

**Town of Tinmouth  
Select Board  
Thursday, February 16, 2023  
Special Meeting Minutes**

Members present(in-person): Kevin Eaton, Meadow Squier, and Cathy Reynolds

Others present:

Via Zoom: No one

In-person: Eric Buffum, Road Commissioner, Conservation Commission members – Rainbow Squier, Ed Hasenohr and Doug Fontein; Judy Gilmore, Sherry Johnson & Kim Harbaugh (site visit only), Michael Fallar and Gail Fallar-SB Assistant

Cathy called the meeting to order at 5:00, welcomed everyone.

The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a site visit for a possible walking right of way from the town office to the town garage parcel, going behind (east of) the old creamery building and along lands of Stratton and/or Eaton.

Those present tramped through the bushes and along the stone wall to view where a right of way might work.

Recording of the meeting began at 5:23 upon return to the town office.

Gail advised that Michael Stratton had verbally advised that they did not want to move the location of the proposed right of way from Mountain View Road from the southern end of their property to the middle of their meadow, but would be willing to discuss a walking right of way on the northern end of their property. Given that the right of way will not be moved to a safer location for a driveway, the Purchase and Sales Agreement needs to be dissolved/terminated.

Cathy advised that the Eatons were also willing to discuss a right of way across the corner of their property to the town's land.

Site visit report – there is a large stone wall along the Stratton property, a right of way would be less than 100 feet from their house, and would have a 90 degree turn. The stone wall could prove hard to navigate. There is a straighter more direct possible path through the Eaton property, which is currently in probate court.

Doug, speaking for the Conservation Commission, noted it would be easier to cross the Eaton property, but the CC would be happy with any access to the town land for recreation.

It was determined that there was no need for an executive session to discuss real estate at this time.

Cathy reported she had printed and perused the Rutland County Sheriff's Department's monthly reports for the last year and advised other SB members that they needed to review them and perhaps speak with the county sheriff to provide guidance regarding the town's contract.

Cathy explained the need for the Select Board to enter executive session to discuss a potential contract regarding engineering for the salt/sand shed project. As it is a federal grant there are processes that need to be followed. Discussing a specific contractor could taint the process if the town had to go out to bid in 2018 and awarded. The town was unable to convince AOT that federal process of public notice had been followed when the engineering contract was first put out to and

awarded. There are currently three options for the SB – 1) pay the engineer outside of the grant (no reimbursement allowed); 2) procurement of a new RFP (Request For Proposal); or 3) hire an “At The Ready” firm pre-approved by AOT. Cathy also reported that she spoke with Steffanie Bourque (RRPC), the town’s project manager for this grant who advised there were three criteria regarding the SB’s decision – availability, experience with fabric buildings (At The Ready firms may not have this), and cost.

At 5:38, Cathy moved that the SB enter executive session to discuss proposed contract, Kevin 2nded, invited in were the CSC as well as Judy Gilmore. Board exited at 5:57. Cathy moved and Meadow 2nded that the Board choose to go out to competitive bid for the salt/sand shed project and not use the At the Ready list. All voted in favor. Cathy advised that Steffanie would be on vacation for two weeks.

Cathy reported on the EOC grant for generators for the town office and fire department – another form had to be completed as the town office is on the National Historic Register indicating the location and any disturbed area for the generator. No final decision has been made – need the electrician to assist in finding the best location. The town’s septic system is located on the east side of the building.

Cathy again offered to continue her work on the two grants – salt/sand shed and EOC generators. Meadow advised the new Board should make that decision at its March meeting.

Next Meeting Schedule ~ Thursday, March 9th – 6:00 start time

Meadow moved and Kevin 2nded to adjourn at 6:01 pm. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar, Select Board Assistant