**TOWN OF WESTON**

**P.O. BOX 98**

**WESTON, VT 05161**

**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**December 28th, 2022 at 7:30 PM**

**Present**: Denis Benson, Charles Goodwin, Ann Fuji’i and Lisa Yrsha

**Absent:** Jim Linville

**Public:** Natalie Boston, JoAnn Abballe and Piero Abballe

**Zoom:** Kim Seymour, Will Duane and Bridgid Sullivan

Denis Benson calls the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

1. **Review and Approve Minutes:** A few corrections and clarifications made. Denis Benson moves to approve with corrections, Charles Goodwin 2nd. *Unanimously approved*.
2. **Changes and Additions to the Agenda:** None
3. **Public Comment:** Will wait to take public comment until after hearing from the Mount Holly Conservation and Vermont Fish and Wildlife.
4. **Land Transfer from Mount Holly Conservation to Vermont Fish and Wildlife:** Denis Benson begins by addressing concerns. When the Selectboard first showed support they had been lead to believe that it would be open to the public and specifically available for hunting. It had been observed that the access road had a gate and there had been No Trespassing signs posted. Will Duane from Vermont Fish and Wildlife says that as of last week the land in question officially became State Land. Closed on the 21st and previous to that it had still been privately owned. Now that it is in states hands it will be open to the public. He goes on to describe plans to do 2 “curb cuts” for parking areas. He notes that in the original agreement to purchase the land, it had to be in the same condition it was in when the agreement happened. Gate and No Trespassing put up to prevent any more dumping and the Mount Holly conservation had an obligation to keep the land in the same condition. Will notes that the transaction did take longer than anticipated. Denis Benson asks about the status on Old RT 8. Will says that they are still trying to figure that out but it is not a town road. Need to do more surveys and title work. Discussion. Lisa Yrsha asks about the chain on the lower access to the property. Will says they plan to “Phase in” the management plan, have ideas for the parking, will move the chain back in the interim for parking. Denis Benson expresses frustration and feeling that the process was “rammed through”, he had requested a public hearing on this but was denied. Discussion. Lisa Yrsha notes that while one hunting season was lost it is in State hands now and will be available for public access for hunting moving forward. Annie Fuji’i says she is in support of it being open for hunting and transferred over to the state. Charles Goodwin reflects that the latter of support from the Weston Selectboard still stands. Lisa Yrsha says the issue with Old RT 8 still needs to be addressed. Bridgid Sullivan says they have been having a hard time finding documents of titles and deeds on this. Will says they plan on doing a survey of the land come spring and offers to come back to the Selectboard ith any update and will keep them in the loop on the boundary issues. Will Duane offers his contact information to anyone from the public that would like to contact him:
Email: will.duane@vermont.gov
Cell Phone: 802-522-7633

**3. Public Comment:** Piero Abballe and JoAnn Abballe own a property on Lawrence Hill rd., they are restoring the property and plan to retire to Weston in the next couple of years. Piero says they have some concerns about their neighboring property. He says he has been doing research and requesting public records regarding multifamily home, commercial office or laundry facility but says that all 3 are happening at the neighboring property. They have been in contact will Zoning Administrator Will Goodwin and he has been assisting them. They express concern of a lot of traffic, not in the village or in a commercial district but in a rural district. Dennis Benson says first thing is that the laundry or septic would be a State issue; the town has no say in that matter at all. Annie Fuji’i says she was on the Zoning Board when it was brought to them; the property was purchased as a primary residence for the managers of The Weston and would also be used as office space to manage and hold meetings. That use had been approved by the Zoning Board. She goes on to note that this was very common practice in Vermont. Annie says there was no mention on laundry and nothing submitted regarding that yet. Denis Benson also mentions that previous owners of the property had a painting business at that location and that was the reason for the large garage. Discussion. The Selectboard reiterate that any septic/water issue would be a state issue not the Selectboard and since nothing has been submitted regarding laundry, to just wait and see. The Abballe’s will continue to be in contact with zoning administrator Will Goodwin.
5. **Road Name Approval (Little Pond Subdivision):** Annie Fuji’i says that the road name that was approved in Andover is “Barn Owl Lane”. Discussion. No need to approve, no issues with the name.
6. **2023 Warning Review:** Kim Seymour has prepared a worksheet for budget meetings coming up on the 3rd. 4th and 5th of January. Denis Benson notes article #19 language. Discussion on tax bills due dates changing each year and how it is confusing for tax payers. Denis Benson notes that it is the most beneficial for banking purposes. Discussion. The Selectboard will think about that and discuss at budget meetings.
7. **Budget and Comparison:**
8. **Pay Raises:** Will discuss in executive session.
9. **Rural Fire Protection Appropriation Request:** Will add to the pile of appropriation requests for consideration at the upcoming Budget Meeting.
10. **SO #27 Payroll, SO #27 Vendors:** Charles Goodwin moves to approve SO#27 Payroll for the amount of $10,774.89, Annie Fuji’i 2nd. *Unanimously approved*.
Lisa Yrsha moves to approve SO #27 Vendors for the amount of $12,453.61, Charles Goodwin 2nd. *Unanimously approved*.

Denis Benson moves to go into executive session **1 V.S.A. § 313 1B** Personnel, and invites Kim Seymour to stay for discussion. Charles Goodwin 2nd. *Unanimously approved*.

**Into Executive session at 8:31 PM**

**Out of Executive Session at 8:50 PM**

 Denis Benson reminds everyone that the budget meetings will be Jan 3, 4, & 5, 2023 from 7 pm to 9 pm.

Charles Goodwin moves to adjourn.

Denis Benson adjourns the meeting as chair at **8:51 PM**