

**Dover Select Board
Meeting Minutes
Dover Town Office
Tuesday, August 15, 2023**

These minutes are not official until approved by the Dover Select Board

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86800444071?pwd=RIU2WDQ0cDM3d3AwSGREeFNON2tnQT09>

Meeting ID: 868 0044 4071 Password: 052648 Dial in: 929 205 6099

Select Board in person: Victoria Capitani, Sarah Shippee, Joe Mahon, Scott Salway

Select Board via zoom: Dan Baliotti

Also, present via zoom: Office Manager Jeannette Eckert

Public present in person: Tabi Freedman, Travis Briggs, Jim McDevitt, Marco Tallini, Randy Johnson, Mike Eldred, Zachary Benczkowski, Jim Bourque, Rickey Harrington, Tim Jones

Public present via zoom: Michelle Pinkham, Eric Durocher, Chris Kayes, Andy McLean, Geraldine Golet, David Rosso

Regular Meeting Called to Order at 6:30pm by Chair Capitani

I. Public Comments:

Vicki relayed that a petition was received from Dover Free Library patrons containing 36 signatures, 9 of which are from out of town asking for things the Select Board has no control over concerning the removal of the past director; acknowledging receipt.

II. New Business:

A. Renew Memorandum of Understanding Agreement with Somerset (Rickey Harrington)

- This was meant to be renewed every two years but with Covid, it fell by the wayside
- An ACH payment from the State of VT for \$750 was received representing two years stipend and brings it up to current
 - Would like to put it off to July 1, 2026 for renewal
- Somerset is unincorporated and this agreement provides residents a place to vote and a place to bring their trash
- Rickey thanked the Board and the Town for this agreement and being a good neighbor
- Fire & rescue services are another concern that Somerset is faced with
 - Had a contract with another town but it became too costly
- Wonder whether WDFD or DVR would consider servicing Somerset
 - Can reach out to both organizations for further discussions

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Joe Mahon, the Board unanimously agreed to have the Chair sign the agreement between the Town of Somerset & the Town of Dover for specified services

B. Review Sullivan, Powers Audit Agreement

- The audit was completed the first week of August
- Marco would like your signatures for the record
- Cost of \$11,800

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Dan Baliotti, the Board unanimously agreed to sign the Sullivan Powers Audit agreement for a fee of \$11,800

III. Unfinished Business:

A. Revisit GMP Request for Approval for Work in East Dover ROW (Tim Jones)

- Some additional questions/suggestions were submitted by resident Chris Kayes
 - A revised agreement was presented based on these comments
- Request for references of nearby projects in other towns
 - Nearest project is in Harmonyville—but on a smaller scale, buried in the road
 - Can obtain a letter of reference on the process

**Dover Select Board
Meeting Minutes
Dover Town Office
Tuesday, August 15, 2023**

- 39 contacts were made with landowners and 17 were direct conversations with customers
- Looking into to establishing a portal on GMP website to log questions and answers from/to citizens
- Maps that were shared were traditional to the projects
 - Ask is more of a design build from the Town to bring these lines to customers
 - Existing easements; will work with each individual property owner
- Dover has a lot of straightaways and hope to deliver the technology here
- Townshend has given its approval and will be starting on Monday and one is pending from Wardsboro that will be addressed this evening also
- Status of the project on Harris Rd?
 - Have not had any notice on it and the project has not been started
 - Approved 2 years ago and nothing has happened yet
 - Tim will look into it and report back
- Jim Bourque: Turner Rd/North St—three power lines along with two communication lines, what assurance that those won't be destroyed? Would prefer underground lines
 - GMP will reach out to every landowner about services and what options they prefer
- Chris Kayes: Very important that GMP keeps in contact with Travis
 - It's not Route 30 but North Street has a lot of traffic
- Concerns about timelines—Aug/Sept/October?
 - Want to avoid traffic, keep in mind foliage, winter preparations
 - Don't have a hard schedule yet, a good three-month project
 - Travis would like it buttoned up by the end of October
 - Could do some work and then come back in Spring to finish
 - Work is done 5 days a week from 7am to 5pm
- Understanding is the lines will go down the middle of the road, at least 5 feet in
- Gerie Golet: One Civil Engineer's opinion is that putting electrical lines down the middle of the road is the worst thing you can do
 - Trying to stay more the middle of the road and feel confident it is the best place to be with this technology
 - Have seen severe cuttings with the recent storms
 - At this scale it has not been done in a rural area among three towns
- Sounds like a good idea, maybe. Seems a little unnerving
- Harris Rd was a test and perhaps try it out there this Fall first in a smaller stretch of road
 - Do we know why Harris Rd wasn't done?
- How quickly will what is in place be dismantled?
 - Concern is if what you are installing doesn't work, will the other lines remain in place?
 - Phone lines—some are being retired
 - Fiber lines are going in also
- Jim McDevitt: How long a stretch are we talking about?
 - A couple of miles; 180 feet a day of digging and back filling; rather aggressive and unrealistic
- Can we start getting emails to answer all the questions that come in?
 - There will be situations when questions will bring forth more questions
 - Q&A online would be beneficial prior to another meeting; moving the ball forward more quickly

**Dover Select Board
Meeting Minutes
Dover Town Office
Tuesday, August 15, 2023**

- Starting in Townshend will give us some feedback
- Didn't realize it was such a new technology
- Want to improve service but don't want to create more problems than answers
- Michelle Pinkham: Harris Rd resident also in favor of a portal that would allow access to others questions and answers
- Appreciate the discussion but want to make sure we are doing the right thing
- David Rosso: Jockey Hollow Rd
 - Lines run through cow pastures; moving them would be great
 - Fiber is run through the same lines
 - Plan would be to move the lines underground or bury them right where they stand
 - Poles are owned by GMP; but Fiber companies are licensed to access
 - Telecommunications partners will come with GMP
 - Could it be guaranteed that Fidium is on board with this project?
 - A work in progress with a lot of moving parts
- Believe one goal should be to get rid of some poles
 - Won't be a complete dismissal of poles
- Don Mills is the operations manager at GMP; Travis walked thru the Harris Rd project with him
- Still have a lot of questions; definitely look into Harris Rd situation
- Want to do what's right and have better service but not sure how it could get done by October
- Tim will look into the Harris Rd project

IV. Highway:

A. Review Quotes for Purchase of Shipping Container at Town Garage

- Purchase of 2 shipping containers 40' long for storage use at Highway Garage
 - Container Guys.com \$3600 ea. Delivery incl.
 - USA Containers \$3669.21 ea. Delivery incl.
 - Brattleboro Storage \$4500 ea. Delivery incl.
- Will really come in handy to shore up space in the garage
- Extra tall 9' 6" models

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Scott Salway, the Board unanimously agreed to purchase 2 40' shipping containers from Container Guys in the amount of \$3600 each including delivery

B. Review Road Crew Applicants

- Only had one applicant this time around
- Feel good about this candidate, has construction and automotive experience
- He does not have a CDL license but is willing to go through that process
 - Permit will be attained first for a period of time and then enroll in the driver trainings; with permit can ride with other CDL operators
- Recommend hiring Wesley Ethier at a rate of \$21.50 per hour with a raise of \$1.00/hr. after attaining his CDL license
- Starting date of September 4

On a motion by seconded by the Board unanimously authorized Travis to hire Wesley Ethier at a rate of \$21.50 per hour with a \$1.00/hr. raise after CDL license is issued

**Dover Select Board
Meeting Minutes
Dover Town Office
Tuesday, August 15, 2023**

FYI's: Chris Larsen has tendered his resignation and will be retiring after 17 plus years; last day will be October 22; would like to work with Jeannette on an ad placement

The Board accepted his resignation with thanks for his many years of service and wish him well on retirement

Town Hall window update: most are completed and look good, had size issue with one from the manufacturer but that was resolved and a new window will be installed

Stream alternation permits for Goose City Rd projects have been obtained; work is in process

V. Economic Development: Eric Durocher

A. STR/LTR Sub-Committee Information Availability/Meeting Recap

- Meeting took place on July 31 with both SB to discuss recommendations to possibly investigate a registration system for short term rentals
- Minutes and video are up on the website; presentation is up as well
- Conversation will be taking place in Dover very soon

B. Also spoke at the VT Community Leaders Summit in Randolph with Gretchen Havreluk about the efforts with Bi Town

VI. Fire Dept.: Rich Werner

A. Fire Dept. Personnel Recognition

- Would like to recognize and thank new Lieutenant Zac Benczkowski
- Bad lightning storm in June; Zac went to Firehouse in case there were any strikes
- Ended up being a fire at Sawmill Village
- Insurance adjuster was impressed with the quick response time
- Makes a big difference in our insurance rates
- Zac is also working on the reporting system as well

B. Post Flood Update

- Three things to take away from this last little event
 - One winter a car went off the road at Veronique's and couldn't be seen
 - Recent storm the water was getting up pretty high and cars could go off the road into culvert at Veronique's and someone could get hurt or possibly die
 - Would like the Town or SB to draft a letter to VTrans to express concern about that portion of the road (Sarah will work on this)
 - Ice build-up, culvert issues, flooding issues
 - Gaye Lane and Bluebrook Rd
 - Frequent flooding issues, culverts overflowing
 - Beaver dams cause blockages
 - Gaye Lane is a private road that has an Association
 - Would help to have the Town get in touch with them to provide resources (10 property owners) possibly take them over
 - Tabi can provide resources to Association on flooding for private road work through FEMA

C. Fire Dept. Update

- New training program starting up in September with Police, Hwy, anyone who wants to attend and learn what to look for
- Having extra equipment to help save the roads in a storm
- Online trainings ongoing at WDFD; quality programs happening

**Dover Select Board
Meeting Minutes
Dover Town Office
Tuesday, August 15, 2023**

VII. Local Liquor Control:

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Dan Baliotti, the Board unanimously agreed to recess as Dover Select board and convene as local liquor control

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Joe Mahon, the Board unanimously approved the following:

A. Liquor License Applications:

- Special Event Permit for Mt Snow Block Party, Aug 18:
 - The Switchback Beerworks, Inc.
- Special Events Permits for Wine & Harvest Festival, Sept 23:
 - Cold Spring Spirits LLC
 - Fable Farm Fermentory LLC
 - Vermont Vines on the River LLC
 - Snow Republic LLC
 - Vermont Vermouth LLC

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Joe Mahon, the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn as local liquor control and reconvene as Dover Select board

VIII. Consent Agenda:

- Approve the Minutes of July 31 defer and August 1, 2023

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Dan Baliotti, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of August 1, 2023

Defer July 31 minute approval until the Board has time to review

- Approve the Warrants of August 5, 2023 for \$264,448.71

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Scott Salway, the Board voted 4-0-1 to approve the warrants of August 5, 2023 (Baliotti abstained)

IX. FYI:

A. Concerts in the Park:

- The Miles Band Aug 16 at 6pm
- Erica Reynolds Band Aug 20 at 2pm
- Miss Paula & The Twangbusters Aug 27 at 2pm

B. Board of Civil Authority, Aug 17 at 6pm

C. Town Fair September 26 & 27, South Burlington (Sarah is attending)

D. Thank You Letter from Windham County Humane Society

E. Thank You Letter from Shires Housing (SASH)

X. Liaison Reports: none

XI. Executive Session as needed: none

XII. Adjournment at 7:43pm by Chair Capitani

Respectfully submitted by Jeannette Eckert

Public notices of these minutes have been posted at the following locations: Dover Town Clerk's Bulletin Board, Dover Town Meeting Bulletin Board, Dover School, Dover Free Library, East Dover Post Office, Town of Dover Website: www.doververmont.com