

TOWN OF ELMORE, VT

Monthly Select Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes – prepared by C. DeVore
Status: APPROVED

Meeting Date: October 14, 2015

Start Time: 6:31 pm **Adjourn:** 7:56 pm

Meeting Attendees: Robert Burley – ESB Chairman, Caroline DeVore – ESB, Whit Hartt – ESB, Michel Lacasse – Road Commissioner, Ted Barnett – Principle, Roy Marble – Observer, John H. Stuart, P.E. – Expert/Representing Worcester Range Conservation Association, Sten Lium (St. Johnsbury) – Observer

A. SPECIAL TOPICS:

1. **WATER SYSTEM: ANR-WQD Permit to Operate as delivered to Elmore Water System needs modifications in two critical areas: 1) Optional Chlorination and 2) Capacity upgrade to permit future additional users. State has reviewed and approved the previously agreed modifications. Final meeting and signing with WQD to occur EOB Oct 2015.**

B. NEW ITEMS:

1. STATUS UPDATE- EAGLE LEDGE LOGGING PROJECT – Hartt

- a. **Inspection Report: Current Trail Conditions & protections,**
- b. **Progress Report: Trail restoration guarantees, bonded loggers, liability protections, landowner ROW status, Project Schedule, Projected Town involvement.**

Whit talked to Mike Green; project anticipated start date week of October 19th. Will get copies of 1) logging contract, 2) liability insurance and 3) performance bond for the project to confirm no town liability and return of Eagle Ledge Trail to current state. Total project timeline estimated at 3 weeks. Whit will take pictures of Eagle Ledge Trail and all access prior to logging operation start date.

Note: There are two logging projects the SB is monitoring. This operation and the one noted in September SB meeting minutes, Item B.1. Wesolowski seeking ESB action to secure ROW through Wolloch family lands. We are splitting these two items for reporting purposes.

Re: Wesolowski/Wolloch – no update.

2. DISCUSSION: TED BARNETT Worcester Ridge Land – reschedule from 16Sep15 no show.

Mr. Barnett and his team presented their vision for 1) development of a “Ridgeline Trail” connecting Putnam State Forest across the “Elmore Mountain Ridge” some 2.3 miles across 5+/- parcels. (approx 12,000 feet) and 2) a “domain” area for luxury residences.

Mr. Barnett has real estate interest involving approximately 3,000 feet of the proposed “Ridge Line Trail”. Mr. Barnett claims to have identified interest from several land owners and other interested parties (e.g., Green Mtn Club), in creating a pedestrian trail along the Worcester to Elmore ridgeline. Under VT Statute, each property owner may grant an easement both for the creation and access of what would be a public recreation trail.

Mr. Barnett proposed to present to the ESB a plan by which zoning above 1500 feet may be waived in order to offset possible land value reductions resulting from easements permitting public access and trail use of the proposed Ridgeline Trail.

The ESB advised that land owners are free to grant easements on their land without restriction so long as those easements conform to current zoning guidelines. The ESB also stated that the Labenski property has recently sold to new owners. The ESB stated that any proposals for zoning

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modification would require statutory compliance with VT Public Meeting Laws.
Burley assigned as DRI for this issue.

3. POLICY: LAND ACCESS - Curb cuts to comply with Forest & Ag. Mgt. Plans

Current zoning permits agriculture and forestry access for productive use of the land.

a. INFO: IMPACT OF RECYCLING LAW: VLCT requested update on impacts

Requested update on early impacts of VT recycling law. Burley responded that intentions and early implementation appear good however there may be unintended consequences for additional cleanup of roadside trash. There has been an increase in some household trash being dumped into ditches along Class 3 and 4 roads in Elmore.

4. FRONT PORCH FORUM CONTRIBUTION: PPF mid-year request for contribution as benefit to community.

Normally these types of contributions are requested and granted as part of Town Meeting appropriations. We will add to the warrant for the next Town Meeting (2016) at a level of \$200.

5. DECISION: Elmore participation in VYCC 2016 Drainage repair work for Cl 3 & 4 roads and/or trails.

Approved: The 2015 work was excellent and the SB would be happy to have this team add us to their list for 2016.

C. CONTINUING ACTIVE ITEMS:

1. Road Commissioner Update – LaCasse

Will not be pursuing grant for sand shed. Unable meet 16 October deadline for engineering plans, specs and bids.

Summary of local work:

Work Completed:

- a. East Elmore Brook rip rap project completed. Seven days to complete 150 foot road bed, stream bank, and new road bed 3-5 ft thick and a height of 12 ft. 25 loads of stone, 350 yards.
- b. Culvert and ditch work from Mitchell Lane to Wolcott line.
- c. Culvert and ditch work last 3 tenths of a mile on Tallman Rd.
- d. Culvert changed on Elmore Mountain Rd in front of Keith Farm barn.
- e. Grading as needed.

Equipment status:

- f. Truck #1 back in service 9/29, looks great.

Employee Status:

- a. All is well.

Upcoming:

- a. Stock pile materials.
- b. Prices on grader rebuild.
- c. Beach Rd paving options.
- d. Burley advised that grant money has now become available for Beach Rd rebuild – 2014.
- e. Winter.

2. UPDATE: Elmore Planning Commission – Hartt

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- a. **STATUS: Sub Division By Laws**
LCPC coming to next meeting 10/21, to review subdivision regulations. Whit will step down as chairperson next month.
- 3. **UPDATE: Elmore Grammar School Security – DeVore**
 - a. **Review existing physical security and procedures. Closed**
- 4. **UPDATE: Elmore Security Survey – DeVore**
650 Elmore Town voters, 85 responses, split evenly (more police coverage/we have enough coverage)/ Preponderance of respondents did not want to see taxes increase for additional police coverage. Survey results are posted along with minutes.

D. COMPLETED/INACTIVE ITEMS:

- 1. Open Action Item List reviewed by SB.
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