

**Stowe Selectboard, Liquor Commission & Water/Sewer Commission Meeting
Monday May 23, 2022**

Present:

Selectboard Members: William Adams, Nick Donza, Jo Sabel Courtney, Lisa Hagerty, Paco Aumand
In Person attendees: Paul Sakash, Mila Lonetto, Al Hardy, Tyler Mumley, Donna Adams, Drew Clymer
There were 8 participants on Zoom.

Call to Order

Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.

Approve the Agenda

On a motion by Ms. Jo Sabel Courtney, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hagerty, the Board approved the agenda with the addition of one item to the Liquor Consent Items.

Consent Agenda

1. 5/9/22 Selectboard Minutes
2. Mowing Bids
3. Recreation Commission Duties & Responsibilities Amendment – Student Representative
4. Letter of Support for Stowe Electric Moscow Mill Grant Application
5. Sewer Allocation – 33 Luce Hill Road
6. Water/Sewer Allocation – 109 Main Street
7. Lamoille County Sheriff's Department Contract
8. Liquor Consent Items

On a motion by Ms. Hagerty, seconded by Ms. Courtney, the Board approved the Consent Agenda as presented, with the one additional item in the Liquor Consent Items.

Zoning Amendments Public Hearing

Chair Adams opened the Public Hearing at 5:36pm.

The Selectboard previously met with the Planning Commission and Department of Planning & Zoning to review recommended amendments to the Town's adopted Zoning Regulations. Following review and discussion, the Selectboard scheduled this as the second and final public hearing before adoption of the proposed Zoning Amendments. This time is to allow the community to provide testimony and comments on the proposed amendments prior to adoption. It was noted that the Selectboard may make changes to the proposed amendments but it would require the public hearing process to start over again.

Planning and Zoning Director Sarah McShane was present to answer any questions, as well as Planning Commission chair Mila Lonetto and Planning Commission members Bob Davidson and Chuck Ebel. Mr. Albert Hardy, owner of 1009 South Main Street, asked that the Selectboard consider changing the zoning maps to include his property in the Lower Village District rather than Rural Residential 1 District, as he would like to develop a mixed use building to include commercial space and affordable housing. It was explained that the process for making a request like this would involve starting with the Planning Commission and then having them bring the suggestion forward to the Selectboard once it had been vetted and determined appropriate. It was also noted that this area of Town is the focus of a housing study that the Planning Commission is undertaking and hoping to have revisions to the Zoning Regulations in about one year following the results of this study. This request, if granted, could be included in that round of revisions.

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Resident Ms. Erika Skinger asked questions regarding minimum sizes and standards for Accessory Dwelling Units, density in Rural Residential Districts 3 & 5, and minimum lot size for General Planning Unit Developments. It was noted that ADUs are also regulated by the State, but that the Town of Stowe allows for larger sizes, not smaller. It was also noted that RR3 and RR5 districts density is deigned to encourage land conservation in those areas. Finally it was noted that residential PUDS have a different lot size requirement than general PUDs, which could include commercial space
There being no further discussions, Chair Adams closed the Public Hearing at 5:58pm.

On a motion by Ms. Hagerty, seconded by Mr. Paco Aumand, the Board approved the proposed amendments as presented in the warned hearing draft.

Proposed Cemetery Rules & Regulations Amendments

Donna Adams, chair of the Cemetery Commission, was present to discuss proposed amendments to the Cemetery Rules & Regulations. It was noted that while many of the changes are technical legal term changes or minor changes, one change did include the elimination of natural burials. Ms. Adams noted that this option was added in 2018, but the Cemetery is currently not able to accommodate these types of burials. Ms. Adams explained that natural burials contain no embalming, no synthetic materials in clothing, and do not utilize a vault to stabilize the grave. In the past, inverted vaults would hold the lot from collapsing, however these are no longer available. Because of this, the site must be mounded to compensate for soil settling as the remains decompose, and this is not something that will work in the current cemetery setup. Ms. Adams noted this is an evolving process and the Cemetery Commission may look at a dedicated area for natural burials at some point in the future, but at the moment they cannot accommodate them.

The Board also discussed what capacity remains in the Riverbank Cemetery, which Ms. Adams said is estimated to be about 20 years left, and while there is an expansion area in the Mayo Property, there are issues with flood plain and the river -eroded the bank which reduces the amount of land available. She also noted that cremation continues to be a very popular option for many, but not in the memorial garden where they can only have a flush marker rather than a full headstone.

Finally, Ms. Adams noted that the Cemetery Commission plans to present the Selectboard with revised fee schedule in the future.

On a motion by Mr. Aumand, seconded by Ms. Courtney, the Board approved the Cemetery Rules & Regulation Amendments as proposed.

Request to Take Down Vaccination Street Banner

Town Manager Mr. Charles Safford presented the Selectboard with an email request he had received from resident Stefi Clymer, requesting that the "Thank you for being vaccinated" banner over Main Street be taken down after approximately one year of being hung up.

Resident Ms. Emily Rosenbaum questioned the process by which a resident could request a banner be removed. It was explained that when this banner was put up it was at the direction of the Selectboard, but with no set end date. Therefore, it was to remain up until the Selectboard chose to take it down. The public has a right to make requests to the Selectboard, particularly when there is no set date for removal of the banner.

On a motion by Mr. Aumand, seconded by Mr. Nick Donza, the Board approved the request to take down the "Thank you for being vaccinated" banner.

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Manager's Report

Mr. Safford reminded the Board that the Town would be holding a retirement party from 4pm to 6pm on Wednesday June 1st to honor Bruce Godin, retiring Parks Superintendent after 42 years of service.

Mr. Safford also updated the board on the Lamoille County Planning Commission Regional Plan Information Session to be held on 5/24/22 at 7pm.

Mr. Safford let the Board know that due to escalating fuel prices, the Town has decided to delay bidding on the FY'23 paving program until Spring 2023 in hopes that prices will be better then. Public Works intends to utilize the remaining FY'22 paving funds (approximately \$40,000) to put a shim coat of pavement over Moscow Road in the core village area. It was noted this is only a shim coat intended to hold the road in manageable condition until it can be re-paved in a few years in conjunction with the anticipated Moscow Village Improvement Project.

There being no further business, Chair Adams adjourned the meeting at 6:38pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Sweetser.