

Town of Shaftsbury Select Board Meeting

April 17, 2023

In person at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were selectpersons Art Whitman (chair), Mike Cichanowski, Martha Cornwell, and Tony Krulikowski. Jen Holley ran the Zoom meeting.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

No one reported a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.

3. Minutes

There were none.

4. Warrants

Warrant #34, \$73,388.80. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

5. Announcements

Town Cemetery Cleanup: All decorations must be removed by May 1 or they will be respectfully disposed of.

Shaftsbury Solar will host an open house on the proposed solar project on Holy Smoke Road on Tuesday May 2, 5p.m.-7p.m., at the elementary school. Seven different issues will be addressed at stations crewed by experts on each issue. The event sponsored by the proposed solar developer.

On Thursday April 27 at 6:30 p.m., findings regarding the proposed sidewalk on Grandview St. will be presented at Cole Hall by the engineering consultant on the project. More information is available on the town website.

Two volunteers are needed for the cemetery committee. More information is available on the website.

Saturday May 6 is Green-Up Day. Bags will be available at Cole Hall. The DPW will collect any bags left along the roads.

6. Public Comments

There were none.

7. Treasurers report

Ms. Dexter explained the cash flow report. Substantial sums in delinquent taxes and highway State aid came in. Receipts for the month total around \$74,000. The cash balance is satisfactory for this time of the year.

In the reserve funds account, listers reappraisal funds were transferred as were water funds.

Ms. Dexter has been sending out many tax bills.

8. Historic Marker –Betsy Habberfield

Ms. Habberfield noted that she and her husband Tedd purchased the old mill on Route 7A. This year is its 200th anniversary. It has been on the state's register of historic places since 1975. The Habberfields believe it would be fitting to secure a roadside historic marker for the mill, a cast aluminum marker with the State Seal on it. They are preparing an application to the Department of Historic Preservation, one requirement of which is to present the application to the Select Board. There is no

cost to the Town. Historic Preservation said it will contact VTRans regarding the siting of the marker. The Habberfields would also like to hold a bicentennial event at the mill the weekend after Labor Day this summer. It will include a tent, tours, and activities for kids. Ms. Habberfield shared a sample marker sign which may or may not be approved by the state. She said she'd been working on the project with the town's Historical Society. The old grinding mill equipment is still on the property. The Board members all supported the historic marker project.

9. DPW Report

Mr. Yannotti reported that Jim Henderson of the Bennington Regional Commission has received a grant to design a project that would be funded by a subsequent grant. He will try to attend the May 1 Select Board meeting to explain the project.

Mr. Yannotti noted that drainage in the Grandview/Hawks neighborhood all daylights at a stream off Bank Street. That situation complicates the drainage issue.

The road crew has graded all but ten roads. They took advantage of rainy weather to grade dead end roads. Significant tree work will be done on Cider Mill on April 19. The road will be closed for half a day at that time. The closing will be posted on the website.

The crew has been working on Underpass Road, which had plugged culverts and ditches. It appeared that the Town hadn't done any work there since the bridge was reconstructed in 1995.

Some drainage work will be done on Maple Hill near the Arlington Town line before the road is graded.

Lots of signs have come down and will be replaced.

A spring clean-up of Howard Park is in the works. The bleachers will be repaired and re-set on gravel pads.

According to a posting on the Vtrans website, a bridge will be closed in 2025 on Route 67W just past North Bennington Variety store. A detour will be required there. A bridge under the railroad in that area will also be replaced. A railroad bridge under Twitchell Hill Road will also be replaced, to bring the rail system in the neighborhood up to "286 ton" standards.

Mr. Whitman noted that citizens can still petition the new speed ordinance.

Mr. Yannotti would like to order the new signs as soon as possible, and will have to get at least three bids.

Mr. Yannotti said the mower (which broke down last summer) works. He would like to hire a temporary summer person to take care of Howard Park.

10. Solid Waste Implementation Project Amendment

The county-wide solid waste agreement requires amending as to hazardous waste. Going forward, a permanent hazardous waste facility will be created which all members of the SWIP can use. Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the SWIP agreement for the Town of Shaftsbury. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

11. Fire Department Annual Officer Appointments

The Department annually asks the Select Board to approve the officers chosen by the membership. For 2023-2024, they are chief Joe Vadakin, first assistant chief Mike Taylor, and second assistant chief Ed Schule. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the appointments. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

12. Cole Hall Request for Qualifications review

A document has been posted on the website for review. It outlines the kinds of skills needed by any consultant hired to assist with the renovation of Cole Hall and its surroundings.

13. Other Business

Mr. Whitman said a meeting with the Sheriff went very well. A deputy from Manchester will be in charge of Arlington and Shaftsbury. We will be able to contact the dispatcher directly. The Sheriff has agreed to assist the animal control officer when needed. Whether additional hours can be given to Shaftsbury remains to be seen.

14. Review of Action Items

15. Adjournment

Mr. Krulikowski moved to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.