

Minutes of the January 28, 2008 meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Eric Benson, Delbert Cloud, Geneva Gaiko, John Dutton, Richard Adams, Joe De Freitas, and Mary Anderson for the "Herald of Randolph."

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Neal Fox, the Board first reviewing and approving the weekly payroll and payables. The Constable's report of January 20, 2008 was reviewed and placed on file. The minutes of the January 14, 2008 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were approved by motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Eric Benson and unanimously carried.

The Board next reviewed the January 16, 2008 minutes of the Bethel Planning Commission. With respect to the "Emergency Card" which is to be available for distribution to the public for informational/preparedness purposes, the Board members concurred that it appeared to be complete and appropriate; the only suggestion was from Chairman Fox, that a reference date should be added in order to identify it from any subsequent revisions. Motion to approve the card, subject to the reference date being added, was made by Eric Benson, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

The minutes of the Development Review Board for October 2 and December 4, 2007 were reviewed and placed on file. It was agreed that Delbert Cloud should discuss the status of the Town's application for a gravel extraction permit on the Placy/Pratt property on Sand Hill Road with legal counsel, and continue to await word from the Act 250 Board before determining a course of action re. securing permits.

The Town Hall Finance Committee minutes of November 29, 2007 were then reviewed and placed on file. The Regional Planning Commission minutes of November 14 and December 12, 2007 were similarly reviewed and filed.

The Board next reviewed the report from the Trustees of Public Funds for the "Cowdrey Fund," as entered on the "Summary of Account of Trustee." By motion of Eric Benson, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, Chairman Fox was authorized to sign the "Summary of Account of Trustee" and the accompanying "Motion to Allow Account" on behalf of the Board, for submittal to Probate Court.

Several matters pertaining to statutes about class 4 roads, reclassification and discontinuance, were discussed; this was primarily for clarification of statutory provisions and did not require action by the Board.

A January 18, 2008 letter from Kristen Smith was then reviewed and discussed, this being a request for the Board to take up the process of evaluating a portion of the "Rochester Stage Road" for discontinuance. After due discussion, it was agreed that the letter would be taken under advisement and considered further after the Class 4 Road Committee makes its final report and submits any recommendations.

The Board then reviewed the instructions for filing the annual "Certificate of Highway Mileage" with the Vermont Agency of Transportation. Entries for class 1, 2, and 3 highways were found to be correct as per the previous mileage submittal. Given that certain additional class 4 roads have been evaluated by Town officials and the Class 4 Roads Committee, the Board examined the files thus created and determined that the following class 4 roads were legally existent as of February 2006 and should be submitted to the Vermont Agency of Transportation for inclusion on the official Town Highway Map:

- (1) A road commencing on the southeasterly side of Vermont State Route 107 near the easterly end of River Street bridge, so-called, and running adjacent to the main branch of the White River in a generally southeasterly direction ending within lands owned by the Town of Bethel, this road being commonly known as "Bridge Street."
- (2) A road commencing on the northerly side of Town Highway #78 (Poplar Manor Road, so-called) and running in a northerly direction fording the main branch of the White River and intersecting class 2 Town Highway #5 (Peavine Boulevard) near the site of the "Putnam Cemetery," this road being a part of the so-called "Middlebury Turnpike."
- (3) Town Highway #78 (Poplar Manor Road) is extended at both the easterly and westerly end points to intersect with Vermont State Routes 107 and 12 at each end.
- (4) A road commencing on the easterly side of Town Highway #38 (Watershed Road, so-called) and running in a northeasterly direction to intersect the westerly side of Vermont State Route 12, this end being within Town-owned land commonly known as "Fairview Cemetery."

- (5) A road commencing on the easterly side of Fish Hill Road, so-called, extending in an easterly direction approximately .12 miles to intersect with Town Highway 11, and being commonly known as a portion of the Benjamin Crane Road.
- (6) A road commencing in East Bethel Village, being an extension of Store Hill Road so-called, running in a generally southerly direction crossing the "Middle Branch of the White River" and intersecting with Vermont State Route 14 just northerly of the Bethel-Royalton Town Line.
- (7) A road commencing on the easterly side of Vermont State Route 14 and running in a generally easterly direction to the Royalton Town Line and being commonly known as "Hidden Glen Road."
- (8) A road commencing on the westerly side of Vermont State Route 12 and running in a northwesterly thence northeasterly direction to again intersect Vermont State Route 12, in the vicinity of the so-called "Midway Diner" property and having originally been a segment of Vermont State Route 12, now relocated.
- (9) A road commencing on the westerly side of Town Highway #46 (Sand Hill Road) and running in a generally westerly direction approximately .48 miles to intersect with a purported class 4 Town Highway as yet unmapped, the subject highway being commonly known as the "Welch Pent Road."
- (10) Being an extension from the westerly end of class 4 Town Highway #28 running in a westerly and northwesterly direction to intersect with Town Highway #25 (Sanders Road) this being commonly known as "Wilson Hill Road."
- (11) A road commencing on the northwesterly side of Vermont State Route 12 and running in a northwesterly direction to intersect with Vermont State Route 107, and being a former alignment of said latter highway.
- (12) A road commencing on the southwesterly side of the "Rochester Stage Road" so-called, and running in a southwesterly direction to intersect with Town Highway #32 (Hooper Hollow Road).
- (13) A road commencing at the westerly end of Town Highway #54 (Bryant Road) and running in a northerly direction to intersect with the "Rochester Stage Road."
- (14) Being two segments of highway which connect with previously mapped segments of Town Highway, collectively being the "Original Stage Road to Rochester": (a) a road commencing at the presently mapped westerly end of a class 4 road at the westerly edge of the Bethel Town Forest commonly known as the "Quimby Lot" and running in a westerly direction to intersect Town Highway #44 (Olmstead Road) and (b) commencing at the presently mapped westerly end point of Bethel Town Highway #73 (Stefansson Road) and continuing in a westerly direction to intersect with Town Highway #41 (Dartt Hill Road).
- (15) A road commencing on the southwesterly side of Town Highway #12 (Dearing Road) and running in a west-southwesterly direction to intersect with Town Highway #25 (Sanders Road) this corridor being bisected by the Interstate 89 corridor, but having been originally a portion of an old road running between Bethel and Randolph Center (Old Road to Randolph Center).
- (16) A road commencing on the northwesterly side of Town Highway #6 (Christian Hill Road) and running in a northwesterly direction to intersect with the "Old Road to Randolph Center," being known as the "Jones' Pent Road," and being laid out two rods in width.

An "Added Mileage" entry of 6.74 miles of class 4 roads was then made on the "Certificate of Highway Mileage for the year ending February 10, 2008," this being the aggregate additional mileage for the above described roads. The submittal for inclusion of the subject class 4 roads for mapping and the "Certificate of Highway Mileage" was then formally approved by motion of Eric Benson, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried. The Board members then signed the "Certificate" accordingly.

A brief review was made of Town concerns associated with the State's replacement of the River Street Bridge. It was noted that a meeting originally scheduled for January 30, 2008 on this project has been postponed at the request of the State engineers and will be re-scheduled in the near future.

A January 17, 2008 transmittal from the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles was next discussed. Delbert Cloud will file the data re. weight limitations due to wood decks on four Town bridges. Cloud will also separately prepare a list of provisions associated with Town-issued over-weight/over-sized vehicle permits for the Board's review at a forthcoming meeting.

A January 14, 2008 memo from Steven E. Jeffrey, Executive Director of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, was discussed in consort with a proposed "Resolution" on Vermont Education Finance and Property Tax Reform which had been prepared by the Vermont Coalition of Municipalities. Motion was made by Eric Benson to table the subject "Resolution" request, this motion being seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

A copy of the final draft of the Warning for the Annual Town Meeting was reviewed and found to be correct and appropriate for posting, and publishing in the Annual Town Report.

The following communications were reviewed and placed on file: (1) a January 24, 2008 notice of grant award from the Vermont Department of Homeland Security in the amount of \$13,341.00 for Fire Department communication equipment, (2) a December 26, 2007 letter from the Composting Association of Vermont, (3) notice from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns re. the annual "Local Government Day" in the Legislature, (4) the January 2008 newsletter of the regional planning commission, and (5) a January 22, 2008 letter from the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation confirming that the National Register nomination for Old Christ Church has been submitted to the National Park Service.

With no further business to attend, the motion to adjourn was made by Eric Benson at 9:25 PM, this being seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Eric Benson