

Poultney Selectboard
Meeting In-Person and via Zoom

Monday, August 28, 2023 – 6:30 pm
Poultney Town Hall

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83935723883?pwd=QnEvcVVrSkN2OUpCMIFEM0lPTzBjdz09>

Meeting ID: 839 3572 3883

Passcode: 989910

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Agenda

- 1) Call Meeting To Order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Adoption of the Agenda
- 4) Approval of Minutes: 08-14-23 and 08-21-23
- 5) Road Report
- 6) Town Manager's Report
 - Poultney Rescue Squad discussion
 - Further discussion re: reclassification of some town roads
 - Tobacco license: Dollar General
- 7) Transact Any Other Lawful Selectboard Business
- 8) Rutland Regional Planning Commission
- 9) Public Comments (limit of 15 minutes)
- 10) Board Orders
- 11) Executive Session: Personnel matters and 2 Contract matters
- 12) Adjourn

**Meeting Minutes
Poultney Selectboard**

**Monday, August 28, 2023 – 6:30 PM
Poultney Town Hall**

Jeff King called the meeting to order and led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Selectmen present included: Jeff King, Sheryl Porrier, Alan-Glen Burnell and Mark Teetor. Others present included Paul A. Donaldson, Joel Roberts, Highway Foreman, Neal Vreeland, Margaret Mug, Rick Noren, Lohr Kerns, Jonathan Andrews, Mary Sue Reed and Alex Hilliard. Attending via Zoom members included Sarah Pelkey, Dan Norwood, Janice B. Edwards, Nic Stark and Angelo _____?.

Adoption of the Agenda: Mark Teetor made a motion to adopt the Agenda. Alan-Glen Burnell seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Approval of Minutes: Mark Teetor made a motion to approve the minutes of 8-14-23 and 8-21-2023.

Road Report: Joel Roberts reported the following:

- The crew added materials and have graded Dayton Hill Road, Endless Brook Road, Clark Hollow Road, Old Lake Road, Tucker Road, portions of Hampshire Hollow Road.
- The crew has cleaned off several cement bridges where road materials have collected over time.
- The crew has been cleaning trees off the sides of Lewis Road..
- We have identified, and the State has approved, MRGP work/Grants-In-Aid work for Watkins Hill, Pond Hill, Pond Hill Ranch and Dayton Hill Roads. This work will commence in September.
- The crew has improved sections of Lewis Road with a crown in the road. They pal to break that road up into 3 sections given its length.
- The contracted boom mower has been working on the roads, and they plan to replace the blades to get a better cut. When they contractor does Route 140, our crew will provide safety with a trailing truck.

Town Managers Report:

-Paul Donaldson stated that the Poultney Rescue Squad reached out this past Sunday via email and requested to meet with the board on September 11, 2023. Mark Teetor made a motion to table to matter until September 11, 2023. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

-Paul Donaldson presented to the board the tobacco license application for the Dollar General. Betsy Wescott has spoken with the VT Department of Liquor and Lottery and they advised that all tobacco needs to be locked up and placed where patrons can not access it, and it has to be personally controlled and handled by a trained Dollar General employee. Mark Teetor made a

motion to approve the application. Alan-Glen Burnell seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

-Paul Donaldson presented to the board the alcohol, and tobacco license application for the new owners of Otto's Coin Point. The sale is scheduled to close on, or about, September 14, 2023. The application included an on-site indoor and outdoor consumption, as well as an off-site consumption element. . Mark Teetor made a motion to approve the application. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

-Further discussion re: reclassification of some town roads. After some discussion the board instructed Paul Donaldson to begin proceedings to reclassify Lennox Road and Fairway Lane South to Class 4 roads. No further discussion or action at this time regarding Ridgeview Lane South and North. Discussion re: Maslack Drive. Rick Noren and Lohr Kerns, residents of that road, offered to make improvements to the turnaround at their own costs and expense, so that the trucks can maneuver the turnaround. Joel Roberts and his crew will work with Mr. Kerns to see these improvements before this winter. Paul Donaldson stated that the "driveway" used by Oliver Allen, and plowed by the town appears to be a Class 4 road. He stressed he did not do a 40-year title search on the Allen property nor on the Flanders property, so he cannot say for certainty if there is some legal agreement that the town plow the road. He also said he could not find the surveys referenced when the roadway/bridge was condemned in 1982. Mary Sure Reed asked the board about a resolution made in 2018 that Jay Drive and Lenno Road were to be reclassified in 2018. Jeff King stated that with this new board we would take another look at those resolutions.

Transact any Other Lawful Selectboard Business:

-Sarah Pelkey stated she will be attending a PMNRCD meeting September 1, 2023 to discuss storm water mitigation around Lake St. Catherine. She also is registered to attend and ANR meeting on the 3-acre impervious storm water permitting. She reminded folks there is an open house coming up for the new Dr.'s office in the Village and the bike shop in the Village as well.. She applied for MERP assessments for the Town Office, Town Garage, Senior Center and the Stonebridge Inn. She hopes the MERP study will inform the highway garage rebuilding discussion.

Health Officer: None.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission: Sarah Pelkey stated the RRPC TAC meetings commencing in September, 2023.

Public Comments on matters (limit of 10 minutes total)

-Neal Vreeland brought to the attention of the board that Leonard Knappmiller still has a number of outstanding permit conditions on the Dollar General project that he has been discussion with the Zoning Officer, Paul Donaldson. He would like the town to take some sort of enforcement action. Paul Donaldson reminded Mr. Vreeland that he has also spoken with the Town Attorney,

Gary Kupferer, and he has opined that he would be concerned with whether the Environmental Court would rule there is no violations since the Bylaws allow for 5 years to finish permit conditions. Discussion followed. Mr. Vreeland circulated a marked up transcript whereby Mr. Knappmiller agreed to a number of conditions to the permit that remain unfulfilled.

Alex Hilliard presented to the board a concern that the recent vacancy to the board had not been timely noticed in accordance with the timeline dictated by State statute. Paul Donaldson urged Mr. Hilliard to read the Town of Poultney Charter which he has complied with. He stated the Vacancy Notice is scheduled to be in the Lakes Region Free Press on September 1, 2023. There was a spirited, and somewhat contentious, discussion regarding this issue with input for Sheryl Porrier and Jeff King as well. Alex Hilliard also expressed concerns that Paul Donaldson continues to fail to timely post meeting minutes. Paul Donaldson contested this assertion and stated he has been posting minutes to the website on Saturday afternoons or evenings within 5 days on meetings as required by State statute.

-Mary Sue Reed inquired about the Route 31 bridge easement agreements. Paul Donaldson stated he has no update from the State on those discussions but did state that the State has entered into those discussions much sooner in the process than they normally would have given the importance to traffic that bridge is.

-Mary Sue Reed stated recently that a number of 4-wheelers and dirt bikes had been travelling on Hampshire Hollow Road. Paul Donaldson stated it would be the RCSD that should be contacted to address these types of matters.

Executive Session: At 7:47PM, Alan-Glen Burnell made the following motion: “Pursuant to 1 VSA Section 313(a)(1), I make a motion that this board finds that premature general public knowledge would clearly place this board or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage if certain matters related to contracts were discussed. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor. Alan- Glen Burnell further made the following motion: “Pursuant to 1 VSA Section 313(a)(1)(A), I make a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss contract matters.” Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor. Alan-Glen Burnell also made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matter. Mark Teetor seconded this motion. Motion passed with all in favor. The board entered Executive Session with Raj Bhakta, Dan Norwood, and Josh Moskowitz, all of Regenerative Land Holdings. At 9:24PM, Sheryl Porrier made a motion to leave Executive Session. Alan-Glen Burnell seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor. The board set another Executive Session meeting for September 5, 2023 at 6:00PM.

Board Orders: Mark Teetor made a motion to pay board orders. Alan-Glen Burnell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Sheryl Porrier made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alan-Glen Burnell seconded the motion. Motion carried. s/Paul A. Donaldson