

Peru Selectboard Meeting Minutes April 19, 2017

Present: Todd Williams, Chuck Black, Wayne Blanchard, Donna Williams, Stewart Beattie, Margaret Cobb

Meeting Called to Order: Todd called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

Review/ Approve Minutes: Todd requested changing the content of minutes under section *Recording/ Videotaping discussion* to read, "Stewart advised meetings could be recorded by video or audio by any member of the public attending the meeting". Todd made a motion to approve the April 5, 2017 meeting minutes with changes; Chuck seconded; all in favor; motion passed.

Stewart let the Selectboard be aware that he was recording the meeting.

Request to Change Agenda/ Public Comment: Stewart asked for two changes to the agenda;

- 1) Appointment of board members and town officers.
- 2) Discussion on open meeting laws.

New Business

Appointment of Board Members/ Town Officers: Todd considered appointments for the Planning Commission and Zoning Board and asked Stewart for his opinion. Stewart said Bill Stracher would like to be a member of the Planning Commission and all other members with expired terms would like to be reappointed. Todd made a motion to reappoint Stewart Beattie, Robert Stelz, and Paul Myers to the Planning Commission for three year terms ending in 2020. He also appointed Bill Stracher to complete David Farnum seat on the board ending in 2018, as David has sold his house and moved out of town; Chuck seconded; all in favor; motion passed.

Todd made a motion to reappoint John Acosta and appoint Chuck Black to the Zoning Board for three year terms ending in 2020; Chuck seconded; all in favor; motion passed. Thank you to Jim Daley for his service on the Zoning Board.

Chuck will research State requirements and recommendations for the offices of Fence Viewers and Health Officer.

Chuck made a motion to reappoint Margaret Dawedeit to the position of Town Service Officer; Todd seconded; all in favor; motion passed.

Open Meeting Laws: Chuck said Stewart was and is correct, he as a member of the public can record the meeting. The Open Meeting Laws can be found on the VLCT website and the Vermont Secretary of State website. Stewart provided a copy of “A Guide to Open Meetings” from the Vermont Secretary of State highlighting the following statement found under section “What Rights Do Members of the Public Have?”

Members of the public have the right to attend meetings, to express their opinion on matters being considered by the public body, and to tape or videotape meetings so long as it is not done in a manner that disrupts the meeting. 1 V.S.A. § 312(h).

Todd suggested, if a meeting is being recorded, taping ought to start at the beginning of the meeting and complete at the end of the meeting. This cannot be a requirement but is a recommendation. Discussion regarding recording of meetings and recording devices ensued.

Old Business

Kelton Family Community Fund: Todd spoke with Patrick Berry, from the Vermont Community Foundation, and Art Kelton questioning the inclusion of the Post Office property within the Fund Purpose description. Art wasn't sure why the post office was included in the guidelines. The fund is for the benefit of the Town of Peru to enhance the well-being of the community and its citizens. The fund guidelines have been rewritten as of April 7, 2017 deleting any reference of the Post Office.

Donna asked for clarification and guidance from the Selectboard regarding the fund check. The Board would like a separate bank account opened under the title of “Kelton Family Community Fund”. Donna will be named a signature until the committee is formed.

Art will contact the Selectboard in the immediate future to discuss the fund and formation of a committee.

Other Business

Generator for Emergency Shelter: The Town of Londonderry is requesting the surrounding mountain towns contribute to the purchase of a generator that will be installed at Flood Brook Union School. Once the generator is installed Flood Brook will be the Emergency Shelter in the event of a disaster. The match share for Peru is based on a population of 375 residents at a cost

of \$4.4559/ person. The total match share for Peru is \$1,670.96. Todd made a motion to pay the Town of Londonderry \$1,670.96 for our contribution to the purchase of a generator to be installed at Flood Brook School; Chuck seconded; all in favor; motion passed.

Excess Weight Permit: Todd made a motion to approve the excess weight permit for Crandall Logging LLC; Chuck seconded; all in favor; motion passed.

Road Foreman Report: Wayne and Brian have been busy with the following spring projects:

- Sweeping of intersections.
- Lawn clean up at Town Center and Community House.
- Grading of roads.
- Cleaning tree blow downs.

Projects requiring attention include clean out and repair of culverts located on Old Manchester Road East and Main Street west end. Removing the old Ash tree on Pierce Road. Plus, taking down and discarding the old wooden play structure located at the North Road Park.

Beaver damage has occurred along the brook by the community house between Main Street and VT Rte. 11. Wayne has called Pete Salo, who is hired on a yearly contract with the Town, to assist in removal of the beaver. He and Brian have also removed two beaver dams.

Wayne will discuss the balance of monies allocated for gravel. If possible he would like to purchase more for upkeep and repair of roads.

The street signs for Rock Bottom Lane and Birch Hill Farm Road have been installed.

We are almost through mud season.

Stewart had a couple road crew questions. He asked about the placement of the stop sign located at the intersection of South Road and Main Street. He instructed the sign should be moved forward, closer to the intersection.

Wayne will relocate the sign if possible, barring any unexpected obstacles. He also mentioned the drainage ditch located in front of the “Schuell” house on Main Street. He is certain he and Carl saw a ditch there years ago and would like the Road Crew to search for it. If found and cleared it would alleviate the problem of water washing across the road causing erosion. Chuck will ask a friend who owns a dowsing device for locating pipes to come explore the area.

Review Bills and Approve Payment: The Selectboard reviewed all the bills and approved payment.

Planning Commission Matters: Stewart said the May 10th meeting will include a presentation from Ryan Prins discussing the Johnny Seesaws project details and updates. Bromley Mountain Resort representatives will also provide a revised master plan for the East Village.

Adjournment: Todd adjourned the meeting at 7:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Cobb
Peru Town Clerk