

Poultney Board of Selectmen
Meeting
Monday, November 9, 2020 – 6:30 pm
Poultney Town Hall & Virtual

Note: To join this meeting via Zoom, use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88415193541?pwd=VzArb01oTXduVnhWNTZQOERLUVRZZz09>

Meeting ID: 884 1519 3541

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Agenda

- 1) Adoption of the Agenda
- 2) Approval of Minutes: October 26, 2020
- 3) Road Report
- 4) Public Comments and Concerns
 - Pattie McCoy: Route 30 speed limit posting (50 MPH zone) and speed reduction (40 MPH zone)
- 5) Town Manager's Report
 - Slate Quarry Park
 - Communications Union District: 3 hotspots in town
 - East Poultney Jewish Cemetery
 - Poultney Snow Devils - Poultney Avenue and York Street Ext.
- 6) Transact Any Other Lawful Business
- 7) Executive Session:
- 8) Health Officer's Report
- 9) Rutland Regional Planning Commission
- 10) Board Orders
- 11) Adjourn

Meeting Minutes

Poultney Board of Selectmen

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Jeff King called the meeting to order. Selectmen present included: Jeff King, Terry Williams, George Miller (via Zoom), Carol Bunce, and Sheryl Porrier. Others present included Paul A. Donaldson, Town Manager, Ron Kelley, Highway Foreman, Representative Pattie McCoy, Carol Stierle, Matthew Schinski, and Paul Hancock (via Zoom), and Sarah Pelkey (via Zoom).

Adoption of the Agenda: Carol Bunce made a motion to adopt the agenda. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Terry Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of October 26, 2020. Carol Bunce seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Public Comments and Concerns: Pattie McCoy noted that she has had some complaints about the speed limit posting on Route 30. The issues: Once you leave the Village of Poultney the speed limit is 50 MPH until you hit Otto's General Store. There are not enough speed limit signs posting 50 MPH, and some are complaining that people are driving too slow – need more signs stating 50 MPH. The other complaint is that the speed limit does not drop to 40 MPH until Cones Point Store. Thoughts are that because the store gets busy especially in the summer, that the speed limit should change before you get to the store when one is headed south so people slow down before getting to the store. Pattie McCoy is asking the Selectboard to contact Ian Degutis at the State to initiate a traffic study for that area and to discuss the signage as well.

Brief discussion re; East Poultney Bridge replacement and the scheduling for spring of 2022.

The board asked Representative McCoy to contact some folks at the State re: the trestle bridge on the D&H Rail Trail to see if the State will open up the other channel that used to let water through that was closed in the 1970s. Thoughts are that this would alleviate flooding in the Village.

Discussion with Matt Shinski and the revised Slate Quarry Park Bid. The revised bid looks good, but the group is still lacking funds on hand to close the funding gap. Paul Hancock stated that the group has put together an 8-page appeal for additional donations. They have also discussed paver/flagstone sponsors. There are 2 to 3 small grants, ie Ben and Jerry, that they are seeking. There are 6 members of the board that have pledged \$1,000 donations each, while they have asked others for \$500 to \$1,000. They need to raise about \$13,000-\$20,000 more before the board can sign the contract with Mr. Schinski. Paul Hancock to put together a line item sheet to show how much the group has on hand as their funding source and to provide same to the board.

Road Report:

Ron Kelley reported the following:

-The crew has done ditching and re-sloping on Endless Brook Road. They still need to put fabric down where there is a wet spot.

-The crew is working on Ridgeview North where there is a drainage problem that has caused considerable damage to the Meakins house and caused a deck post to wash out. Ron is working with a contractor who is doing some drainage work for a homeowner and coordinating with them to benefit the town road too. Our crew has put in a new 40 foot cross drain and reditch work, as well as upsizing a driveway culvert.

-We ordered a 2 yard dumpster for the Young At heart, to be paid by the center.

-We will be placing a port-a-pot at the transfer station which will cost us about \$75.00 per month.

-Ron continues to work on getting a second quote for the Western Star replacement truck.

-Sheryl Porrier asked whether the crew will be repairing potholes on Hampshire Hollow Road, Ron stated it will be done before winter.

-Discussion needing more gravel on Lewis Road.

Town Managers Report:

-Discussion re: Communications Union District (CUD). Paul Donaldson reiterated joining the CUD would cost no money to the town, and you can leave the CUD whenever you wanted to. Paul Donaldson stated that working with the CUD, we secured a grant from the VT Public Service Board, through COVID funds to install 3 hotspots in order to allow people to tele-health and tele-educate. The spots will be Young At heart, Village Office, and Stonebridge. Terry Williams made a motion to join the CUD. Carol Bunce seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

-Paul Donaldson stated that Mr. Crispe had a group of volunteers removing brush from the East Poultney Jewish Cemetery.

Discussion re; Poultney Snow Devil use of Poultney Avenue and York Street Extension. The group did approach the neighbors, and Judy Cummings was not in favor of the snow machines travelling in front of her house. Paul Donaldson suggested to Tim Loomis that the club travel on the town property that we purchased in the tax sale a couple years back, this way it would provide more of a buffer to the Cummings residence. Sheryl Porrier made a motion to allow the club to use town property and portions of Poultney Avenue and York Street Extension to allow for trail connections. Carol Bunce seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

-Carol Bunce asked about the status of Ames Hollow Road Reclassification. Paul Donaldson stated it was under review by Attorney Kupferer.

-Carol Bunce inquired about Mark Stackpole as the Animal Control Officer. Paul Donaldson stated that he and Mark have been sharing duties. Sometimes people call Mark and sometimes they call Paul.

-Carol Bunce inquired whether we will be adding some sort of enclosure in front of the building now that it is getting colder and since the building is not fully open to the public. Paul has asked Dick Grey to look at it and give us an idea of how we can enclose it. We can also let people use the back room if they need to do paperwork, etc. Perhaps we set up a small table in the hallway for quick transactions?

Transact any Other Lawful Business: None.

Health Officer: None.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission: None.

Executive Session: None

Board Orders: Carol Bunce made a motion to pay board orders. Terry Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

s/Paul A. Donaldson