

Poultney Board of Selectmen  
Meeting  
**Monday, April 22, 2019 – 6:30 pm**  
Poultney Town Hall  
Agenda

- 1) Adoption of the Agenda
- 2) Approval of Minutes: 4/8/19
- 3) Public Comments and Concerns
  - Bylaw Amendment petitions with Planning Commission recommendations
  - Bench request for East Poultney Green
- 4) Road Report
  - Class 2 Paving Grant application: Saltis Road and Route 140
  - Road flooding and damage from rain storms
- 5) Town Manager's Report
  - Senior Center floor
  - Public Meeting tentative May 30, 2019 (Poultney Comes Together)
  - Bahan Pond
  - Act 250 application: Endless Brook LLC (mountain bike trails)
- 6) Transact Any Other Lawful Business
  - Marijuana Prohibition Measures
- 7) Executive Session
- 8) Health Officer's Report
- 9) Rutland Regional Planning Commission
- 10) Board Orders
- 11) Adjourn

## Meeting Minutes

### Poultney Board of Selectmen

Monday, April 22, 2019 – 6:30 PM

### Poultney Town Hall

Jeff King called the meeting to order. Selectmen present included: Jeff King, Carol Bunce, Tom Coloutti, George Miller and Terry Williams. Others present included Paul A. Donaldson, Town Manager, Ron Kelley, Road Foreman, Neisja Crawford, Bookkeeper, David Carpenter, Ernie DeMattis, Jamie Lee, Mark Teetor, Neal Vreeland, Doug Langdon and Towns people (see sign in sheet).

**Adoption of the Agenda:** Tom Coloutti, made a motion to adopt the agenda. Terry Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Tom Coloutti made a motion to approve the minutes of 4/8/19. Carol Bunce seconded the motion (with spelling corrections). George Miller and Terry Williams abstained. Motion carried.

### **Public Comments and Concerns:**

- Bylaw Amendment petitions with Planning Commission recommendations.
  - Paul Donaldson received a letter on April 18, 2019 from David Carpenter, with Facey Goss & McPhee, attorney for Len Knappmiller. Mr. Carpenter stated the purpose of the letter was to address, on the record, issues from the last meeting and asked if the select board had any questions. The board had no questions.
  - Neal Vreeland spoke in response to the letter stating that Len Knappmiller is looking for spot zoning and trying to do an end-run through the Development Review Board. Without a hearing before the DRB, there would be no site plan review, no evidence would be taken and neighbors would not be heard. Zoning applications would be “rubber stamped”.  
Mr. Vreeland asked the select board to not undercut the DRB, Town Plan and Planning Commission.

Terry Williams made a motion to not amend the unified bylaws at this time. Tom Coloutti seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Jamie Lee thanked the board for their decision and stated that the Planning Commission is meeting Tuesday April 23, 2019 at 6 o'clock to discuss organizational planning and Town Plan updates which are due within the next couple of years.

- Anthony Coccia 2474 Highland Gray Road culvert.
  - A few years ago, the Town installed a 18" culvert across the road from his home. After a heavy rain, Mr. Coccia had a conversation with Jonas and wrote a letter stating the culvert was too small and requested it be changed to a larger size. The request was denied.
  - The culvert failed during the April 14' 2019 storm. Water flooded his property along with neighbors Karen and Paul Bishop, and Greg Papa. Paul Bishop dug a trench with his tractor, redirecting the rushing water away from the properties.
  - Ron Kelley: The cost of a 36" culvert is approximately \$2,500.

Terry Williams made a motion to table the request and for board members to make individual site visits to look at the road damage. George Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Mr. Coccia is also requesting the Town rebuild his driveway.
- Bench request for East Poultney.
  - Linda Knowlton submitted a petition with fifteen signatures requesting benches for the Green. The petition is asking for the replacement of three benches and the addition of four more. Mrs. Knowlton told Paul Donaldson she was given a quote of \$70 per bench from Williams Hardware.
  - Tom Coloutti: Maybe they should do a fund raiser.
  - Jeff King: Asked Paul Donaldson to follow-up the cost with Bob Williams.

### **Road Report:**

Ron Kelley reported the following:

- Several roads were washed out during the Storm of April 14, 2019. 3 am Thrall Road and 5 am Route 140 were reported washed out. Watkins Hill Road was completely shut off. Route 31 was closed (the State repaired). A culvert was pushed up on Highland Gray Road. Ames Hollow Road and Pond Hill Road were severely damaged.
- Enlisted the help of Davenport Excavation and Chesnut Excavating to repair damage.
- Used the new excavator on Pond Hill Road to reshape ditches, operated by Ron Kelley and Richard Ferguson.
- Carol Bunce: Are you keeping separate accounting of time and invoices for storm damage repair.
- Ron Kelley: Yes.
- Ed Bove with RRPC asked for a rough damage figure. We estimated \$100,000.

- The Town had a few culverts in inventory. So far, replaced an 18" culvert to a 30" on Morse Hollow Rd. Replaced culverts on Hampshire Hollow and Watkins Hill Rd, 24" culvert to a 30" and a 15" to a 24".
- Tom Coloutti: When are you going to start grading?
- Ron Kelley: Normally grading would have started already. The storm damage work will be done first. The roads have to be put back together.
- Tom Coloutti: Who is responsible for culverts going across driveways?
- Ron Kelley: The Town.
- The brush head has been ordered. Upgraded it to a heavier duty barrel.

**Town Managers Report:**

Paul Donaldson reported the following:

- Senior Center Floor.
  - Met with the General Contractor, VMS and the floor contractor about the kitchen floor. The floor contractor said he had never seen these types of flaws before. They are going to repair the floor this Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
- Class 2 Paving.
  - Pike Industries looked at Saltis Road and Route 140 at Morse Hollow Rd to the Town line and Thrall Road. Requesting a Class 2 paving grant from the state.
  - Terry Williams: What about Upper Road? There's no ditch and the bank is giving away.
- Public Meeting tentative May 30, 2019 (Poultney Comes Together).
  - 5 or 6 o'clock at the High School, to discuss ideas for five community projects, e.g., bring in a bank, recreational projects, expand bike trails.
  - Jeff King: A Downtown Revitalization meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2019 at the Lake St Catherine Country Club at 4 o'clock, the PDRC has asked new members to join/contribute, Gary Holloway from VT Downtown program will be there to discuss the Downtown programs available through State of Vermont.
- Bahan Pond.
  - The Fire Department has an easement to use the pond including training, but is not responsible for maintenance. The Fire Department has the right to excavate and build a dam, though not obligated.
  - Paul Donaldson talked with the owner, Michael Bladyka. He said the Amish looked at the pond and couldn't figure out the problem.
  - Fire Chief Aaron Kerber borrowed a special nozzle from Fair Haven that shot out roots and syphoned the pond, lower the water level.
  - The spillway is undersized, galvanized and rotted.
  - Paul Donaldson will send Michael Bladyka a letter and ask who expanded the pond.

- Act 250 application: Endless Brook LLC (mountain bike trails).
  - Endless Brook LLC is proactively filing an Act 250 permit for an additional 20 miles of trails.
  - The Town is required to complete a municipal survey. The Fire Department will be provided with keys for the gates. Will ask about the Rescue Squad. The conversation is continuing.
- Discussing an utility vehicle with the Fire Department. Possibly a suited up Polaris off-road vehicle to access the mountain bike trails. The cost is approximately \$35,000. Exploring different fund issues.
  - Ernie DeMattis: Maybe they can adapt the existing four-wheeler.

**Transact any Other Lawful Business:**

- Marijuana Prohibition Measures.
  - Terry Williams suggested the board put together an ordinance that says we do not want marijuana in Poultney.
  - Carol Bunce: The board should wait and let the people vote on the issue after July.
  - Jeff King: Start researching the issue.
- Carol Bunce questioned how often the board receives financial statements to track the budget/spending. Donaldson stated that he provides them during budget setting, but is able to provide them more frequently if the board desires. Discussion followed. Donaldson will provide quarterly budget statements or more often as requested.

**Health Officer:** Paul Donaldson received the new Health Officer’s Manual. It is a full-time job.

**Rutland Regional Planning Commission:** None.

**Executive Session:** At 8:00PM Tom Coloutti made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters. Terry Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. At 8:35PM George Miller made a motion to leave Executive Session. Carol Bunce seconded the motion. Motion carried. No action taken.

**Board Orders:**

Terry Williams made a motion to pay board orders. George Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Adjournment:**

George Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Terry Williams seconded the Motion. Motion carried.