

Poultney Board of Selectmen  
Meeting  
**Monday, April 26, 2021 – 6:30 pm**  
Poultney Town Hall

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86827837440?pwd=cXl3ZjhmOXY4Ui9ocCswMG9iRTUrZz09>

Meeting ID: 868 2783 7440                      Passcode: 016225

OR Dial by your location: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

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Agenda

- 1) Adoption of the Agenda
- 2) Approval of Minutes:                      04/12/2021
- 3) Public Comments and Concerns (limit of 15 minutes per topic):  
    -Young At Heart Senior Center
- 4) Road Report:
- 5) Town Manager's Report  
    -East Poultney Gorge Bridge: safety measures and traffic control measures/  
    pedestrian and bicycle access  
    -Slate Quarry Park project  
    -Stonebridge Inn: maintenance on front porch  
    -Library windows restoration  
    -Liquor License for Taco Experiment  
    -Transfer Station Supervisor job description  
    -Part-time Highway Crew job description  
    -Cessation of Zoom meetings  
    -Poultney owned wetlands parcel Ferncliff Road
- 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

Monday, April 26, 2021 – 6:30 PM

### Poultney Town Hall and Virtual

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, Frank Pauze (via Zoom), Dale Kerber, Mark Teetor (via Zoom), Janice Edwards (via Zoom), Michelle Harmon (via Zoom), Carol Stierl (via Zoom), Michelle McCarron, Jonas Rosenthal, Jaime Lee (via Zoom), Mary ? (via Zoom), Val Broughton, Bert Cenate, Karen and Idris Atwood (via Zoom), Carmie Haley (via Zoom) , Sarah Pelkey (via Zoom), Jonathan Taylor (via Zoom), Nanette Greer (via Zoom), Kim ? (via Zoom), Ed Slater (via Zoom), Diane Bargiel (via Zoom), Paul Hancock (via Zoom), Marcia Angerman (via Zoom), Mike and Emily Lightfoot (via Zoom), CB Hall (via Zoom), Jane Williams (via Zoom), Barbara Scott (via Zoom), Oliver Hall (via Zoom),.

**Adoption of the Agenda:** Carol Bunce made a motion to adopt the agenda. Terry Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Carol Bunce made a motion to approve the minutes of April 12, 2021. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

**Public Comments and Concerns:** Michelle McCarron, Director of the Young At Heart Senior Center, along with Jonas Rosenthal, Treasurer at Young At Heart gave a presentation on a proposed Fitness Garden, which would include a covered exercise pad and a 1/20 of a mile walking path, along with a Serenity Garden. The group wishes to apply for a Community Development Block Grant which is an 80% grant, with a 20% match. They have a \$10,000 grant from the Maslack Fund that they could use towards the match. There will need to be an Environmental Assessment (\$3500) and a Historical Review (\$2600). They wish to include Adaptive Exercise Equipment specifically designed for elderly users (cost of between \$700-\$1200 per piece, and they wish to have about 6 pieces. They also plan to apply for an AARP grant in the amount of \$44,500.00. They are seeking approval of the board to open a GEARS account and start the application under the town's account. Discussion followed. Terry Williams made a motion to open a GEARS account and to preliminarily start the application for the Block Grant with the understanding the Center will return to the board with progress reports, and proof that the center will be able to match their portion of the grant. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Further discussion re: East Poultney Gorge Bridge. Paul Donaldson reported that the State did an inspection of the bridge abutments and have the opinion that the abutments have not further deteriorated over the winter and would support bike and pedestrian traffic. Ron Kelley stated he has looked at the decking and it is in good condition. Discussion followed. Jonathan Taylor further plead with the board to reconsider making the bridge a one-way bridge. He had sent Paul Donaldson this afternoon shortly before the meeting, which was circulated to board members, the survey he had conducted which demonstrated people in the immediate neighborhood, and even others not in the neighborhood overwhelmingly want a one lane bridge. Others participating in the meeting this evening also vocalized their support and desire to have a one-lane bridge. Jeff King reiterated that the decision to make the bridge a two-lane bridge has already been made by the board and communicated to the State. Discussion regarding the "Bridge Closed Sign" at the end of Thrall Road, and right at the bridge. CB Hall, and others requested that the town amend the signs to indicate bike and pedestrian traffic is permitted on the bridge. Ron Kelly will price signs to see what the cost would be to amend the sign to clarify this to the public – that pedestrians and bikes are permitted. Terry Williams made a motion to re-open the bridge to bike and pedestrian traffic. George Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor. Discussion as to whether we should run an ad in the Free Press alerting the public that the bridge is re-opened to bikes and pedestrians. Discussion also about the flashing lights. Paul Donaldson stated he had a brief conversation with the State and their engineer consultant about the flashing lights. The current configuration is not MUTCD compliant nor ADA complaint. The State stated that it would not permit the flashing lights to be placed at the south end of the bridge which will be controlled by stop signs. Frank Pauze stated he needs to be consulted if the lights will stay. Paul Donaldson stated he would be further consulted.

Paul Hancock reported that the Slate Quarry Park is trying to find a replacement certified and licensed dry stone landscaper to replace Brian Post. The group has met its fundraising goals, but may need to find additional funds should the replacement landscaper cost more than Mr. Post.

**Road Report:** Ron Kelley reported the following:

-He will move the blocks by the East Poultney Gorge Bridge to allow bikes and pedestrians. He will cover up the prohibition to bikes and pedestrians.

-He has met with Steffanie Bourque with the RRPC for a project on Hannon Road. We received a Grants-In-Aid in the amount of \$24,000 for this project, and it is an MRGP project as well, to fix the ditching on that road. The project will be done by September.

-The crew moved the metal from the transfer station and received about \$1,000 which will go into the transfer station budget.

-The crew will be working on Green Up Day at the transfer station.

-Ron will order the scales for the transfer station, with the price being about \$1200 per scale (we need 4).

-White metal charges will be the same even on Green Up Day – no “free” day.

-We applied for a Class 2 paving grant for Thrall Road, which we are hopeful we will receive this year.

-He has been grading roads and doing pot hole repairs.

-The crew will next be on Ferncliff Road for culvert replacement project.

### **Town Managers Report:**

Paul Donaldson reported that we received a \$6,975 grant from Preservation Trust to do repair work on the porch at the Stonebridge. The estimate is \$13,950 for porch repairs (prior to recent high increase in building materials). The matching funds will come from building maintenance account.

Paul Donaldson reported the library received a \$5000 grant from the Preservation Trust to do repairs to historic windows at the library. The estimate is \$10,000 to restore 9 windows. The matching funds will come from building maintenance account.

Carol Bunce made a motion to approve the liquor license for Taco Experiment. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Paul Donaldson had circulated revised job descriptions for Transfer Station Supervisor and part-time Highway Crew. The board said they looked good, although Carol Bunce questioned if we should state expected work hours on the highway crew position. Paul Donaldson will discuss the same with Ron Kelley. We should advertise towards the end of May, 2021.

Discussion re; whether the board should stop Zooming meetings, particularly since the majority of the board has been meeting together in person, and the meetings have been open to the public. Several members of the public expressed the need to continued Zoom meetings.

Paul Donaldson thanked Terry Williams for spearheading the proposed conveyance of town-owned property on Ferncliff Road to the Sportsman Federation. The Poultney Fish and Game Club have agreed with the proposal.

Dale Kerber stated he has applied for a radio grant through Homeland Security, 3 portables, and 2 in the cruisers, one at the fire house. Further discussion about putting office space at the fire house. Further discussion on whether the State of Vermont will require towns to all transfer radio service.

**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. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Adjournment:** George Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sheryl Porrier seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

s/Paul A. Donaldson