

Derby Line, Vermont
Trustees Meeting
December 3, 2019
Derby Line Village Hall

Call to Order:

Present were Trustees Richard Creaser, Lindsay Brainard and Keith Beadle.

Also, present were Ed Barber from Newport Daily Express, Laurie Moss, Clerk & Treasurer, and Madeleine Roy, Assistant Clerk.

The meeting was called to order by Trustee Richard Creaser at 6:30 pm.

Three additions to the agenda: 1) NEMRC Increased Fee for 2020; 2) Village Christmas Party Date; 3) Laura Carpenter Insurance Claim;

Lindsay moved that the reading of Rules of Procedure be waived. Keith seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of November 19, 2019 Regular Trustees Meeting:

Keith noted a needed correction in the second paragraph of the section entitled VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation Sanitary Survey. To be removed is the statement, "...and need to clarify that Derby Line nor Stanstead are responsible for anything to do with our water system" and replaced with, "...and need to clarify that Derby Line is only responsible for its own water testing and its own infrastructure. International Water Co. (IWC) is responsible for the wells and its own infrastructure."

Keith made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular Trustees meeting of Nov. 19, 2019 as amended. Lindsay seconded. Motion carried.

Tabled Items:

- 1) Stanstead Sewer Treatment Plant Reconstruction – tabled
- 2) Denis Ducharme Wastewater – tabled until spring
- 3) Environmental Conservation Sanitary Survey – to be discussed at this meeting
- 4) Main St. Cones – tabled until spring
- 5) Bond Vote, VT Superior Court Status Conference – tabled

Bond Vote, Vermont Superior Court Status Conference:

Richard asked if any response has been received from Attorney Paul Guiliani's request for dismissal. No reply has yet been received from the court. Keith and Laurie are still planning on appearing at court on Dec. 13, 2019 at 9 am. **Tabled.**

VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation Sanitary Survey:

A meeting was held this morning (12/3/19) here in the Village Hall attended by Keith, Laurie, two State of VT engineers, several representatives from Stanstead, VT State legislators Brian Smith and Lynn Bachelor, Brian Fletcher, Allen Desrosiers from IWC and Phil Laramie of Laramie Waterworks. Keith reported that they tried to impress upon the State engineers that ours is not a typical water system. He showed them the 1906 charter that specifically states that IWC owns the water system.

One State engineer kept referring to the fact that Derby Line is not testing its water. Phil Laramie confirmed to them that IWC has agreed to have him test Derby Line's water regularly and that they will pay him for that work.

Keith also stated that he impressed upon them that it would be expensive and ineffective to install meters on the five (5) water lines that cross the border as the water flows both north and south. In addition, Vermont wants us to test for PFOAs, but Canada does not require that testing. There is no way to determine where the PFOAs originate from.

The State engineers also stated that the number of connections between Derby Line and Stanstead could be reduced, but it would take some fine engineering.

In the end, it was agreed by all parties that:

- Derby Line's water will be tested regularly by Laramie Waterworks and that IWC will pay for it;

- Derby Line and IWC will be named Co-Permittees on the Permit to Operate a Water System;
- The Public Water System Officials Contact Form will include Brian Fletcher, Alain Desrosiers and Philip Laramie as Operators of the system;

Road Erosion Inventory:

Keith reported that he, Laurie and Brian Fletcher attended a meeting on Nov. 20, 2019 with Sarah Damsell of the Orleans Co. Conservation District and Allan May of the St. of VT. The State has advised that a grant is available for the work needed to correct the erosion problem at the end of Valentine Ave. The Village will be responsible for 20% of the work and Keith confirmed with them that this particular grant will allow in-kind work by our road crew, etc. The grant is available until July 1, 2020 and the work can be started immediately after. The grant application needs to be completed and submitted within the next week.

The State of Vermont has agreed that that area is not a wetland, so the work to repair will be minimal. **Tabled.**

Stanstead Sewer Treatment Plant Reconstruction:

Keith reported that Jean Charles Bellemarre of the Village of Stanstead has informed him that plans are to break ground in the spring. He also indicated that there could be a 3% increase in the cost of reconstruction.

Laurie stated that the new Memorandum of Understanding has not yet been received from Attorney Guiliani.

New Paving on Pelow St. & Highland Ave:

Lindsay reported that he had inspected the new paving and definitely found crumbling and some areas that had worn down to the original pavement. He suggested that Brian contact the paving contractor to inspect the job and see what can be done, possibly only in the spring, to repair. **Tabled.**

Christmas Office Hours:

Laurie informed the Trustees that every year in the past, activity in the office is minimal between Christmas and New Year's. She suggested that the office be closed from Dec. 25, 2019 until Jan. 2, 2020. She will put a notice on the door advising people that the office is closed, that payments can be left in the outside lock box, and that if an emergency arises, she can be reached by phone. She can definitely meet anyone if needed. Madeleine has agreed to pick up the mail each day and check phone messages. The trustees agreed that it is Laurie's decision to make, but they are fine with closing during this time.

NEMRC Increased Fee for 2020:

A letter received this week from NEMRC indicates that Derby Line's annual fee for their services will increase from \$1,460.81 to \$5,000.00 in 2020. After a brief discussion, it was decided that because NEMRC's software, security, backup of files and general service is excellent, it would be extremely disruptive to find another provider. It was decided to make sure this increase is put in next year's budget.

Village Christmas Party:

The original date of Dec. 14, 2019 has to be changed. Wednesday, Dec. 18th, was chosen as a new date for dinner at the Derby Line Village Inn.

Carpenter Insurance Claim:

A letter has been received this week from Vermont Mutual Insurance Co., Laura Carpenter's insurer, advising that they are subrogating her claim for sewer backup damage in her house this fall. The Trustees advised Laurie to send all their information to our insurance company, VLCT, reminding them that Carpenter was in violation of Derby Line's Sewer Ordinance, and let them contact Vermont Mutual about the denial of her claim.

Business from Trustees, Treasurer and Road Foreman:

Rural Edge Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Caswell Ave Building: Keith briefly attended their Open House today and noted that the information they distributed was very informative.

Cell Tower off Breakneck Hill: Keith reported that Karen Jenne has received an email from Attorney Annette Smith that she has found out that large diesel backup generators have to be run at least once a month for power outages at cell tower locations. Even though the time for comments to the PUC has passed, this is an issue causing climate change that could still be raised.

New Business from the Audience: None

Old business from the Audience (5-minute limit unless otherwise directed): None

Executive Session: None

Next Meeting: The next regular Trustees' meeting is scheduled for Dec. 17, 2019.

Review and Sign Bank Statement: Yes

Warrants were Reviewed and Signed: Yes

The Last Check Printed: #15378

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Madeleine C. Roy, Assistant Village Clerk