

Town of Westmore
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2017

In attendance: Bill Perkins, Chair, Burton Hinton, and David Stevens, Selectmen, Melissa Zebrowski, Town Clerk, Maree Bushey, Lister, Phil Brooks, OCSD, George Grady, Anne Grady, Ruth Gjessing, Gus Uht, Laurette Bradley, Miriam Simonds, Bruce Tanner, James Hudson, Don Anderson, Katie Anderson, Dennis Dolio, Susan Turcotte, Larry Austin, Ann Austin, Alison Valley, Terry Valley, Joe Salomon, Peter Bertoletti, Eric Townsend, Kathee Carr, Beverly Decker, Cindy Rogers, Wally Rogers, Paul Wasklewicz, Catherine Wasklewicz, Ann Duggan, Rob Darling

Bill called the meeting to order at 6pm.

No additions to the meeting agenda.

Roads

Burton stated Old 5a showing signs of mud. Hinton Hill is in good shape with the exception of the pavement.

Sheriff's Contract

Phil Brooks presented the Sheriff's contract and said there are no changes to the contract other than the increase of 3%. Missy stated the amount in the contract represents the amount we voted on at Town Meeting day. There are no changes in the hours listed. If we want additional hours we will need to review this when we are doing the budget for next year. David motioned to sign and accept the Sheriff's contract and Burton seconded. Motion passed.

ATV's

Missy presented the Selectboard with the folder of all the letters that we have received. The letters are also stored electronically. Bill said that a decision will not be made this evening. They are not rushing, they are still talking to people, to our lawyer, other clubs, other towns etc. It won't be snuck through he said. It is a sensitive subject, particularly Wheeler Mtn area. Barton and Sutton haven't opened any roads. It is also illegal to limit ATV's to local residents of Westmore. When we vote, it will be a warned meeting.

Discussions and questions were taken.

Wally expressed the activity has already started.

It was asked if there is a schedule of when a decision will be made? Bill said not really.

George O'Grady said Westmore is a special here and that he owns the waterslide on Long Pond Rd and never has posted it. Given previous experience with ATV's on a property he owned in Coventry, he will shutdown the waterslide if ATV's are allowed.

Susan Turcotte expressed concerns about enforcement.

Mike Scott – VT Game Warden. In addition to their fish and wildlife responsibilities they work with ATV clubs. He said last year he spent about 40 hrs covering ATV issues. He is 1 person covering 8 towns. The trails that connect to a major interstate trail system are where he sees a majority of the problems. He used Lowell as an example. He indicated all law enforcement is allowed to enforce the laws and that by law all town roads are closed unless opened by the Selectboard.

Ruth said once you get the foot in the door, its wide open. ATV's aren't going to respect things and she really hopes the Selectboard will vote no.

Gus expressed peace and quiet is the biggest thing of why people come here. ATV's are a problem in RI where he is from. He doesn't feel trial periods stay as trials, but become permanent.

David mentioned maybe having to recues himself because I have a lot of land up there and it's along my road. The biggest thing he sees is if you open it up are you bringing the in the influx of NH, Mass so why the trial period.

It was asked is it hard to undo the ordinance if allowed? Burton said no. It is a year to year discussion and we reserve the right to undo it.

Bill Perkins (Chair)

David Stevens

Burton Hinton

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Beverly expressed people use ATV's on Perkins Lane and she doesn't have an issue with the activity now because it's your neighbors. Her concerns with opening it up and being regulated is that it will change the culture. Today she can call a neighbor if she has a wedding happening in her garden and ask them to not ride by for the next couple of hours. But if 50-60 ATV's go by she won't be able to and will have no one to call.

Ann expressed runners; bicyclists frequent the corner of Cooks Road. It would be dangerous for them. Half the road would be ruined for these people and take away from those who pay high taxes and don't live here. She also referenced what about the environmental impact.

Rob Darling a resident of Pittsburgh, NH said people are moving out because of ATV's. He expressed quads and snowmobiles disrupt the peace and bring a lot of problems. Enforcement is also difficult.

Miriam stated in interest of fairness, all roads instead of just a select few roads should be considered.

Wally asked why we are doing this. The board said VASA and some property owners asked them. Burton said those who have asked deserve to be heard also. This is a decision on what is best for the town, not for an individual.

Gus asked if there should be a vote. Bill said the decision lies with the Selectboard.

Cathy said a meeting with everyone together on both sides sounds sensible. It would allow the Selectboard to hear both sides.

Burton said there are a lot of options. They would welcome talking more with the Game Warden and Sheriff's department about enforcement. David said he has more questions before he makes any decision.

Bill thanked everyone for coming about the ATV topic and that he likes to hear both sides of the story.

Meeting Minutes 3/20 & 3/33

Burton moved to accept both the 3/20 & 3/23 meeting minutes. Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Animal Control Officer

Missy said Renee Falconer from Brownington has offered to be Westmore's Animal Control Officer. Burton, David and Bill all asked to have Renee invited to the next Selectboard meeting. They asked Missy if she could see what other town's do for compensation.

Excess Weight Permits

David motioned to sign Calkins Lyndonville excess weight permit. Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business

Tower Lane – The board doesn't need to do anything more. It is the responsibility of the landowner to find their own ROW.

Select Orders & Payroll # 7

David motioned to accept select orders & payroll #7. Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Correspondence

Bill motioned to have Missy respond back to NEKHS email about the appropriations confirmation for audit for the appropriation to NEKHS voted in at our 2017 Town Meeting in the amount of \$368. David seconded. Motion passed.

All other correspondence was reviewed.

David motioned to adjourn at 7:50pm Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Bill Perkins (Chair)

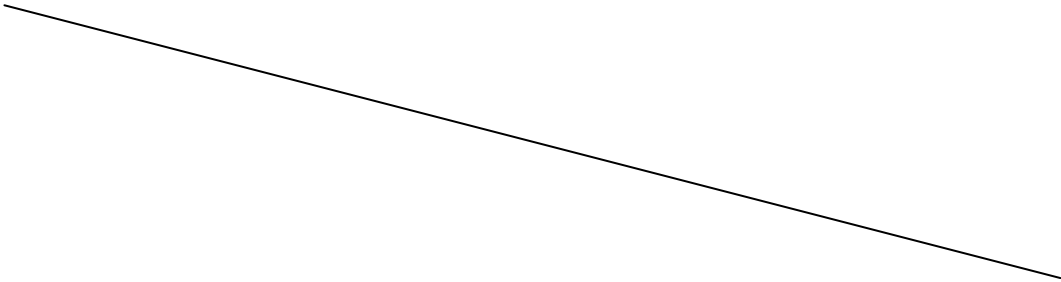
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Signed by,

Melissa S. Zebrowski
Westmore Town Clerk



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David Stevens

Burton Hinton