

Shaftsbury Select Board

December 5, 2022

Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were selectpersons Art Whitman (chair), Mike Cichanowski, Martha Cornwell, Tony Krulikowski, and Joe Barber.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

No one expressed a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.

3. Minutes

There were none.

4. Warrants

Check warrant # 17, \$86,019.77. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

5. Announcements

- Members needed: Economic Development Committee and Cole Hall Committee.

The Economic Development Committee will be a standing committee. The Cole Hall Committee will dissolve upon issuing its report.

Ms. Cornwell thanked all for attending the reading of Polar Express. It was very popular. She hopes it will become an annual event. (Santa made it down from the North Pole.)

6. Public Comments

There were none.

7. Treasurers Report

Ms. Dexter shared the November cash flow report, which included the receipt of about \$3 million in taxes. She said the delinquent taxes total about \$300,000, the lowest she has ever seen them – in part because residents took advantage of assistance programs. Revenues and expenditures are very similar to those of last year, despite inflation.

The reserve funds report showed activity in the Class 3 Roads fund. Water bills payments have come in and are due on December 7.

8. Lake Paran Presentation on Aquatic Invasive

Representatives of Paran Recreation and the Bennington County Conservation District spoke on the health of the lake as a whole and the proliferation of invasive weeds, especially Eurasian watermilfoil, in it. The group has created a management plan, which included mapping the infestations. The plan will require ten years or more to successfully implement. More than 700 people have signed a petition to “save Lake Paran.”

Mr. Barber recounted his days as a lifeguard there, when he and his team dragged chain link fence across the lake bottom.

An Americorps member described the effects of milfoil- on fish, swimmers, native aquatic plants, safety.

The team recommends using an herbicide “procellaCOR” which is approved by VT DEC and is being used elsewhere in Vermont and New York. Another option, less attractive and more expensive, is suction harvesting. Paran Recreation has also recently discovered that it has authority to lower lake levels (but not to desilt the lake bottom). This action may be a third option.

The team hopes to receive a grant from the state and plans to undertake fundraising to address milfoil infestation. The total cost for the first phase would be about \$15K-\$22K. In later years, nonpoint source pollution into the lake will be addressed, beginning in the headwaters of Paran Creek.

The team hopes the three towns around the lake will become involved in funding and supporting their efforts. Mr. Whitman noted that the 2024 town budget is nearly finished but that future funding might be a possibility. He said the town would like to be part of the process.

9. Proposed Zoning Bylaw Changes – Public Hearing

Planning Commission chairman Chris Williams presented the proposed changes, including a strengthening of the open space subdivision regulation, a prohibition on new shooting ranges, a correction of a contradiction in the definition of “accessory dwelling unit,” clarification of the conditions under which a “tiny house” can be allowed, and giving the zoning administrator authority to sign off on a permit amendment. Changes to the last were proposed and agreed to by the Select Board. A final vote on all the proposed changes will be taken at the next Select Board meeting.

10. Traffic Speed Ordinance –Revised

Mr. Whitman reported that the revised ordinance would now make Myers Road, Cold Spring, and all roads in the Hidden Valley subdivision 25 m.p.h. roads. The revisions are on the website. The final vote will be taken at the next meeting.

11. DPW Report

Mr. Kiernan reported that the Tilgner Trail has been renovated. The dog kennel was constructed. Materials for winter have been ordered. Culverts are being replaced and some ditching has been done.

12. Other Business

There was none.

13. Review of Action Items

Revisions will be made to the proposed bylaw changes and posted.

14. Adjournment

Mr. Cichanowski moved to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.