

hours and they started at 4am. They had to be slow since the roads were soft from the previous thaw and they didn't want to dig into the road. Each snow event is different.

Lynn Gauthier spoke up and said that despite being worried about the snow storm she thought the roads were not too bad. Marilyn Thomas mentioned that a Front Porch Forum posting about road plowing could be informational and prevent residents from misunderstanding how long a plow route takes. Allison agreed with this but mentioned that the consistent negativity of Front Porch Forum can be frustrating.

John brought up that with spring road fixes they have to prioritize the worst roads first. This means some roads will have to be patient and he feels many people forget about roads other than the ones they travel so they may not see how bad other roads are.

Julia Andrews moved to accept the road schedule from March 15-March 28. Allison Hope 2nd, motion passed 2-0.

ROADSIDE MOWING BIDS

Allison brought up that Summit Contract & Property said they had both emailed and snail mailed their bid. Nanette Rogers said we did not receive their bid by the deadline. Roberge & Sons and Summit Landworks (a different company from Summit Contract & Property) put in bids that were very different from one another.

Julia wonders if Roberge & Sons' bid contains mowing behind the guardrails. Nanette replied that it does not. John Roberts mentioned that Roberge & Sons had done a good job when we had previously contracted with them. Julia also wonders why they do a second pass on Westford-Milton Road to which John replied it is because that road is a paved road, he also mentions he has no preference in what company the town may use for roadside mowing.

Allison didn't think that a second pass on Westford-Milton Road was necessary and that she would like to take Roberge & Sons lower bid pending a positive reference check, which she thinks is the best bet going forward. Julia moved to accept the bid submitted by Summit Landworks pending reference check, Allison 2nd, motion passed 2-0.

EXCESS WEIGHT PERMITS

The Chair signed Excess Weight Permits for Milton Rental & Sales Center Inc, Bacon Trucking LLC, Hood Dist., Cain Transport, C.P. Site Construction, The Energy Co-Op of Vermont, Arthur Davis Jr., United Natural Foods Inc, Structural Wood Corporation, Reggie Smith & Son, Wayne's Construction, SD Ireland Concrete Construction Corp & SD Ireland Brothers Corp, Camp Precast Concrete Products Inc, Lyman Excavating Inc., RP Frost Inc, Curtis Lumber Co Inc, Casella Waste (All Cycle), J. Hutchins Inc, Essex Rental & Sales Center Inc, DJ's Tree Service & Logging Inc., OnSite Septic Solutions LLC, Harrison Concrete Construction Inc, Harrison Redi-Mix Corp., Alan Mossey & Sons Excavating, Pike Industries Inc, and J. A. Bedell Excavating LLC,

MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR WESTFORD TOWN LANDS

Ethan Tapper, Chittenden County Forester, who was part of the Westford Town Lands Long-Term Management Planning Committee, mentions that he is not a resident of Westford, but he is a landowner here. Ethan continues and summarizes that the project was started 1 year ago with the goal of a full management plan within one year. Ethan felt that with the school property included as well that this was an interesting project because each parcel is individual, but together they make the Westford Town Lands which is one combined entity. Ethan said a

big part of the committee was seeing how both parcels fit into the vision of the community and how they fit into the development of the common in the future. He thought there were many benefits to the community having town lands like this.

Ethan also brought up that there is a Town Lands Management Plan and a Forest Management Plan. Both plan documents have been approved by the Vermont Land Trust.

Rosemary Shea-Cobb asked Allison if she had any thoughts to which Allison said she thought the plans were very thorough and she appreciated that the committee was a diverse group of volunteers.

Rosemary mentioned that it is evident to the committee that another access point to the Maple Shade Town Forest is needed. Currently the only access point and parking for the Maple Shade Town Forest is on school property and because of laws surrounding schools with regard to guns it would not be possible for hunters to access the forest via school property. Rosemary thinks there is more work to be done in this area.

Ethan mentioned that the conclusion the committee had come to during their study was that residents wanted to use the Misty Meadows Trails (school trails) for recreational purposes while the Maple Shade forest had a greater focus in wildlife and forest management than recreation.

Allison brought up that she is glad that the committee recognized the hunters in town and how this is a part of Westford's culture. She feels the committee was able to bring the hunters into the fold in a way the survey had not. Ethan brought up that a large part of why the hunting population in Westford did not feel represented prior was that hunters are not the type to be taking surveys and that the committee felt it was good to include them. Ethan mentioned that the committee wants to promote hunting on the Maple Shade Town Forest as to reduce deer populations in that area. Prior to hunting happening on the new town lands, a new access point needs to be figured out. The Maple Shade Town Forest would also be a great area to promote forest education.

Marilyn Thomas brought up that Youth Hunter Education can be promoted here and Ethan mentions that the committee has a vision as a whole for the Westford Town Lands and individual visions for each parcel. Julia Andrews mentioned she was super impressed by the time, effort and how Westford residents were honored during this process.

Allison Hope mentioned that because the newest selectboard member, Bill Cleary, had not yet received the information regarding the Town Lands Management Plan that the selectboard will hold off on making a decision on the plan until he has had time to go over the material and offer his opinion. Allison also felt that the public should be able to read the plan before it is voted on. Allison felt it might take several meetings getting Bill up to speed and ensuring the public has time to go over the information for themselves. The plan will be on the April 25 agenda. The plan will be on the town website and a notice will be posted on Front Porch Forum.

MOWING BIDS

The selectboard looked over three bids for mowing of town properties. The bids were received by Robert & Sons, MMT Lawncare and True Cut Lawns. Robert & Sons produced the lowest bid and did a good job previously. Julia Andrews moved to accept the bid by Robert & Sons, Allison Hope 2nd, motioned passed 2-0.

Lynn Gauthier, head of the Cemetery Commission, also mentioned that they had received bids for mowing the town cemeteries. They received two bids, one from Robert & Sons and another from Old Time. The Cemetery Commission decided to split the bid between the two companies.

AARP GRANT FOR COMMON CROSSWALK

Allison Hope mentioned that it has been a long-time dream to have a crosswalk from the common to the town office/library area. She also mentioned that the crosswalk will be more than painted lines. It has taken time to get a grant for a crosswalk in the village because previously the State had not given permission, but they now have. Allison also went on to say that because of the grant, construction of the crosswalk will not cost the town anything and that our Planning Coordinator, Melissa Manka, just needs permission to apply for the grant from the selectboard.

Julia Andrews moved to approve the application, Allison Hope 2nd, motion passed 2-0.

ROGERS ROAD

John Roberts brought up an application for a grant to do a project on Rogers Road. Allison Hope motioned to approve the application, Julia Andrews 2nd, motioned passed 2-0.

SPILLER LOT QUIT CLAIM DEED

Julia Andrews moved to approve the Quit Claim Deed of Merger for the Spiller Lot, Allison Hope 2nd, motioned passed 2-0.

SCHWAB SIMPLE IRA

Allison Hope mentioned she had a good conversation with a representative as Schwab while Greg Barrows, Town Treasurer, mentioned some paperwork still required signage from the Selectboard for the town to go ahead for offer Schwab as an option for Simple IRA. Nanette Rogers asked if the selectboard would like her to sign the paperwork as Town Administrator when it was completed. Allison Hope moved to approve Nanette Rogers to sign the Schwab paperwork upon completion, Julia Andrews 2nd, motion passed 2-0.

EMERGENCY SERVICES ANNUAL CONTRACT

Julia Andrewes moved to approve the annual contract for emergency services dispatching to be provided by City of St. Albans in connection to Fairfax Rescue, Allison Hope 2nd, motioned passed 2-0.

TASK LIST

Julia Andrews mentioned that the Westford Town Lands needs to be updated every 10 years and that it should be added to the calendar.

CORRESPONDENCE

Allison Hope reminded the selectboard of the previous correspondence she had brought up in the Highway Department area of the meeting and that she had received a phone call. Julia Andrews received a phone call from the same residents and said the caller was not polite. Julia said she enjoys engaging with citizens about the town, but will not tolerate abuse language. Julia suggested putting up a Four Season FAQ on the website, she felt that a lot of the correspondences the selectboard has been receiving lately stemmed from similar questions that could be answered for residents more quickly in an FAQ.

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ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison Hope, Chair
Westford Selectboard

Callie Hamdy
Assistant Town Clerk

TOWN OF WESTFORD HIGHWAY DEPT.
ROAD SCHEDULE
March 15, 2019 – March 28, 2019

Work to be done

- Pothole repair when we can.
- Plow, sand and salt.
- Service work on the remaining equipment.
- Tree and brush cutting.
- Open ditches, steam culverts where needed as needed.
- Grade roads.

Work completed

- Steamed a few culverts.
- Worked on the state grant to replace the Rogers Road culvert.
- Filled potholes and graded on most roads.
- Plowed.
- Filled potholes and graded on most roads.
- Brought the 2018 Western Star to J & B for warranty work.
- Replaced a broken serpentine belt on the 2014 Western Star.

Approved at the 3/28/18 Selectboard Meeting.

TOWN OF WESTFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
GUEST LIST

Date: March 28, 2019

Name (please print)

Address

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