**MINUTES**



**Town of Vinalhaven**

**Board of Selectmen**

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

5:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

1. **Roll Call -** Selectmen Eric Gasperini, Phil Crossman, Pam Alley, Jacob Thompson, Donald Poole; Town Manager Andrew Dorr; and Deputy Town Clerk Elizabeth Bunker  
     
   Also present were Matt Jablonski, Janann Sherman, Jim Cogswell, Elin Elisofon, Alexander Moffatt, Mark Tolette, Patrick Shane, Patrick Trainer, Jennifer Clements, Dan Cross, Suzanne Cross, Jack Olson, Shawn Chilles, Jeff Chilles, Linda Lapointe, Barb Philbrook, Faye Grant, Johnny McCarthy, John Morton, Harry Holt & Pamela Kittridge.

Attending virtually: Gabe McPhail, Lisa Cooney, Samantha Thompson, and Marion Grogan

1. **Approve Agenda -** Add 3. Executive Session; remove Old Business items; add 10b. Quitclaim Deed - 4 Arcola Lane and 10c. Broadband. *Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carried.*
2. **Executive Session -** *Motion by Eric Gasperini to enter into executive session at 5:01pm. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carried.*

*Motion to come out of executive session at 5:38pm by Eric Gasperini. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 5-0-0. Motion Carried.*

1. **Minutes -**Approve the minutes from the May 25, 2021 meeting. *Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve the minutes from the May 25, 2021 meeting. Second by Pam Alley. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carried.*
2. **Approve and Sign Treasurer’s Warrant #50 -** *Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve and sign Treasurer’s Warrant #50. Second by Pam Alley. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carried.*
3. **Communications -**None
4. **Speakers from the Floor -**Jim Cogswell was present to discuss the noise and speed on Pequot Road. There are ongoing issues with speed and noise (squealing tires) on the stretch of road by his house. The Board agreed that this was an ongoing issue with KCSO and knowing when the deputy is on or off island. There was discussion on destruction of property with all the rubber marks and holes burned into the pavement.
5. **Committee and Department Reports/Appointments**
   1. **Planning and Community Development - Downtown Project Outreach -** Gabe updated the Board on funding and the scope of the project depending on which sources of funding are received.
   2. **Fox Islands Broadband Task Force -**Letters were received from Janann Sherman and Gabe McPhail asking the Board to not disband the committee and to challenge them to find alternative funding options. There was discussion on large upcoming projects (transfer station, paving, Main St., public works equipment, fire truck, etc.) that the Board needs to keep in mind. Options may change in the next year which may change interest in the broadband project. Dan Cross presented a letter to the board outlining his thoughts and concerns and an article from Phoenix Center Perspectives titled *Do Municipal Networks Offer More Attractive Service Offerings than Private Sector Providers?: A Review and Expansion of the Evidence.* Other comments included: Five million would be better spent on housing, roads, and infrastructure; If this were a viable project a private company would offer the service; and the Town should not own a business. Mark Tolette said he changed his mind after he returned his survey. He feels this would be a step in the wrong direction to put this on the community and questioned what the population would look like when a bunch of a\*\*h\*\*\*\* took over traditional island homes and built their “McMansions.” Jennifer Clemmons asked if the survey was favorable, and the meetings unfavorable then why not hold the referendum and give more people a chance to voice their opinion. Pat Shane thought a lot of weight was given to the survey. It is very easy to check a box and mail in a survey, but it means more to turn out for a meeting to have your voice heard. He has talked to a lot of people who changed their minds after mailing in the survey. Samantha Thompson commented that all voters are not taxpayers so holding the referendum would be unfair to those who do pay taxes. Donald felt committing to a capital project of that size was not a good idea but understood that being told you can’t get good internet because of where you live is very frustrating (from his own experience). Gabe requested a year for the committee to explore non-taxpayer options. There are 90-100 staff hours in the budget for next year. John Morton spoke in favor of broadband and how important it is and will be for younger generations. He feels that young people are not comfortable speaking up at meetings. In his opinion, fiber would be faster than any wireless technology and more satellites are going to impact observations in the night sky. Spectrum and Consolidated Communications have presented offers that have yet to be reviewed and even though they would still require taxpayer dollars and give up local control they could be considered. New Hampshire has a model where the town acquires a municipal bond, but it is paid for with user feels through the ISP. *Motion by Eric Gasperini for the FIBTF Committee to continue but to not use paid staff time until authorized to do so. Second by Pam Alley.* Broadband in general was responded to favorably, people weren’t in favor of the plan presented. Janann stated that if there is not staff time, there is not committee. *Vote 3/2/0. (Pam and Phil opposed). Motion carried.*
   3. **Housing Committee -**The committee is ready to move forward with an assessment and have a community survey ready for year-round residents. The committee will conduct interviews with influential community members. Dan Cross asked about landlords who are not year-round residents and how they will get a survey. The survey will be available to pick up at key locations around town and also online. Barb Philbrook would like to join the committee. Her appointment will be added to the next agenda.
   4. **Road Commissioner Report -**The Public Works crew has been focused on moving to the new building. Dirt roads have been graded and calcium-chloride has been applied. Dan and Andy will be meeting to discuss positions and job descriptions before posting for the open Public Works position.
6. **Old Business**
7. **New Business-** 
   1. **Quitclaim Deed - 5 Starr Street -** *Motion by Eric Gasperini to sign the quitclaim deed for 5 Starr Street. Second by Jacob Thompson. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carried.* Passed for signatures.
   2. **Quitclaim Deed - 4 Arcola Lane -** *Motion by Eric Gasperini to sign the quitclaim deed for 4 Arcola Lane. Second by Pam Alley. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carried.* Passed for signatures.
   3. **Broadband -**Combined with above conversation.
8. **Report of Town Manager -**See Memo. The second float at the Thoroughfare was put out today. Andy also reminded the Board of the joint meeting tomorrow at 5:15 with the North Haven Selectmen to discuss Thoroughfare use and needs.
9. **Report of Members -**
   1. Eric Gasperini
      1. Asked about trimming back a tree near Carrying Place Bridge to help with visibility around the corner near the bridge.
      2. Asked if the grass in the triangle across from the Coke Bottle could be cut.
      3. Asked about the plan of action for the property near Lindsey Pond. *Motion by Jacob Thompson to put it out for sealed bids to be opened at the July 18, 2021 meeting. Second by Phil Crossman. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carried.*
      4. Eric thanked Phil for his time, talent, and ability to elevate the conversation of the Selectmen. Eric asked the other members to think about who should be Chair and Co-chair for upcoming fiscal year.
   2. Phil Crossman
      1. Spoke with Noah Hall about painting the Old Fire Hall. He can’t fit it into his schedule, so Phil spoke with Dana Emmott who thinks he could do it this fall along with some repairs.
      2. Phil asked if the other Board members would like to sign the letter written about the stand-by procedures at the Ferry. The letter requests to revert to previous system of stand-by numbers (but limiting them per day) and acknowledges the safety of the staff. *Motion by Eric Gasperini to have the Board sign the letter to the Ferry Advisory Board. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carried.*
   3. Pam Alley
      1. Asked if there was any progress with the airport extension. Andy said there are funds needed and it needs to be made a priority.
   4. Jacob Thompson
      1. Jake wanted to go back and acknowledge Jim Cogswell’s concerns and assure him it’s on the Board’s mind and not going away. People know when the cop is on island, and where he is when he’s on duty. There was discussion on staggering his shifts and leaving the cruiser somewhere other than at the ferry to signal when he is off island. Frustration was also expressed at calls to the deputy that are never returned.
10. **Adjourn -** *Motion by Eric Gasperini to adjourn at 7:19pm. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carried.*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

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*Elizabeth Bunker, Deputy Town Clerk*

Upcoming:

June 16, 2021 - Joint meeting with North Haven Selectmen

June 23, 2021 - Annual Town Meeting @ SHMH

June 29, 2021 - Regular Selectmen’s Meeting