

Poultney Board of Selectmen
Meeting
Tuesday, May 11, 2021 – 6:30 pm
Poultney Town Hall

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86362458132?pwd=ZlJ0bjZ3M3Nkd3Q4UHJtT2R3eTlVZz09>

Meeting ID: 863 6245 8132 Passcode: 995520

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: 04/26/2021
- 3) Public Comments and Concerns (limit of 15 minutes per topic):
 -Letter from Karen and Idris Atwood
- 4) Road Report:
- 5) Town Manager's Report
 -Slate Quarry Park project
 -Cessation of Zoom meetings
 -Memorial Day Parade
 -July 4, 2021 celebration
 -East Poultney Jewish Cemetery
- 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

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 – 6:30 PM

Poultney Town Hall and Virtual

Jeff King called the meeting to order. Selectmen present included: Jeff King, George Miller (via Zoom), Carol Bunce and Sheryl Porrier. Others present included Paul A. Donaldson, Town Manager, Ron Kelley, Highway Foreman, Janice Edwards (via Zoom), Karen and Idris Atwood (via Zoom), Nanette Greer (via Zoom), Jane Williams (via Zoom), Laurie Lewis (via Zoom), and Gaelyn Williams (via Zoom),.

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

Approval of Minutes: Carol Bunce made a motion to approve the minutes of April 26, 2021 with a couple spelling corrections. George Miller seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Public Comments and Concerns: Paul Donaldson has circulated a letter from Karen and Idris Atwood with a request to be on the agenda for the first meeting in June with a request for the board to pass an ordinance banning public nudity.

Jeff King inquired about the Lily Pond town property to be conveyed to the Federation Fund For Conservation & Training. Paul Donaldson stated that he thought we had discussed it at the last meeting, but perhaps he had discussed it with Terry Williams prior to the meeting, and it was never brought up at the meeting before Terry Williams had to leave the meeting early. Nevertheless, the consensus of the board was that they would like to see some information in writing that the Poultney Fish and Game Club supported the idea of conveying the land the Federation. Paul Donaldson will ask Terry Williams for this information.

Jeff King inquired if there has been any movement on the trestle bridge river channel on the D&H Trail. Paul Donaldson stated he had spoke to Josh Carvajal with ANR River Management and while Josh has yet to fully digest the study that was undertaken in the 1970's, he suggested working with RRPC to identify funding to study the issue and/or design an alternative bridge. Josh also advised Paul Donaldson he is pretty sure any replacement bridge would have to support a train in the event trains ever go back on the rail trail. Someone had opined to Paul Donaldson that the bridge there now is in pretty poor as it is. Paul Donaldson will reach out to Devon Neary at the RRPC.

Road Report: Ron Kelley reported the following:

-The crew has been on "pothole patrol."

-Pond Hill, Hampshire Hollow, Lewis Road, Finel Hollow have been graded

-The crew finished a FEMA project on Finel Hollow where the road had washed out. They had to build a stone wall. He has shared photos with Paul Donaldson who will pass them on to the State of VT and FEMA.

-He has been working on the Local Emergency Management Plan with Terry Williams, there was some concern about the Mutual Aid Agreements with other towns and whether the Town of Poultney had to assist if asked, but it is discretionary if we have too much of our own work to do.

-Ron Kelley inquired as to whether the crew can go to 10-hour days. Discussion followed. Typically the 10-hour days don't start until June. Ron sees value in big projects of staying longer. Discussion followed. Sheryl Porrier made a motion to allow the crew to move to 4 day work week commencing Thursday, May 13, 2021. Carol Bunce seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor. Jeff King stated he would advise Terry Williams about this so Terry can be informed.

-Green Up Day was pretty slow. The crew was there all day, and was able to do some extra clean up work, brush cutting, etc. They made repairs to the railings around the garbage bin and the demolition bin, and he has ordered paint to repaint them. The crew also went in and out Tuesday as some people had commented they would come back on Tuesday to have a "free day" but Ron Kelley stated they saw nobody trying that on Tuesday. The crew returned more white metals and in total collected about \$1300 to go towards the transfer station.

-The crew has been working on Old Lake Road this week. This will go towards some FEMA work we need to finish as well as towards MRGP projects we need to do. There will also be some cross-drain repairs and/or replacements.

-We have applied for Class 2 paving for Thrall Road and Saltis Road. Paul Donaldson indicated that Brian Sanderson has hinted that we may get a grant this year for Thrall Road. We also need to pave West lake Road hopefully this, or next year.

-The scales have been ordered and paid for. Ron will follow up to see when we should receive them.

Town Managers Report:

Paul Donaldson reported that the Slate Quarry Park Group has found, and contracted with a replacement certified stone wall builder. It will cost the group about \$15,000.00 more but the group advised Paul Donaldson they will have the funds to cover the overage. The contractor is from NH and will be staying in a camper every other week and commuting to and from NH every other week. Paul Donaldson stated he advised the group that we may be able to accommodate him at the GMC property if the camping gets "too old".

Discussion of the Cessation of Zoom Meetings was tabled as the full board was not present.

Paul Donaldson advised the board that the American Legion is meeting this week to discuss whether they will be having the Memorial Day Parade.

Discussion re; July 4th celebration. Paul Donaldson stated he is waiting to hear from the school if they will permit us to have fireworks there this year. The school board will be having a meeting about this next week and will advise Paul Donaldson. Paul Donaldson is concerned that if we don't have a parade and fireworks, many participants will go to towns that are having events. Paul Donaldson and Carol Bunce both stated many people have been inquiring and have had offers to perform or participate in other towns' events.

Paul Donaldson stated that the East Poultney Jewish Cemetery Restoration Project will start June 6. Paul Donaldson has met with two tree companies to get estimates to take down several dead trees. Mr. Crispe plans to do some this summer and other this fall. He advised Paul Donaldson that while attending Yale he plans to come back to see the project through. He also wants to put a vault for the disposal of Jewish religious relics. He has commissioned a blacksmith in Pawlet to build a new gate and will have an historic marker placed there as it is VT's oldest Jewish cemetery. Carol Bunce inquired about the funds to be placed in the Town's Jewish Cemetery Account. Mr. Crispe will start issuing checks in the amount of \$6,000 to Paul Donaldson to transfer those funds as early as possibly tomorrow.

Transact any Other Lawful Business:

Jeff King mentioned that he would be out of town for the board's May 24 meeting and that Terry Williams as Vice-Chair of the board would run the meeting.

Carol Bunce asked Sheryl Porrier the status of the Summer Recreation Program as the clerk's office has been getting lots of inquiries. Sheryl Porrier stated that she and Jonas have everything together but they are waiting to hear from the PES and PHS as to whether we will be permitted to use their facilities and their outdoor spaces. The school board will be having a meeting about this next week. In the meantime Sheryl Porrier has inquired with Raj Bhakta and Leo Gibson if we could use the GMC facilities, the fields, the gym and the pool for the Summer Recreation Programs; they are supposed to have a meeting about that soon. Other than figuring out where programs will be held they have everything else ready to go to the printer.

Paul Donaldson stated that Sarah Pelkey and others are trying to organize a "Beauty Blitz" for Main Street on June 26 whereby volunteers will make improvements to businesses on Main Street, whether it be painting, planting flowers, or otherwise "sprucing things up."

Paul Donaldson stated that he keeps forgetting to talk about the Farm To Table Program that Sheryl Porrier and others have been doing the last couple of years. This year the group wants to do the program on July 24 and August 21. They already have permission to use those dates from the United Baptist Church which also permits the group to use the church bathrooms and

kitchen. Sheryl Porrier also stated it would be BYOB events just as it has been in the past, except for one that was not. She also stated they provide coffee, tea, juice, and water too. They use funds to support local farmers and anything over that they donate 50/50 to the Poultney and the Wells Food Shelves. The consensus of the board was that those dates were fine to use the East Poultney Green. Paul Donaldson reminded Sheryl Porrier that they need to provide the event insurance to the town for both dates.

Discussion re: the RICCO program that is done in the church parking lot. This continued through the winter as well and has replaced the traditional “farmers’ market”.

Paul Donaldson stated he would be advertising for the two part-time positions end of May with interviews hopefully in June.

Health Officer: It is time for the renewal of the Health Officer paperwork. Sheryl Porrier made a motion to appoint Paul Donaldson as the Town Health Officer. Carol Bunce seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission: Paul Donaldson mentioned that he had a call today with Devon Neary from the RRPC, Sarah Pelkey and Caitron Maloney in connection with the scope of work for our Better Connections Grant in preparation to soliciting bids for the scoping project.

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. Carol Bunce seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

s/Paul A. Donaldson