

## Meeting Minutes

### Poultney Selectboard

Monday, May 13, 2024 – 6:30 PM  
Poultney Town Hall

Jeff King called the meeting to order and led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Selectmen present included: Jeff King, Sheryl Porrier, Alan-Glen Burnell, Mark Teetor and Valerie Broughton. Others present included Paul A. Donaldson, Joel Roberts, Sarah Pelkey, Bonnie Gray, Mary Sue Reed, Greg O'Brien, President of Slate Valley Trails, Courtney Behnken, Director of Operations of Slate Valley Trails, and Johnathan Andrews. Attending via Zoom members included Elizabeth Ayers and Nic Stark.

**Adoption of the Agenda:** Alan-Glen Burnell made a motion to adopt the Agenda. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

**Approval of Minutes:** Sheryl Porrier made a motion to approve the minutes of 4-22-24. Valerie Broughton seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

**Road Report:** Joel Roberts reported the following:

- All gravel roads have had at least one initial grading. The crews are adding materials as needed.
- The crew is done with most of the storm cleanup (removing trees that were down).
- The crews have had several culverts that needed replacement recently/
- We will start to tackle MRGP work that we were unable to get done last year.
- We are formulating a plan to start repairs to Lewis Road.
- Joel questioned about status of building replacement. Sarah Pelkey stated the MERP reports have been received but she has yet to review the same. Sarah Pelkey is studying funding options.
- Joel Roberts and Paul Donaldson met with an engineer to look at the Blissville Road retaining wall project as well as assessing how to approach the Upper Road issues.
- Discussion about continuing to educate the public on the right/need for the Highway Department to make repairs/work in the road right-of-way, i.e. not just on the roadbed itself.

**Community Development:** Sarah Pelkey reported the following:

- The new website is up and running as of 3-24-24. She is working on tying news feature into the website. Paul Donaldson stated he needed additional training to use the website.
- She estimates we had about 175 people, including the Poultney High School students participate in Green Up Day on May 4, 2024.
- She attended a VT Gears and Makers Fest. In Stowe recently.
- She will be attending a Northern Forest Outdoor seminar as part of the RERC program in NH this week.

- She continues to work on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July planning.
- She is assisting PES, PHS and the YAHSC seek grant funds to apply for emergency generators.

### **Town Managers Report:**

-The Town Clerk has asked the board to approve a Beer and Wine Liquor License Application for someone at the Full Belly Deli location. Paul Donaldson stated he understands that entity has also applied for a Spirits License. Mark Teetor questioned as to whether the Selectboard should vet the credibility/reputation of the applicant. Discussion followed. Alan-Glen Burnell made a motion to approve the Beer and Wine application. Valerie Broughton seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

-The Town Clerk also presented an outside consumption application for Whale Back Vineyard. Alan-Glen Burnell abstained in the discussion and voting for this application. Sheryl Porrier made a motion to approve this application. Valerie Broughton seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

**Transact any Other Lawful Selectboard Business:** Paul Donaldson mentioned that the next regular meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2024, Memorial Day. Discussion followed. The consensus of the board was to move the meeting to May 20, 2024 at 6:30PM.

**Health Officer:** None.

**Rutland Regional Planning Commission:** Sarah Pelkey was unable to attend the last meeting.

### **Public Comments on matters (limit of 10 minutes total)**

- Greg O'Brien, President of Slate Valley Trails and Courtney Behnken, Director of Operations of Slate Valley Trails, presented SVT's 2024 yearly report and future goals. SVT has grown tremendously since its founding in 2015, with increased donations, memberships, and business sponsors. They want to continue to work with the board and community to grow outdoor recreation. Mary Sue Reed reminded the board that SVT is very active in bird watching, not just hiking and biking.

-Mary Sue Reed inquired about a fireworks application now on the website. Paul Donaldson stated that the fire department always requires an application and fireworks display permit from professional fireworks companies, which entails insurance, safety plan (perimeters to viewing public), cleanup plan, and liability insurance.

-Mary Sue Reed asked about status of updating the Animal Control Ordinance. Paul Donaldson stated that we have reviewed some other towns' ordinances, as well as a VLCT model, but no further action has yet to be taken.

-Jonathan Andrews commented that the Town's efforts to clean up grass and sod from the sidewalks on East Main Street looked great and made it much easier to navigate the sidewalks.

He commented the website looks great, the new sign at the office looks great, and thanks Mark Teetor for questioning the role in the board approving and vetting applicants for liquor licenses.

**Executive Session:** Noe.

**Board Orders:** Alan-Glen Burnell made a motion to pay board orders. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Adjournment:** Sheryl Porrier made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

s/Paul A. Donaldson