



Town of Barnard, Vermont

Chartered July 17, 1761

P.O. Box 274
Barnard, Vermont 05031
(802) 234-9211

SELECTBOARD MINUTES APRIL 3, 2024

BARNARD EMAIL SERVICE:

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Present: Rock Webster (Chair), Richard Lancaster (Vice Chair), Bob Edmunds
Also Present: Rob Ramrath (Town Administrator), Delmar Balch (Highway Foreman), Justin Lancaster, Koke Twigg-Smith, Rob Tracy, Steph Abrell, Mark Johnson, Delta Hennig, Wes Hennig.

Regular Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

2. Review Agenda

A. Cootey Road Petition Reconsideration – Chairman statement

The Selectboard Chair stated, “We have a valid petition for the discontinuance of Cootey Road, received and certified by the Town Clerk on March 5, 2024. Based on guidance from town counsel, according to Vermont Statute, the Selectboard is compelled to initiate the process for the discontinuance of Cootey Road. Therefore, the Selectboard decision of March 20, 2024 not to pursue the discontinuance is rescinded. The Selectboard will promptly select a date, to be properly warned for the site examination and hearing. All further conversation or testimony on this topic will be deferred to a future warned hearing.”

Richard recused himself from the Cootey Road discussion. Bob & Rock directed Rob Ramrath to begin the process to consider discontinuance of Cootey Road with the date for the examination and hearing to be June 5, 2024. Additionally, Bob, Rock and Richard voted to run the process for discontinuance of the class 4 portion of Masterson Road, on the same date as the Cootey Road activities. Rock stated that the town needs to survey Cootey Road, with special attention to determining abutting properties and the location of the intersection with Lime Pond Road. Richard mentioned he had already begun the process for the survey as a private citizen. The Selectboard agreed that the town would take on the survey. Richard said he would contact his surveyor to terminate work. Richard also said he would pay for any billable hours, if any, put into the work to date. The Selectboard directed Rob Ramrath to contact surveyors. Additionally, Bob & Rock voted to close Cootey Road to all wheeled vehicles, effective immediately. This closure will be reconsidered as appropriate depending on the outcome of the discontinuance process.

B. Barnard Roads Committee

Rock requested to add this item to the agenda. Rock reported that a person involved in the Roads Committee called the Road Crew and asked for attention to a road issue in his

location, implying that as a member of the Roads Committee, he warranted special consideration. Rock reiterated that the Selectboard had warned against such behaviors. The Selectboard voted to appoint Dan Leavitt and Megan Fuerst to the Roads Committee. The Selectboard directed Rob Ramrath to communicate this decision to Dan & Megan, and also reiterate that any additional members of the committee must be appointed by the Selectboard.

3. Public comments

Wes Hennig reported there is a snowmobile rider who consistently rides his snowmobile on the travelled portion of Gulf Road. He asked for permission from the Selectboard to contact the rider to inform him this behavior is not legal. The Selectboard granted permission.

4. Review/Approve Minutes March 20, 2024

The minutes were approved.

5. Barnard Mountain Viewers snowmobile club, Permission for Class 4 Road usage & Morgan Rd Grooming – Discuss

On behalf of the Barnard Mountain Viewers snowmobile club, Rob Tracy requested that the Selectboard allow a club trail to use 0.98 miles of TH-89 and 0.84 miles of TH-88, and to build a bridge across Perkins Brook on TH-89. The Selectboard voted to grant the usage and to build the bridge. The Selectboard directed Rob Tracy to contact Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Rivers Program to discuss jurisdiction and permit requirements. Rob Tracy mentioned he will contact the ATV club to collaborate on the bridge.

Mike Stetson, a property owner on Morgan Road had contacted Rob Ramrath prior to the meeting, asking to discuss issues he has experienced, alleging that the snowmobile trail groomer was damaging the road and culverts he had installed in the area. Mike had agreed to be called during the meeting. However, when called he didn't answer. The Selectboard directed Rob Ramrath to contact Mike to suggest he call the Highway Department to discuss the issue. The Selectboard also directed Rob Ramrath to inform Mike he must obtain a permit to make any road improvements in the future.

6. 2024 Local Emergency Management Plan Adoption – Review & Sign

The LEMP was reviewed. The Selectboard approved and signed the Municipal Adoption Form.

7. SFY2025 Grants In Aid Letter of Intent – sign

The Letter of Intent was signed.

8. Old Business

A. 2024 Town Plan Readiness to Move Ahead with Adoption Process – Discuss (Note, no adoption decisions will be made at this meeting, future Public Hearing will be announced)
The Selectboard discussed the topic and set the date for the next public hearing on adoption to be May 15, 2024. The Selectboard directed Rob Ramrath to begin the warning process.

B. Masterson Rd Class 4, Readiness to Move Ahead with Discontinuance Process – Review (Note, no discontinuance decision will be made at this meeting, future Public Hearing will be announced)

The Selectboard decided to run the Cootey Road and Masterson Road discontinuance process together. The Selectboard directed Rob Ramrath to begin with the process with June 5, 2024 as the planned site examination and hearing date.

C. 2024 Road Posting Memo – Approve

The 2024 Road Posting Memo was approved.

9. Town & Highway Operations – Review

Rob Ramrath reported that the grant application for the Electric Vehicle DC Fast Charger was declined due to another being available within 10 miles of Barnard. Rob reported that he has requested that the location be identified as he was unable to locate such a charger in the area. The process for the grant application for the Level 2 chargers is still under consideration. The open road crew position was discussed. The Selectboard directed Rob to begin renewed recruiting efforts based on additional funding approved at Town Meeting.

10. Review/Approve Town & Highway Orders for 3/26/2024, 4/2/24

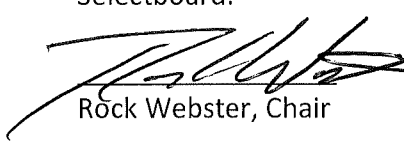
The Town & Highway Orders were signed.

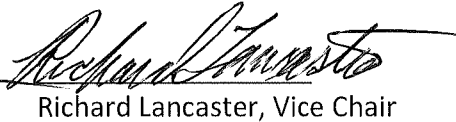
11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Minutes prepared by Rob Ramrath, Town Administrator. All votes unanimous unless otherwise indicated. The next meeting is April 17, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall Offices.

Selectboard:


Rock Webster, Chair


Richard Lancaster, Vice Chair


Robert Edmunds