

Bakersfield Regular Select Board Meeting
Monday, June 22, 2020

Meeting was called to order by Josh Goss at 7:00pm.

Members present: Josh Goss, Gary Denton, Sam Cribb

Members absent: Lance Lawyer

Residents/Guests present: Robin Farrar, Robert Anderson, Mac Newitt, Tami Brennan

Motion to accept June 8th Regular Select Board meeting minutes was made by Sam and seconded by Gary and the motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Warrants signed:

Road Commissioner's order# 4&5-2020	10,428.99
Selectman's order# 15-2020	9,727.24

Robin Farrar and Robert Anderson came to discuss concern regarding the number, behavior and speed of ATV vehicles traveling on Witchcat Road. They had understood that Witchcat Rd was not part of the VAST trail but the Northwestern Wheelers Club say that Witchcat is on their map as part of the trails they are to have access to. They also reported that 4 or 5 dirt bikes are also speeding down Witchcat Rd., and dirt bikes are not supposed to be allowed on the VAST trail. Robin told of a neighboring resident that had been walking along Witchcat pushing a child in a stroller and walking her dog, who had very nearly been hit. She also reported that it was not safe for her daughter to ride her horse down the road because of the frequency, speed, manner of driving and noise levels of the ATV's. Speed is definitely the issue. Robert said that out of town ATV owners have been parking at Vallencourt Truck Repair since the Historical Society had revoked permission to park on their property. Robin said that there were signs posted on trees on Witchcat that say '25mph' and 'ATV's in use, cars 15 mph'.

Josh said that the people posting the signs were with the Northwestern Wheelers Club and were probably from out of town and may not know which roads to post. He said the Town opened up to the Northwestern Wheelers because the Club takes care of enforcement by hiring the St. Albans Sheriff's Department. Josh told Robin and Robert to call the Sheriff's Dept as often as the activity occurs. Josh also said that the Select board will invite the leader of the Northwestern Wheelers Club to a Select Board meeting to go over the plan, and see what's written about Witchcat Rd, and will let Robin and Robert know when the Club will be on the agenda for discussion, so that they can attend the meeting and share their concerns. Robin and Robert assured the Select Board that they are not against ATVs but the speed is making it dangerous for residents.

Mac and the Select board discussed mowing the Gravel Pit. Mac will check with Kurt Westcom to see if he definitely has decided not to continue to mow. And then check with Larry Gervais to see if they would be interested in mowing the area. The board couldn't think of another person to ask.

Mac said that the dust level on the roads is much better. The rain helps and allows chloride to be placed.

Two air tanks blew on the air compressor on Mac's truck which was \$1000.00 to repair. Mac's new truck is expected between June and October.

FEMA is coming this Thursday for site inspections and will be accompanied by Lance and Mac.

The Select Board received and accepted Letters of Intent from Terri Gates, Brenda Churchill, and Sarah Crispell, requesting to be considered for the vacancy on the Select Board, created by the resignation of David Houston, which calls for a vote by Australian ballot on August 11th, 2020. Kathy will publicly Warn the ballot vote by the end of next week, July 2nd, 2020.

The Vermont Government has given the power to the Select Board to possibly delay collection of property taxes if situations arise due to COVID19. The Select Board tabled making a decision regarding this issue until further research with the Town Accountant and Town clerk regarding possible impact on the Town.

Sam brought the board's attention to the large Maple tree in front of the Brigham Academy. Part of it fell down and the remainder is leaning over the Green and is a danger that needs to be taken down. Mac will talk to Dan Forand about how to safely take it down. Replanting was discussed but decided to wait until after the Brigham Residence project is settled.

The Board discussed whether to cancel the Antique Car Show on the Green in September and agreed to reassess how COVID19 is affecting the State as the summer progresses. The Fire Dept has cancelled the Golf Tournament for September. Sam spoke to Bill Irwin and Bill assured Sam that the State is taking the anticipated second wave of the virus, predicted for September and October, very seriously.

Sam made the motion to adjourn at 7:55pm, the motion was seconded by Gary and passed by a vote of 3-0.

The next Regular Select Board meeting will be held on Monday, July 13, 2020, at 7:00pm.

Meeting minutes recorded by Tami Brennan.