefly reviewed the Swanton Police Chief's Report. Chief Sullivan reported 55 incidents, the largest offences being traffic stops, motor vehicle complaints, and family/domestic fights. Chief Sullivan reported how shocking the excessive speed data was on Maquam Shore Rd. Around 56% of the data reported speeds exceeding 50 mph, which is already 10 mph above the posted speed limit.

- Mr. Rocheleau expressed the importance of policing this area which has an influx of tourism during the summer months. Mr. Savage also shared correspondence of excessive speeds on Bachand Rd., and Lakewood Dr. Chief Sullivan continued saying that of the 6,500 speeders recorded, about 4,000 were clocked at ten miles per hour over the posted speed limit. Mr. Fournier asked Chief Sullivan about traffic studies to cut back on individuals speeding.

- Mr. Guilmette remarked that there have been enough warnings and its time to implement greater fines to deter speeding. Mr. Rocheleau asked what it would take to get a greater police presence in the community? Chief Sullivan responded that he would need to do some research to understand the cost outside the Governor's Highway Safety detail.

- b) Swanton Health Officer Report

- No report was submitted for review.

4. Old Town Business

a) ARPA Funding Suggestions

Mr. Rocheleau opened by sharing his own suggestions for the ARPA funds based upon the recommendations shared at the previous meeting including an expansion of recreational opportunities, system and building upgrades, and scoping studies to better understand the needs of the community. Ms. Draper echoed Mr. Rocheleau's thoughts adding to the importance of establishing a community center and making more community buildings ADA accessible.

Mr. Fournier also agreed and stressed the importance of a place for growth including the Southern Growth District. In addition to the Southern Growth District, Mr. Fournier added there also needs to be an investment in the existing Downtown sector including services like daycare which is sorely lacking across the State of Vermont. On a final note, Mr. Guilmette added a need to address existing infrastructure including buildings, roads, and bridges, so Swanton can support an increased tourist economy.

b) Voicemail Upgrade

Mr. Savage recommended pushing it to the next meeting once a plan can be formalized with Peter Smith, IT.

5. New Town Business

a) Liquor License Application – Maple City Candy, LLC

Mr. Fournier made a motion to enter the Liquor Control Board, seconded by Mr. Rocheleau. Motion carried.

Mr. Rocheleau made a motion to approve the liquor license for Maple City Candy, LLC, seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

Mr. Rocheleau made a motion to exit the Liquor Control Board, seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

b) Mr. Joel Clark – Regarding LVRT Trailhead & Recreation Community Center

Mr. Clark opened by discussing the LVRT trail head and the recurring environmental issues that would come with a buffer zone on the property. The LVRT is coming through with increased opportunities for grant funding to help offset the cost of these long-term projects. In addition to applying for grant funds, Mr. Clark recommended having a meeting with Cross Consulting Engineers to put together a formal plan on how to implement a community center on the recreation property.

A preliminary plan has already been put together by community members that is classified as a level three facility. Mr. Parah asked about lighting? Mr. Clark responded that lighting is a part of the long-term planning process. Ms. Fournier added to the importance of expanding recreational opportunities as was echoed by Mr. Winters for crafting a master plan for growth. Mr. Rocheleau emphasized that the greatest accomplishment of this organized body to keep moving forward regardless of the size and scale of proposed projects.

Mr. Rocheleau made a motion to approve Mr. Clark's plan to speak with Cross Consulting Engineers to figure out the next steps of the planning process, seconded by Mr. Fournier. Motion carried.

c) Survey Proposals for Recently Acquired Town Property

Mr. Savage brought up that most of the proposal bids ranged between \$3,000.00 - \$3,500.00 to survey the property.

Mr. Fournier made a motion to accept Day's Surveying bid to not exceed \$3,500.00 and extend beyond two months of work, seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

Mr. Fournier made a motion to authorize Brian Savage to administer the chosen surveyor proposal, seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

d) Sponsorship of VCDP Planning Grant Application for the Redevelopment of the Abenaki Tribal Headquarters

Ms. Curry expressed the favor that a non-profit can receive by linking itself with a municipality for sponsorship. Mr. Fournier asked about the administrative funds involved with planning grants? Ms. Curry said that support provided with timecard records could be used reimburse funds from the Town.

Mr. Fournier made a motion for the Town to sponsor the application of municipal grant funds for the redevelopment of the Abenaki Tribal Headquarters, seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

6. Community & Economic Development

The Leader Evaporator has officially been sold to H2O Innovation.

7. Highway Department

a) Beebe Road Update

The culvert has been installed with guardrails with paving to commence later this week.

b) Maquam Shore Road Culvert

Mr. Savage spoke with an engineer who estimated a price tag ranging from \$150,000.00 - \$250,000.00. The engineer recommended a design build route to best address the needs of replacing the culvert.

c) Acceptance of Beebe Road Paving Grant

Mr. Fournier made a motion to accept and approve the \$196,000.00 in grant funding, to be signed by Mr. Guilmette, seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

d) Repairs to Pedestrian Bridge Deck

Mr. Barney noted rot on three boards in the decking of the pedestrian bridge and reported it to Mr. Savage. Mr. Savage will be exploring opportunities to address the rot.

8. Any Other Necessary Business - None

9. Correspondence - None

10. Public Comments (Reprise)

Mr. Kilburn wanted to remind the Selectboard and those present of the pivotal role and value of the historical society to the greater Swanton community.

Ms. Kilburn asked about the status of the “Belonging Statement?” Ms. Draper said a meeting is needed between the Village and the Town so both governments can adopt a similar version. Mr. Fournier also added to the importance of coming to a consensus for upgrading the Town’s website.

11. Upcoming Events

- a) Regular and Zoom Selectboard Meeting – Tuesday, July 19, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Office Building, 1 Academy Street
- b) Planning Commission Meeting – Wednesday, July 20, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. – Town Office Building, 1 Academy Street
- c) DRB Meeting – Thursday, June 28, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. – Town Office Building, 1 Academy Street

12. Executive Session (Real Estate & Personnel)

Ms. Draper made a motion to enter executive session at 8:33 p.m., seconded by Mr. Rocheleau. Motion carried.

Mr. Fournier made a motion to exit executive session at 9:23 p.m., seconded by Mr. Rocheleau. Motion carried.

No motions taken.

- E. Adjournment – Mr. Rocheleau made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 p.m., seconded by Ms. Draper. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Cava
Administrative Assistant

Received and filed by:

Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk

Date