

Minutes of February 27, 2018

Warren Selectboard

7:00 PM

Warren Municipal Building

Members Present: Andrew Cunningham, Chair, Bob Ackland, Vice Chair, Luke Youmell, Randy Graves & Clay Mays.

Others Present: Jeff Campbell, Gene Bifano, Jeff Swann, Rosemarie White, Dayna Lisaius, Whitney Doenges, Kate Wanner, Alycia Biondo, Marie Schmukal, Sharon Conti, Sam TV 44/45, Rachel Gregorian & Cindi Jones.

7:04 PM – Meeting Called to order.

7:05 PM – Public Comment – None

7:06 PM – Mac Rood – Town Meeting Preparation - The board discussed that Mr. Ackland would move the budget and then proceed into the slide show. In looking through the articles, the Conservation Commission would have some there to talk about Conservation Reserve Fund Article of \$10,000. On Article 6 about the Capital Budget name change concerning the Library Building Account, Mr. Cunningham will explain. On Article 7 the two new special appropriations, Ms. Jones commented that she told them someone had to be there to explain why they are asking for the money. On Article 8, Ms. Goss will read it and propose the dates. Article 9, one of the Selectboard Members will move to bring up discussion. Mr. Cunningham suggested that at the end under other business that the issue of paving roads could be discussed given the comments concerning Plunkton Road to get a feel from the voters on whether they wanted to pave certain gravel roads if deemed necessary. Town Meeting starts at 4:00 PM at the Warren Elementary School.

7:20 PM – Warren PTO Land Scaping Approval – Rachel Gregorian – Rivers Bend Design – Ms. Gregorian presented a site plan to the board to explain the design and answer any questions. She is Granville resident; however, her children attend the Warren School. The first phase of the design is focused more out front of the building with flowers, raised bed plantings adding a picnic table, bench. The project to improve the appearance of the school and provide more places where kids can gather. Mr. Mays inquired on what the cost of the first phase was for implementation and Ms. Gregorian commented around \$13,000. They will also be designing around the drip edge around the school and in the preschool area along with redoing all the beds for planting. It is designed around the Farm to Plate movement. She also explained that all the crab apple trees that were planted need to be prune and the PTO has asked Riverbend Design to promote a class for people to come and learn how to take care of them, and 1/3 (\$5.00) the cost would go to the PTO as a fund raiser. Ms. Jones inquired about the stone wall and the requirements as she would be concerned about the Town's insurance. Ms. Gregorian indicated that it would be about 18" but Ms. Jones needed more information for insurance reasons. Ms. Schmukal commented that after they met with the Unified District facilities, that the first phase might not happen this year as the Warren school has roof drain problems and may want to bump out the front of the school expanding the foot print. Mr. Ackland asked about the funding and Ms. Schmukal commented that some of the Green Mountain Forest Money was set aside for this purpose. The board like the concept of the improving the appearance of the school. Mr. Mays asked if they were looking at doing anything around the slide where the water ponds? Ms. Gregorian commented that they were looking at those area as well.

7:30 PM – Harwood Unified District Information, Questions and Answers – Rosemarie White and Alycia Biondo - Mr. Cunningham welcomed both representatives to this answer and question session and started the discussion off by saying that most of the taxpayers and the board don't know if they have a role in the new district. Mr. Ackland commented that there seems to be a sense that the school has been taken out of community losing a vital element of what the town is made up of. This is a challenging area and needs to have community engagement. The perception in the public is that the schoolboard needs to control the Superintendent not the Superintendent controlling the board. Ms. Biondo commented that the board had full control and that they asked the Superintendent to look outside the box and aggressively look at cost savings. She also commented that people are welcome to come the meetings and see what is happening with the board and their meetings are on TV 44/45 as well. She commented that the Valley Reporter is a bit bias on reporting that all ideas are on the table to look at and that nothing has been decided. That is why the board sent out a questionnaire to the public and about 500 people responded to in regards to the school redesign. Ms. Biondo also commented that all the schools were in favor of the Unified District merge with about 80% voter approval a little lower than expected. The board is also having the second Question/Answer period about redesign for taxpayers on March 14 in the Harwood Auditorium. Mr. Ackland commented that Warren's representatives should be working for the Warren Taxpayers and Ms. Biondo responded that it is now a Unified District and the whole board works as one for all. Ms. Wanner asked if the teachers could have the chance to fill out a questioner on redesign anomalously to see how they felt. She commented that she moved to Warren because of Warren's history as a good quality education for children. Ms. Biondo commented that the principals and teachers are very involved in the process. Mr. Graves commented that they need to look at the most important question: Where is the cost of education going? Ms. Biondo commented that they are looking at that, with ideas of possibly closing Moretown, Fayston schools, but they are suggesting that a study needs to be done. He also commented that Warren would do better as a private school as costs were more contained. Ms. Biondo commented that when the Articles were written and voted, that no schools would close for 3 years and schools could choose to leave if the community voted to do. Ms. White services on the Facilities Committee and commented they are looking at all the infrastructure and getting to know each school and its issues. She also commented that she has spoken to the Valley Rotary, Chamber and had numerous conversations with people within the community. They both expressed at any time people within the public may email or call them. The board felt that this was a good starting point and asked them to come back in April to help keep getting the community engaged and informed.

8:30 PM – Sharon Conti – Dog Compliant – Ms. Conti came to the board to discuss that Mr. Swann's dog had attacked her dog. Ms. Conti explained that she has electric fence around her property but is afraid that her grandchildren might get attacked playing outside. Jeff has been walking his dog on a leash past Ms. Conti's property, but this incident occurred while someone else was house sitting. Mr. Swann has a training collar and a prong collar on the dog as well as when he is on leash. Mr. Swann has no containment area but understands and takes full responsibility for the dog's actions. He had even offered to pay ½ of the vet bill. Ms. Conti is afraid that his dog will attack her grandchildren living with her and she had an experience with her son who was bit by a dog and that is her main concern. Ms. Conti wanted the dog muzzled, but some board members did not really like that idea. Mr. Swann commented that his dog is very protective and apparently Ms. Conti's dogs were running up the driveway towards his dog and house sitter, but Mr. Swann's dog was just protecting his house sitter.

The board prefers that neighbors work the issue out between themselves which in the past they have. Mr. Swann commented that he has had his dog on a leash walking by Ms. Conti property and will look into an electronic fence or this rescue dog will not be an issue in the future as he is deciding on what to do with the dog, as his own son was bite once.

9:05 PM – Bigelow Road Access Permit – Mr. Cunningham commented that he went and looked at the site on Lincoln Gap and that it had good site lines and the cut was across from another driveway. The only thing he recommended is that they follow the B71 Standards and make drive way entrance level to the road with the 25' wide apron as per B71 standards.

Motion by Mr. Ackland to approve the Bigelow Road Access Permit that contractor follows B71 Standards and makes the driveway entrance level to Lincoln Gap Road with the required 25' apron, second by Mr. Youmell. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

9:07 PM – Road Use Approval of the Gran Fondo Bike Race for June 30, 2018 - There are no changes in the race course from the previous year.

Motion by Mr. Ackland to approve the Road Use for the Gran Fondo Bike Race, scheduled for June 30, 2018, second by Mr. Youmell. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

9:13 PM – Approval of Payroll Warrants – Motion by Mr. Ackland to approve the payroll warrants as presented for \$52,681.63, second by Mr. Youmell. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

9:15 PM – Approval of Accounts Payable Warrants – Motion by Mr. Ackland to approve the Accounts Payable as presented for \$128,727.10, second by Mr. Youmell. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

9:17 PM – Approval of Liquor Licenses for Sugarbush Restaurants – Motion to approve the liquor licenses for Sugarbush Restaurants, Valley House, Hogan's Pub, End of Super Bravo, and Gate House, second by Mr. Youmell. All in Favor: Vote: 5-0.

9:20 PM - Approval of Liquor License Renewal for West Hill House B & B – Motion by Mr. Ackland to approve the West Hill B&B Outside Consumption Permit, second by Mays. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

9:22 PM – Approval of Liquor License Renewal for Mac's Convenience Store – Motion by Mr. Youmell to approve the liquor license renewal for Mac's Convenience Store, second by Mr. Graves. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

9:25 PM – Approval of Liquor License Renewal for Beaver Pond – Motion by Mr. Ackland to approve the liquor license renewal for the Beaver Pond inside and outside, second by Mr. Youmell. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

9:26 PM – Annual Financial Plan – Motion by Mr. Ackland to approve the Annual Highway Financial Plan, second by Mr. Youmell. All in Favor: Vote: 5-0. (State Highway Money)

9:30 PM – Approval of Minutes for January 23, 2018 – Motion by Mr. Youmell to approve the Minutes of January 23, 2018, second by Mr. Ackland. All in Favor: VOTE: 3-0.

9:35 PM – Other Business

Selectboard Retreat – Mr. Ackland updated the board on regards to the Selectboard Retreat. Peter Forbes has offered to do the retreat for free with a much different focus for sometime in May. Ms. Tedisco and Ms. Cooper's retreat was a fee-based program. Mr. Forbes will also meet with each participant and interview them. He said that Fayston was on board but Waitsfield wanted to wait until after town meeting with board member changes.

Planning Commission - Mr. Graves commented that they are moving along with the Town Plan and it will be a rewritten Town Plan not an edited version.

9:45 PM – Motion by Mr. Cunningham to go into executive session for personnel inviting Ms. Jones and Ms. Lisaius to discuss personnel, second by Mr. Youmell. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

10:00 PM – Motion by Mr. Cunningham to come out of executive session second by Mr. Mays. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

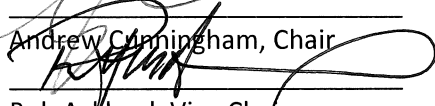
10:15 PM – Motion by Mr. Graves to adjourn, second by Mr. Mays. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,
Cindi Jones, Warren Town Administrator

The Warren Selectboard



Andrew Cunningham, Chair



Bob Ackland, Vice Chair



Luke Youmell



Randy Graves



Clay Mays