

Minutes of June 25, 2024 Meeting
Warren Select Board
Streamed on MRVTV
6:30 PM

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

Staff Present: Rebecca Campbell, Town Administrator

Others Present: Perry Bigelow, Alice Cheney, Mark Giometti (MRVAS), Misha Golfman (MRPA), Branden Martin (Stone Environmental), Kristin Reilly (Rootswork), Don Swain (Rootswork), Niki Thran, Shiela Ware (MRVAS)

Public Comment

The topic of speed control was raised by Perry Bigelow, and it was confirmed that the Town will keep residents updated as the Lincoln Gap Road work is undertaken, and that a new pedestrian crossing sign will be put in place on Brook Road to replace the one that is missing.

Agenda Changes

Ms. Campbell noted that Misha Golfman is also providing an update on the Route 100 Multi-Use Path, and Ms. Klien Corrigan requested that feedback be provided regarding the new library door design.

Sugarbush Path Update, Misha Golfman

As the representative for the Town on the Access Road Path, Mr. Golfman provided some updates on the Project, highlighting some of the information provided in the documentation he provided for the Board:

- Municipal Project Manager and Engineering firm have been hired
- Outline of financial information
- Looking at possibly removing pedestrian bridge in order to reduce costs
- Likely to need additional funding due to inflationary impacts; VTrans is accepting applications in November, as they realize that costs are rising
- A public informational meeting will be scheduled in the fall
- NEPA review time needed means final plans not available until March 2026
- Construction in summer/fall 2027

Mr. Golfman suggested that work on Phase 2 (Golf Course Road to German Flats) begin while the team is in place. A preliminary report indicating the feasibility of Phase 1 would be necessary for inclusion in the application for Phase 2 to be submitted in December. Board members expressed agreement with this plan; Mr. Golfman will consult with Sugarbush regarding their willingness to move forward as suggested. It was confirmed that the original study indicated that the Path is a viable alternative for accessing the Phase 2 section to German Flats.

Mr. Golfman will report back to the Board in advance of the fall's public meeting.

He then provided an update on the VT100 Multi Use Path, noting that the scoping study grant had been awarded and an agreement with Velomont is in place. VHB will be the consultant for this project, and it is anticipated that the study will take 9 to 12 months. Once VTrans signs the necessary paperwork, this will begin, hopefully in July. This will lead to a potential application for construction funding in July 2025 – VTrans adjusted the study to be a 'corridor study' so that the highest priority/more readily feasible sections may be addressed and brought to construction stage sooner.

Mr. Golfman asked that a Board member join the Steering Committee, which will be focused on keeping abreast of the project's progress and assisting with keeping the public informed as things move forward. Board members agreed to decide at their next meeting who will join the Committee.

MRVAS, Mark Giometti

Mr. Giometti and Ms. Ware spoke with Board members regarding MRVAS budgeting and explained that the Service will be asking towns they serve to provide an annual donation going forward. They provided a document outlining MRVAS operating costs and revenues, noting that donations have in large part covered expenses in past years. An outline of the capital reserve strategy followed was provided, along with an explanation that the cost of a new ambulance has risen dramatically, and now will likely cost upwards of \$400K, which will not be covered by the capital reserve as anticipated.

Mr. Giometti made note of MRVAS being one of only two fully volunteer Services remaining in the state, indicating that the hope is to keep that volunteer status. The funding from towns, intended to be allocated by population, will help to maintain MRVAS as a volunteer organization. He noted that the amount requested may change annually, but will generally be a steady amount from year to year.

It was also mentioned that recent legislation may allow for reimbursement of 'no transports' and other beneficial changes.

Rootswork Check-In, Don Swain

Mr. Swain and Ms. Reilly were present to provide an annual review of Rootswork undertakings. They discussed the following with Board members:

- Ms. Reilly confirmed that the utility room is being completed – scrubbing, dehumidifying, and wrapping of the pipes is underway. It was suggested that the floor mats in use be replaced with a style that has drainage holes in order to more readily take note of any drainage problems.
- The budget was reviewed, with other repair/maintenance needs outlined – painting, furnace, hot water heater.
 - It was suggested that a dual purpose heating unit be installed.
 - Painting and lead abatement of the exterior has been pushed out a year.
- Building Reserve Fund has a balance that may be used for some of this work.
- Ms. Reilly will be applying for an Historic Preservation Grant to cover some needed external repairs.
- The flashing repair above the new roof will be addressed this year.
- Looking at alternatives for replacing the heat pump.

The list of these items will be reviewed and updated as needed, including projections for upcoming years

Stone Environmental / Flat Iron Recommendations, Branden Martin

Mr. Martin provided some project history, then outlined the four alternative solutions that he had delineated in an email to the Board:

- Do nothing
- Deconstruct and reconstruct the wall to make it more stout and stable
- Make Flat Iron a one-way road, providing the space to give the stream more room. This would involve changing the slope and adding rip rap
- Do both the wall reconstruction and the changes to the road/streambank

Mr. Martin's recommendation is to proceed with the last option outlined, as it will help to strengthen the wall as well as offer benefits for when the stream's volume and capacity increase during storm events.

He explained that any of these solutions serve to address what happens at Flat Iron Road, and that there will still be impacts in the Village from other areas of constriction upstream from the project site.

The contract with Stone under the current grant award is for completion of 30% (conceptual) design work, a related cost analysis, and assistance with further grant applications in order to get to 100% design/construction.

The alternatives and suggestion option proposed by Mr. Martin were discussed by Board members. Some concern was expressed regarding the transition to Flat Iron being one way and the associated impacts on plowing, emergency vehicle access, and the changed road configuration allowing for less room for driver error. Mr. Martin confirmed that the proposed solution will help to alleviate the stream's encroachment onto the yard of the abutting house during rain events. It was also discussed that upstream work is also important, but that this area is a pinch point and should be addressed to solve the erosion issues and bolster Flat Iron Road.

MOTION: *Ms. Klein Corrigan made a motion to authorize Stone Environmental to proceed with bringing Option 4 as proposed to 30% design. The motion was seconded by Ms. Whitehouse and passed unanimously.*

4th of July Street Closure

MOTION: *Mr. Cunningham made a motion to close Main Street, Brook Road, and Flat Iron Road, including the portions from School Road to Trout Hollow as well as to the covered bridge, on July 4, 2024 between 8:30 am and 1:30 pm. The motion was seconded by Ms. Klein Corrigan, and passed unanimously.*

Library Tent Approval

MOTION: *Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve siting the tent on the green as requested by the Library. The motion was seconded by Ms. Klein Corrigan, and passed unanimously.*

Updates/Discussion

Lister Position

The Board had received a recommendation from the Listers for appointing Julie Barnes to fill the vacant Lister position.

MOTION: *Mr. Cunningham made a motion to appoint Julie Barnes as Lister. The motion was seconded by Ms. Klein Corrigan, and passed unanimously.*

Library Door

Ms. Klein Corrigan provided some further information regarding the door design and hardware, noting that she had spoken with Ellen Strauss regarding maintaining the historic appearance of the door/building. There was discussion by the Board regarding keeping the historical nature to the degree possible while also providing for the safety of the library patrons. Ms. Strauss had suggested a person to consult regarding the hardware; his advice is to raise the height of the door's window panels, which will provide more closure options. It was agreed to follow this suggestion and ask for an updated design incorporating this change.

Material Movement on Cider Hill

Mr. Cunningham reported that he had a conversation with Andrew Bombard regarding a request to haul 6500 yards of material on Cider Hill Road, using a large tandem-axle dump truck, the

person making the request is constructing a pond, and the material removed will be relocated to another portion of the same property. Board members expressed that, even if standard size dump trucks were used for the hauling, this would cause too much degradation of the road surface.

Lincoln Gap Road Speed Control

Ms. Campbell indicated that VHB will be scheduling a meeting in the near future for further work on this project.

Recreation Committee

This group continues work on the MOU language, and will request time on an upcoming agenda.

Furnace Replacement

Ms. Campbell reported that this work is nearing completion; and that the broken furnace blower was the reason behind the air conditioning not working.

Administrative Items

The upcoming schedule was reviewed; it was confirmed that ARPA fund dissemination will be on the July 9 agenda.

MOTION: *A motion to approve the Minutes of May 28 and June 11, 2024 passed unanimously.*

MOTION: *A motion to approve the accounts payable warrant in the amount of \$113,393.52 passed unanimously.*

MOTION: *A motion to approve the payroll warrant in the amount of \$32,539.77 passed unanimously.*

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Chamberlin

The Warren Selectboard

Luke Youmell, Chair

Andy Cunningham, Vice Chair

Camilla Behn

Devin Klein Corrigan

Kalee Whitehouse