

**TOWN OF CLARENDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**  
**REGULAR**  
**Monday, November 9, 2020**  
**Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Select Board

Mike Klopchin, Chair  
Bob Bixby, Clerk  
Robert Congdon  
Cash Ruane  
Rick Wilbur

Heidi Congdon, Treasurer  
Katie Rock, Secretary  
Joe Parker  
Joel Baker  
Dan Pinkowski  
Ed Bove  
Richard Griffith, Health Officer  
William Chmielewski  
Shannon Pytlik, via Zoom  
Nanci McGuire, via Zoom

**Call to Order**

Chairman Klopchin called the meeting to order at 6:03pm. The public observed a moment of silence in honor of Veterans Day on Wednesday.

**Agenda additions/deletions**

N/A

Selectman Congdon motioned to move Ed Bove and the RRPC, as well as Richard Griffith's Report on the trash on Walker Mtn Road before the approval of minutes, to lower the occupancy in the building. Selectman Bixby seconded the motion, and all approved.

**Town Officer's Report**

Richard Griffith was present to speak about the Walker Mountain Road property that was accumulating trash at the end of the driveway. He reported that he had spoken with the owners already and they would have the trash cleaned up by the end of the week. It had become an issue because it was impeding the Town's Right of Way, making it dangerous for cars going by. As of tonight, the trash had been taken away and the issue taken care of.

**Old Business**

**Ed Bove, RRPC, Hazard Mitigation Plan-** Ed came to the meeting to check in with the Town and say hello. He said he would be happy to answer any questions or give clarification regarding the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Selectman Congdon wanted to ask on behalf of the Board, if there were any major updates that needed to be changed in the Plan, and what they were- it didn't seem very clear in the answer they received. Ed explained that this is a 5- year plan and expires in January. The new standards are set by FEMA and every plan has to get their stamp of approval. Of course, the standards have changed, in the last 5 years ago, but the bulk of the Plan is requiring similar things to the current one: strategies, maps, hazard

identification, planning process, etc. Ed explained the ERAF rate would be reduced if the Town chose not to update the plan. That is, if there was a federally declared disaster in Clarendon, the federal government would cover 75% of the damages, the State would cover about 7.5%, and the Town would cover roughly 18%. If the Town does have a current Hazard Mitigation Plan, the ERAF rate jumps to 12.5%; as a result, in a FEMA disaster, the State would cover 12.5% of the damages. Chairman Klopchin asked if the Town would need to hire a firm to rewrite the plan. Ed responded that not many firms are bidding on writing these projects, as they are tedious, so RRPC would bid on it if allowed. There are two routes available to find funding for the writing the plan. There is a grant through that State of Vermont via Vermont Emergency Management. RRPC has set aside funds to write Clarendon's plan because Clarendon was one of two Rutland County towns, whose plans were expiring in the near future. The Board thanked Ed for that clarification, because they did not realize that there were funds available, therefore no extra added cost to the Town for a new plan. The Board asked Ed to clarify with Stephanie from RRPC, that the funding had been set aside. Selectman Congdon motioned that if the funding was available for the Plan then to move forward with updating it, and Selectman Wilbur seconded for discussion. Selectman Bixby wanted to reiterate that the Board would like Plan right now, as is, to come into compliance without major changes. Ed said that essentially yes, that should be fine but Stephanie knows more of the specifics. The motion passed unanimously among the Board.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Selectman Congdon motioned to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from October 26, 2020 subject to any corrections. Selectman Bixby seconded the motion. After seeing no errors, all Board members approved the motion.

The Board decided to jump to New Business to discuss the Cold River Berm Removal.

### **New Business**

**Update on Cold River Berm Removal presented by the Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District (RNRCD), requested by Dan Pinkowski** – Nanci McGuire and Shannon Pytlik were available on Zoom to give the Board and public an update. The Conservation District ran into some funding issues after an initial quote and as a result had to go back and get more funding. This is part of the reason the project has been delayed. They've had to file permits and work with engineering firms for the well. They are scheduling with Parker Water Wells to have a blow test (determines the gallons/minute) done. After they drill for the blow test, the firm has to test samples to make sure there's no bacteria present, and confirm that the well produces 20gallons/minute- the rate necessary to supply water to 4 homes. There's been a delay in this step of the project as well due to the drought, and many engineering firms are busy drilling. The RNRCD has to wait for the water system to be put in, before removing the berms. They have closed on the easement. They have found the project to be a lot more expensive than originally planned. Dan Pinkowski clarified with Nanci and Shannon that they found a community well, not a private resident well. The RNRCD originally filed a permit with the State for it to be a private well, and the State came back later and said it had to be a commercial well, due to the fact that it was supplying water to 4 dwellings. Chairman Klopchin asked if they found the exact location of the spring, could the berm be removed. Selectman Ruane chimed in and said that if they removed the berm, without the proper water system in place, and in the event of another Tropical Storm Irene happening, there would be major ramifications. The Board thanked Nanci and Shannon for being available on Zoom for this presentation and giving them an update. The Board followed up with their own discussion. Unfortunately, the RNRCD had a lot of funding issues that delayed progress. It sounded like when they filed their original permit to the State, it was sufficient, and later the State changed the standard and the well had to be filed under a commercial system. Selectman Congdon worries that the berms won't be removed because the RNRCD will have to cut costs and not finish the project. Selectman Bixby wondered if

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there needed to be a 1,000 foot perimeter around the well. Selectman Ruane answered that yes, there is a perimeter that is in place. The Board asked Katie to do some research in the minutes to see what the total costs of the project were, as well the Town's contribution to it.

### **Highway**

**Road Commissioner Report-** Road Commissioner Ruane reported that the Crew is getting winter grading done. The Town was able to purchase an industrial leaf blower with a grant from the Grants-In-Aid program. Dan Pinkowski commented that he felt it was counterproductive because it blows the leaves in the ditches. Joe Parker, member of the Road Crew said that the leaf blower was saving money in the long run because they won't have to go back and ditch later, because the ditches are cleaner. Dan also felt that adding a piece of equipment to the fleet, is just more maintenance for the Road Crew to keep up with. Fortunately, the Town won't have to buy a tractor to go with it, because it attaches to the forklifts on the loader. Any piece of equipment with forklifts will be able to run the leaf blower. The Road Commissioner wrapped up his report, the Board thanked him as well as the Road Crew for their admirable work.

### **Approval of Select Board Warrants**

All new warrants and warrants previously signed by the designated Select Board Member were approved and signed by all Select Board Members.

### **Guests**

N/A

### **Public Comments**

N/A

The Board resumed following the agenda.

### **New Business**

**Sign MRGP Amendment Form-** The MRGP Amendment form requires that the Town be up to date following MRGP as well as the Road Erosion Inventory. Selectman Congdon motioned to authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign it on behalf of them, Selectman Wilbur seconded, and all approved.

**Herald Association Bankruptcy- Sign Stipulation of Consent-** The Herald Association owns property up on Quarterline Road that has gone delinquent. They are filing for bankruptcy and liquidating their assets. The Town of Clarendon will get paid their taxes first based on the sale of property. Heidi, Treasurer, confirmed that all dollar amounts are accurate. Selectman Congdon motioned to have the Chairman sign the Stipulation of Consent, Selectman Wilbur seconded, and the motion passed unopposed.

### **Town Officer's Report**

Katie reported that she is wrapping up grant reimbursement for Quarterline Road.

### **Select Board Member Concerns**

Selectman Congdon gave props to all the individuals that helped with the Election and on record, said that he hopes there will not be a mail-in voting option again. Selectman Congdon motioned that the Board write a letter to the Secretary of State stating their

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displeasure with mail in voting and urge them to go back to in person voting, and that all board members sign it. Selectman Wilbur seconded the motion and all approved.

### **Executive Session- Road Crew Personnel Issues**

Selectman Wilbur motioned to go in to Executive Session at 7:10PM, Selectman Bixby seconded, and the motion passed. Selectman Congdon motioned to come out of Executive Session at 8:38PM, Selectman Bixby seconded and all Board members approved. Their discussion was on personnel matters and contract negotiations.

### **Adjournment**

Selectman Congdon motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:39PM. Selectman Wilbur seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

SIGNED: Mike Klopchin Mike Klopchin, Chair

SIGNED: Bob Bixby Bob Bixby, Clerk