

## Elmore Planning Commission Minutes

October 6, 2020

Meeting held outside of town office

### Attendees:

- Bruce Olsson
- Glenn Schwartz
- Kate Sprague
- Michelle Greeson
- Hans de Boer

Guest: Mark Brewer

### **Broadband discussion:**

CVFiber recently sent in a letter that objected a grant proposal from Consolidated Communications that would have built out a fiber to the premise (FTTP) for over 400 addresses in the Elmore/Wolcott area by the end of 2020. There was a lot of discussion as to whether or not the Town of Elmore should push back on CVFiber to withdraw the objection. A recent email from the individual at Consolidated who had been working on the proposal seems to suggest that Consolidated would no longer pursue that grant funding due to the fact that it was getting too late in the year to meet the deadline. According to the information on the [www.elmorevt.org](http://www.elmorevt.org) homepage, it appears that CVFiber is going to be rolling out a short-range wireless internet service to the town of Elmore in the very near future which would provide speeds of 15 to 50 mbps download speed. It was decided that the Consolidated proposal would stop short of providing everyone in Elmore broadband internet service and would deter the rollout of broadband internet to the remainder of the town as well due to the lack of profitability. CVFiber will begin the construction of FTTP network in 2021. Due to geographical challenges of the CVFiber area, Elmore would be most likely be the last of the CVFiber members to receive FTTP and the expectation is that it will take several years for the project to be completed.

### **Two Acre State Park land**

Bob Burley has been working on this. Currently it is thought that the new town garage cannot be built in its current location. They are looking to possibly obtain land from the State Park to get the property necessary to build a new town garage. Once the town garage is located, that parcel of land may be available for the town to utilize. The two-acre parcel on the corner of beach road and Rt 12 may be part of the negotiation. Glenn suggests that the Elmore Planning Commission stays out of the process until there is progress made on the future location of the town garage.

### **New Business:**

**Walk extension around the lake:** There is motivation to reinstate a walking path around the lake. In the past there was a path, but part of it goes through private property and there were issues and it was shut down. Elmore Planning Commission would like to look into this.

**Conservation information:** there is a mapping program from ANR which has soil types, wildlife corridors and various other natural information. The program shows where important pieces of land are for

wildlife crossings/corridors, etc. Includes suggestions for how to manage the property to assist in conservation. Once social distancing rules relax, and property owners can safely be contacted, Kate would like the EPC to begin reaching out to property owners in crucial areas to give them the information to help them create a more ideal environment to support the wildlife in those areas. The website is:

**The next meeting is November 4, 2020 at 6pm. Location: zoom meeting.**

**Agenda for 11/4/2020:**

- CVFiber progress
- Check in to see if there has been progress on Town Garage relocation
- Next steps for a completing a walking path around Lake Elmore
- ANR Maps and identifying areas where the EPC can help in promoting conservation efforts with land owners