

## **Minutes of September 26, 2023 Meeting**

**Warren Select Board**

**Streamed on MRVTV**

**6:30 PM**

**-draft-**

**Members Present:** Luke Youmell, Chair; Andrew Cunningham, Vice Chair; Camilla Behn; Devin Klein Corrigan

**Staff Present:** Ruth Robbins, Zoning Administrator

**Planning Commission Members Present:** Michael Bridgewater, Macon Phillips, Dan Raddock, Jim Sanford, Adam Zawistowski.

**Others Present:** Perry Bigelow, Harvey Blake, Tracy Brannstrom, Jeff Campbell (Fire Chief-WVFD), Alice Cheney, George Dorsey, Kelly Finnegan, Tracy Kelly, Lisa's iPhone, Christian Meyer (CVRPC), Lisa Miserendino, MRVTV, Liz First Raddock, Jon Rickard

### **Public Comment**

Nobody from the public requested time to address the Board.

### **Agenda Changes**

Several items were mentioned to be taken up in the 'Other Business' portion of the meeting.

### **CVRPC – New Executive Director, Nancy Chartrand and Christian Meyer**

Christian Meyer introduced himself and provided an overview of CVRPC and their role in providing municipal assistance in the areas of transportation, land use planning, environmental matters, emergency management, training opportunities, and so forth. He noted that Lexi Leacock is active as the RPC representative for Warren, and that there is currently nobody in the role of TAC representative. Board members had no questions, and thanked Mr. Meyer for his work and taking the time to meet with them.

### **Planning Commission update, future planning**

The PC members present gave a presentation of the slide show they had provided to the Select Board, explaining that they see five areas of focus for the group: finalizing the LUDRs, understanding short-term rental impacts, improving communication channels with the Select Board and the public, researching approaches to affordable housing, and developing a visual framework of past visioning initiatives as a platform for future planning.

Board members expressed agreement that these focus areas are appropriate for upcoming PC work, offered comments regarding some of the planning/visioning work, and scheduled January 9, 2024 as the next meeting where the PC will update the Board.

### **Fire Department update, including Halloween planning, Jeff Campbell**

Jeff Campbell reported that the Department had responded to 99 calls so far this year, in comparison with a total of 102 in 2022. The current Department roster includes 23 members. He explained some of the training taking place and noted that Warren will be hosting a state-level class in January. Mr. Campbell indicated that the new ladder truck is working out well, and is easier to handle than the prior truck. The annual pancake breakfast is scheduled for October 7.

Halloween logistics were discussed, and Alice Cheney requested that the fire truck used for traffic control be parked away from her house. Mr. Campbell noted that controlling traffic could be accommodated through the use of a barricade at Ms. Cheney's property, with the truck parked closer to the covered bridge. It was agreed that one volunteer should be able to monitor both locations. Mr. Campbell will confirm that timing of road closures and communicate that information to the Select Board for posting.

**MOTION:** *Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve the Festival Permit application for the Village Halloween activities, including the requested road closures. The motion was seconded by Ms. Klein Corrigan. All voted in favor.*

### **Liquor License – Warren Store, restaurant/bar upgrade**

#### Festival Permit for October 28

Mr. Youmell noted that the Board would also be reviewing a Festival Permit application for Mr. Dorsey, who was present and able to answer related questions which had arisen at a previous meeting. The following aspects of the proposed event and related request for closure of Main Street were discussed:

- The event will be a fund-raiser for Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice.
- The road closure will be from cobblestone area to cobblestone area, between the Pitcher Inn and the Warren Store.
- The proposed hours are from 2 pm to 5 pm.
- Tickets purchased will be redeemed for a meal, beverages will be sold separately.
- All alcohol will be served inside at Tracks, and will not leave those premises.
- Music will be provided from the porch of the store.
- Restroom facilities will be provided by the applicant.
- The store will be serving food and selling beverages for the event, and will be open to regular customers as well.
- Parking spaces are available in the Village, including at the municipal lot. The Warren Store spaces may be used, but will not be accessible once the street is closed. Mr. Dorsey has arranged with the school for overflow parking if necessary, and will provide a shuttle if that space is used. With an estimate of 200 attendees, it was felt this additional parking is unlikely to be necessary.

Board members agreed upon the following:

- No consumption of alcohol permitted with the exception of what is served at Tracks, to remain on those premises.
- One staff member shall be on either side of the road closure to control alcohol and direct traffic/parking.
- Limit number of attendees to 200.
- Parking as available in town with any overflow at the school with a shuttle as needed.

**MOTION:** *Mr. Cunningham made to motion to grant a Festival Permit to Mr. Dorsey for October 28, 2024 from 2 pm to 5 pm, including a closure of Main Street from cobblestones to cobblestones, with the conditions agreed upon above. The motion was seconded by Ms. Klein Corrigan. All voted in favor.*

Kelly Finnegan of CVHHH was available; she explained that the organization is helping to plan and run the event, and will benefit from the tickets sold as well as from the related exposure and ability to promote their services.

#### Warren Store Liquor License

Mr. Dorsey explained that DLC is requiring that the Warren Store provide an indoor restroom and build a small bar-style counter in order to be granted license by the state for consumption of alcohol.

He is seeking to establish casual dining in the store for a couple of nights each week, likely to be served until 7:30 pm. It was explained that a separate outside consumption permit would need to be applied for and approved if there is going to be future seating on the deck.

**MOTION:** *Ms. Klein Corrigan made a motion to approve a 1<sup>st</sup> Class Liquor License for the Warren Store. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cunningham. All voted in favor.*

### **Access Rd. safety concerns/speed signs, Harvey Blake**

Harvey Blake spoke of his concerns regarding speeding and safety on the Access Road, particularly between the Sugarbush Inn and the beginning of the walking path. He indicated that many pedestrians use this route, and requested that the speed limit be lowered to 30 MPH from the corner of German Flats Road to the Golf Course Road; the speed limit was lowered from 40 MPH to 30 MPH from the Golf Course Road up to the Resort recently. Mr. Blake also requested that a flashing speed sign be located on this stretch of the Access Road.

Mr. Cunningham suggested that a road study, including a traffic count and speed monitoring, be completed in early summer when traffic picks up again after winter. It was agreed to move one of the Town's flashing speed signs to the Access Road once the Lincoln Gap road is closed.

### **Other and Ongoing Business**

#### Lincoln Gap Road Closure

Mr. Cunningham reported that the road crew will put barriers at the top of the gap and at the bottom of the portion of the road that is closed in the winter; this will happen on October 16. He explained that Lincoln intends to put up a sign at their lower end, rather than a gravel barrier as in past years.

#### Covered Bridge Work

Ms. Klein Corrigan explained that the current phase of this project is focused on off-site timber work in preparation for installation at the bridge.

#### Flat Iron Road Study

Ms. Behn offered to serve as the contact person for Lisa from Vermont Emergency Management, who is helping to coordinate grant application work for a study on the road. Mr. Cunningham noted that the erosion issue that has arisen on Main Street is the more imperative runoff problem at this point.

#### Mill Road Reclassification

Mr. Youmell explained that the site visit should be rescheduled as Mr. Kirchen is not available on October 31. It was decided to schedule a site visit, which is required and must have a 30-day notification period, for either the 1<sup>st</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> of October at 4 pm, pending Mr. Kirchen's availability.

### **Administrative Items**

**MOTION:** *A motion to approve the payroll warrant in the amount of \$12,564.51 passed unanimously.*

**MOTION:** *A motion to approve the accounts payable warrant in the amount of \$69,924.59 passed unanimously.*

**MOTION:** *A motion to approve an Education Fund payment in the amount of \$1,665,978.50 passed unanimously.*

### **Executive Session**

**MOTION:** *A motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel matters passed unanimously.*

The meeting entered Executive Session at 8:37 pm and returned to open session at 8:57 pm

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carol Chamberlin

The Warren Selectboard

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Luke Youmell, Chair

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Andy Cunningham, Vice Chair

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Bob Ackland

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Camilla Behn

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Devin Klein Corrigan