

## **Minutes-Prudential Committee – Royalton Fire District 1**

Wednesday, January 27, 2021 held via Zoom.

Present: Theron Manning, Chair; Judy Hayward, John Dettwiler, Don Lovejoy, Chad Barnaby, Wayne Manning, Peter Thornton

### **Meeting Call to Order at 7:03 pm**

### **Agenda Changes -none**

### **Public Comments - none**

### **Eagle Scout Project**

Peter explained his project. He is pursuing the Eagle Scout designation. Peter explained that while on a scout hike a few in the troop went off trail. That prompted him to think about way-finding signs. He will use pressure-treated posts, and pine or cedar sign boards with a polyurethane coating. Placement- one sign near the tunnel, one about half-way up the trail and one near the Ledge. Mr. Lovejoy suggested one at the half-way point and one at the top. John Dettwiler discussed the Intersection between the main trail by Lake John and another trail that should not be used. There is a lot of ledge at the point and securing a sign at that point will require some thought; it is just about the half-way point. Peter thought the dimension for the big sign should be 2.5 feet tall and 4 feet wide. The committee thought that might be too big. Peter said he wants the committee to get what it needs from the signs. The big sign would be on two posts; the others would be 1 by 1.5 feet. Three signs total. The main sign should be located where the trail branches off and should discourage people from going over to the dam. It will have a directional symbol like an arrow. Lettering will be routed, and he suggests black lettering with natural wood finish. We encouraged him to use cedar because it will last longer. He would like to note the distance to the ledge from the Kent's Ledge trail head and altitude for start and finish. When does Peter need approval from us? He must finish the project by mid-April. Two weeks from now would work for approval for Peter's timeline. He will join us on February 10.

After Peter left the meeting, we discussed the liability issues for the trail. We need to make it clear that hikers go there at their own risk, and we need to protect the watershed. We should review the liability with our insurance company and our attorney and possibly with the Town. We could benefit by having signs to discourage people from going near Lake John and the reservoir. Judy will reach out to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns who insures us and may have a staff attorney familiar with trail liability. There should be no parking and traffic beyond the gate. Fire District may not own the ledge itself. Wayne said Kent's Ledge is not owned by the Town. It may be owned privately. We probably own to within 75 feet of the top. We may need to address parking. Judy will find out who owns the Ledge.

### **Minutes of the January 6 Meeting**

Motion to approve the minutes was made by John Dettwiler with a second to the motion by Don Lovejoy. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Informal review of the draft of the Annual Meeting Minutes-** Committee members will email Judy with their comments.

### **Chairman's Remarks**

Theron has been trying to get a reduction in costs for engineering services if we reduce the scope of the project. The State requires an engineer on site at all times, so there is unlikely to be a significant reduction. The State does not see the opportunity for a reduction. Naomi Johnson from Dufresne has pledged that they will act honestly and give us a credit at the end if they do not use all the budget for their fee. Their fee is designed to not exceed a certain amount. The contract with the engineer may need to be updated. There is a need for testing at an estimated cost of \$10-12,000. This fee would cancel out the possible \$11,000 reduction in engineering fees depending on the scope. We need to update the revised engineering contract. We need to remove Keith Grime's name on the contract. If we change the scope of work, we may need an updated permit. The storage tank could become an add alternate because it does not really change anything. Because the water is such good quality, the State may be able to upgrade the filtration capacity from 100 gallons per minute to 125 per minute. Judy will circulate Attorney Paul Giuliani's notes about the contract.

Theron hopes we will be out to bid in mid-April, opening bids in May, and that construction begins in June or July. We do not know how Covid 19 will impact the project. We want to minimize Wayne's exposure during the walk-through for the plant project.

Judy will send a pdf of Naomi's PPT about the project to the committee.

### **Water Superintendent's Report**

Wayne said that we are producing up to 80,000 gallons of water per day.

It takes a full year to get certified for water plant operation. Water Supply Rule Chapter 21 is the document that must be mastered for the exam. John Dettwiler is looking into getting his certification and will let us know if this is something he wants to pursue.

### **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Judy made a motion to nominate Theron Manning for chair for one year and Don made a second to the motion with a friendly addition that we nominate John Dettwiler as vice chair. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Administrative Assistant's Report**

Judy noted that she is working on a report for Ashley Lucht at the Vermont Bond Bank. She read some of the points in her draft: Top five water customers; possible strategy for analyzing and reviewing water rates and rate structures; the impact of Covid-19 and the impact if VLS leaves South Royalton. She will review her final draft with the committee before sending it to Ashley. She asked for Wayne's help in determining the number and types of users by category: single family, multi-family, commercial, agricultural, and industrial or other. We need the number of units as well. Wayne said he has most of that information in his Meter Reading Book.

Judy said she is working on the audit, the reconciliations of the bank accounts, and an analysis of VLS water usage.

**Work Orders**

John Dettwiler made a motion to approve the work orders with a second from Don Lovejoy. Motion passed unanimously.

Don Lovejoy moved that we adjourn at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy L. Hayward

Administrative Assistant

DRAFT