

a letter to the Selectboard. His interest lays in the trees along his boundary and they technically are his trees even if the Town has the right to remove them. He feels the drawings are not clear on what is happening to them. In a normal situation he'd be working with the Road Foreman and talking about where they'd be cut and used for. Chapin feels he doesn't have rights to his trees at this time based on the plans and conversation.

Hans asked if they could flag the trees so Chapin could see the extent of the cutting. Chapin was more interested in the legal ability to have a conversation about these trees much like he would on a Class 3 road. Colen explained the road needs to meet safety and zoning standards, the proposed improvements are as minimal as they can be. Chapin would like a contact person regarding the trees who he can work with; he's not being obstructionist, he would just like a role in this. Given that the sketch plan was submitted to the DRB early in February and that wasn't disclosed at the public meeting for the first agreement, Chapin is having trust issues with what will happen in the end. He would like to know what his rights are dealing with the road upgrades. He also saw on the revised plans the directional boring under the brook. Does that extend all the way to where the powerlines are? Colen explained its location. Bill's initial reaction looking at the revised engineered drawings and revised plans is that he feels like Colen and the applicants have made a lot of gestures to address Chapin's concerns which he appreciates. Bill hopes that the trees cut would be offered back as firewood to Chapin and he thought flagging the trees for the next site visit would be a good idea.

As far as the construction starting without approvals Bill does not feel comfortable with that. Lee is not in favor of granting the exceptions. Under precedent the Town has never granted permission in advance of receiving all the permits. There are a couple different circumstances in this instance such as money in escrow. Reviewing the literature, the actual initial request to upgrade the road goes back to last year and he's sensitive to the applicants' need to take advantage of the construction season. In his opinion a lot of it will depend on being able to come together with all interested parties and walking the land again. Dave was not comfortable either. What is the risk to the Town if the request is approved? That was not clear to him. Nanette suggested the Town consult with the town attorney.

Chapin explained it's not the Selectboard's responsibility to accommodate the request. The applicants could have applied with the full number of units when they first applied for the Agreement last fall. He feels the Czapskis have had plentiful opportunity to get this done in a timely manner. Colen explained that the road standards for serving one lot up to seven lots are the same. Regardless, this property has to go through the DRB because access goes through the water resource overlay. The road design doesn't change.

Glenn Rogers was contacted by Ann Brown who is an across the road abutting landowner. She has not been getting all the information and when you make your site visit it would be good for her to be aware of it. Chapin wanted to note that his tree line from the 800 foot to 1,100 foot mark will be taken out, so the question of the trees is not a trivial one.

Dave Bazcewski made a motion to designate Lee McClenny is the Town's representative in negotiating an amendment to the Czapskis' License Agreement, seconded by Bill Cleary. Motion passed: 3-0.

Jonathan and Sally Czapski were present. They'd like to get started and noted that they've tried to make every concession they can make. Jonathan was happy to walk anybody through

the property, and noted they've got contractors lined up to start the road construction. To the Czapskis it seems to be unreasonable to go back and forth, absorbing high costs along the way. Bill is sympathetic on this issue, but Chapin did make a point about it not being the Selectboard's responsibility to ease the process along, it is however the Board's responsibility not to drag it out forever.

Bill is still not comfortable making a decision before a site visit. Once they get the site visit done, they will get to the decision as quickly as possible. Dave wanted to hear the public's opinion. He agreed it's been going on for a while, but he has the information he needs to make a decision. We really need to think about how we want to use the right of way to aid in development. Dave still feels it's unfair that Frank Hassler and Ann Brown aren't at the meeting. He would like a short amount of time to get that public comment in for his own opinion. Bill explained in respect to Chapin who has been at every meeting the site visit is a must. Lee felt he didn't have enough information in front of him to make a full decision which is why he wanted a site visit on short notice. Lee is sensitive to the Czapskis' concerns and hopes the Czapskis are sensitive to the fact a lot of people are bending over backwards to make concession to them. Bill hopes to have a decision by next Selectboard meeting.

ARPA FUNDS

Dave provided a brief summary of the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) webinar VLCT (Vermont League of Cities & Towns) recently held for municipalities. VLCT will be a great partner in helping the Town maximize the use of the ARPA funds. Vermont received \$56 million to split between the NEUs (Non-Entitlement Units of Government). This is based on census data and will be around \$100 per person so Westford will get around \$200,000. We have some time; we don't have to obligate the money until the end of the calendar year of 2024. Separate from that we can receive more money. The county money is around \$120 million, Westford would get another \$400,000. Housing, community development, broadband, childcare, etc. were all items that eligible for the money. It can also be used to help residents in need and provide low interest loans. This is for future development and recovery. This amount of money won't solve all our funding issues, but we can use it for gap funding. The ARPA funds can't be used for federal match requirements, although they can be used in addition.

Gordon asked if there is a cap of what our municipality could get of its budget. The maximum is 75% of our annual operating municipal budget. Melissa didn't think that would impact Westford. She spoke with Alyssa Black, our state representative and the discussion is the minimum of \$100 per person, but it can range anywhere from \$100 to \$300. It was noted that projects that qualify under the State's Clean Water Revolving Fund will qualify for ARPA funds. Dave felt great about this because ours qualifies.

Dave Baczewski made a motion to designate Greg Barrows, Treasurer, as Westford's representative for interacting in the web portal for the fiscal recovery funds, seconded by Lee McClenny. Motion passed: 3-0.

COORESPONDANCE

There was no correspondence.

COMMUNICATION

There was no communication.

Special Selectboard Meeting
May 20, 2021
Page 4

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Cleary, Chair
Selectboard

Callie Hamdy
Assistant Town Clerk/Minute Clerk

GUEST LIST

Scott Rogers
Glenn Rogers
Sally Czapski
Jonathan Czapski
Hans Huessy
Colen Johnson
Chapin Kaynor
Melissa Manka
Gordon Gebauer
Mark Letorney
Buddy Meilleur, LCATV