

**TOWN OF STAMFORD  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
February 17, 2022  
(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Daniel J. Potvin, Carol A. Fachini, Michael G. Denault, and Brandon Field.

Visitors: Sarah Bardo, Seth Bardo, Robert Bouchard, Carolyn Brooks, Charles Bullett, Jacalyn Bullett, Debra Burchard, Laura Champagne, Alex Dargie, Brandon Dobnick, Eleanor Derby-Kilfoyle, David Fierro, Jr., Sue Fierro, Zach Fink, John Gilmartin, Laura Gilmartin, Nancy Luczynski, Luke McKay, Tom Nazzewski, Beth Phelps, Bruce Richardson, David Tatro, Jessica Tatro, E-Jay Tatro, Jessica Tatro, Macey Tatro, Trevor Tatro, Pamela Tworig, Candice Voghel, James Williams, Jamie Williams, Damien Wimpenny, David Yorke, and Natalie Yorke.  
David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.  
William Levine, Emergency Management Director.  
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed everyone, and read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting. There were no additions or changes to the agenda or its order.

**HEARING OF VISITORS:**

**ATV PRESENTATION**

1. Jessica Tatro provided a presentation that addressed many of the concerns and questions posed by town residents and the Selectboard. Option 1 would be for the Selectboard to approve a short 0.4 mile section of County Road on the Class 4 section toward Pownal. This option would satisfy the National Forest's need to connect existing trails. The Selectboard would be able to control the opening and closing of the road and regulate its use, such as speed and other factors, through an ordinance. Option 2 was also offered as an alternative to keep VASA out of Stamford. Bruce Richardson assisted by defining several trails on National Forest land. Jessica Tatro advised that the parking lot does not have to be part of the plan, but it would use space that is already there and would serve hunters and hikers since this would be a multi-use parking lot to serve a multi-use trail. She addressed the "as is" motto that many share wanting to keep everything as is, but stated that it is illegal for people to ride on the roads. The state's new law requires all riders to have a VASA TAD sticker, insurance and registration. If the Selectboard wants to consider keeping things "as is", they should consider adopting an ordinance describing what roads can be used, when, and the speed limits allowed, etc. These roads do not need to be classified as "VASA roads" and can stay off the VASA map. The Stamford Ridge Riders Club is willing to work with the town to create an ordinance that is fair for all. She also addressed the difficulty of enforcement and is willing to work with the town and the sheriff's department for a solution as well as encouraging group members to follow the law through word of mouth and peer pressure. The Ridge Riders Club recognizes that riding in town is a privilege and will continue to promote safe and legal riding. She provided copies of the presentation to the Selectboard with maps identifying the options and various trail alternatives. The Selectboard thanked the ATV subcommittee and Bruce Richardson for their hard work and countless hours they dedicated to reach this point.
2. Connie Yorke provided a presentation representing the citizens of the ATV subcommittee. She stated that VASA has invaded towns and forests throughout Vermont and has set its sights on Stamford. Our town is the last link in a five town trail system they are hoping to complete. She said many towns that have allowed it to happen now regret their decisions. She noted that there is a trailhead seven miles north and recommended that the Selectboard do not support a parking lot on County Road. Bruce Richardson has submitted four alternative plans which would keep the trails on National Forest land and bypass Stamford all together, but

the National Forest has not yet responded to these submittals. Connie Yorke suggested the town prohibit any VASA trails. She indicated that Martina Barnes from the National Forest would be available at the end of March to attend a meeting. They tried to reach VASA but VASA has resisted their inquiries. Mike Denault had several questions of both presenters. Connie Yorke provided a large notebook for the board's review. 3. Jess Tatro provided the board with copies of seventy signatures of people who support ATV use on the small quarter mile of County Road. Brandon Dobnick explained some negative experiences he had with ATV riders and several others voiced their concerns. Martina Barnes will be invited to an upcoming Selectboard meeting.

MOTION by Mike Denault to dissolve the ATV subcommittee and thanked the participants for donating so much of their time. SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

The Zoning Administrator was unable to attend tonight's meeting and will work with the board to schedule another time.

#### MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of February 3, 2022 as written. SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #5 \$ 9,274.51 payroll
- WARRANT #6 \$10,454.41 accounts payable

#### ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The loader is back from Milton Cat.
2. The Dodge Ram 5500 is in the garage for a gauge malfunction. The garage advised that it will likely be a month before the parts come in. Dan Potvin offered his military dump truck if Dave Tatro needs it.

#### RECYCLING

Nancy Bushika announced that the free Household Hazardous Waste Day will be on July 23, 2022 at the AOT garage in Heartwellville, Vermont.

#### PREPARATION FOR TOWN MEETING

The board prepared for town meeting. The town reports have been mailed out.

#### PURCHASING POLICY

The Library Trustees and Cemetery Commissioners reviewed the policy and had no objections.

MOTION by Brandon Field to accept and sign the Purchasing Policy as written. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

The town can now move forward with the Hazard Mitigation Grant in order to update the town's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

#### APPOINTED POSITIONS

Nancy Bushika advised that after the election the Selectboard will be making appointments to the positions that are up this year. She suggested that anyone interested in serving should review the positions in the town report and send the Selectboard or town clerk a letter of interest.

#### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Bill Levine advised that the first Regional Emergency Management meeting will be held on February 23, 2022 online at 4 p.m. He and Dan Potvin will attend. It is also open to any residents who are interested.

#### COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT

They are seeking requests for proposals for the actual construction of the infrastructure.

#### LEGISLATIVE REAPPORTIONMENT

Bill Levine advised that Rep. Laura Sibilila is trying to reach Nancy Bushika about the legislative reapportionment. They have drafted a new plan to group Stamford, Readsboro, Pownal and a portion of Bennington into one legislative district. Laura Sibilila hopes that Stamford can review the map and provide a response by Tuesday if the board is not happy with this new grouping. The town's Board of Civil Authority has already met previously and submitted a formal response and Nancy Bushika and Lori Shepard also attended an online hearing to object to the proposed redistricting. Nancy Bushika will work with the town clerk to prepare a response.

#### SCHOOL ALARM BILLS

The town shares the phone and internet system with the school and pays 25% of the cost each month. The town also pays for 25% of the yearly upkeep of the alarm monitoring system. The town clerk received a bill recently to pay 25% of a service call to replace the battery in town's panic button as well as several panic buttons in the school. Lori Shepard contacted the School Board Chair and Betsey Moseley at the Windham Southwest Supervisory Union who felt the town should pay its 25%. The WSSU also submitted a bill for 25% of a service call for the library. Because the town has not budgeted anything other than the once a year alarm monitoring fee and these bills are outside of the normal payments, the town clerk brought these bills to the Selectboard's attention. The Selectboard agreed to pay the bills. Mike Denault emphasized the need to begin joint meetings with the School Directors again.

#### BENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Mike Denault has been in contact with the Bennington Sheriff and the Vermont State Police. There was a recent altercation in Stamford and Mike Denault asked residents to pay attention and keep their eyes open. He suggested organizing a Neighborhood Watch.

#### SOUTHWESTERN VERMONT COUNCIL ON AGING

Nancy Bushika acknowledged an article the town received which was recently in the Bennington Banner. The Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging is accepting applications from Bennington and Rutland County aging service organizations for funding through the American Rescue Plan Act. The funds can be used to support various groups of low income older individuals.

#### DOG CLINIC

Luke McKay sought approval to schedule a rabies clinic near the end of March. Dave Tatro felt the highway garage was not a good location last year. Nancy Bushika did not want it to be held in the town office. The rabies clinic could be held outside of the town office in the parking lot. Luke McKay will contact the veterinarian for available dates.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini  
Clerk

## REMINDERS

1. Anyone interested in helping Bill Levine review the contents of the Red Cross trailer or interested in forming a Citizen Response Group should contact Bill Levine directly or the town office.
2. Please visit the town's new official website: [www.stamfordt.net](http://www.stamfordt.net) for town information and updates.
3. Town meeting will be held on Monday, February 28, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. with the town portion first, followed by the school.
4. Voting will be held on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Town of Stamford Community Room. Applications for addition to the checklist will be accepted at the town office up to and throughout election day.
5. Absentee ballots will be available until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 28, 2022. Please call the town office at 694-1361.
6. For anyone interested in serving as an appointed board member, please review the expiring appointed positions in the town report and contact a member of that board or the Selectboard.