

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
SELECT BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Minutes of April 12, 2022**

- I. ROLL CALL.** Select Board Chair K. David Maxwell, Board members Julie H. Goodrich, Charles Morse, Lydia Petty, and John Stevens. Also present were Town Manager Jeff Schulz, Acting Clerk Kenneth McCann, Kelly Poor (AARP Vermont), Jonathan Weber (Local Motion), Bonnie Donahue (Common Connections), Patrick DeMasi (Utility Superintendent), Dennis Donahue (Utility Commissioner), Steve Fitzhugh (Utility Commissioner), Lynn Doney (Northfield Activity Group), Sally Davidson (Northfield Activity Group), Bethany Drum (Northfield Activity Group), Lucas Herring, Donald Doyon, Carolyn Stevens, Susan Stillinger, and Elroy Hill.

Chair Maxwell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Participants had the option of attending the meeting either in person or remotely through Go-to-Meeting.

- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Those persons present were asked to rise and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. The remote contingent also participated as much as possible.

- III. SET/ADJUST AGENDA.** There were no changes to the posted agenda.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED):

- a. Kelly Poor (AARP Vermont), Jonathan Weber (Local Motion), & Bonnie Donahue (Northfield Common Connections): Pedestrian Safety Demonstration Project.** Manager Schulz said AARP Vermont and Local Motion would like to hold a one-day pedestrian safety demonstration on Depot Square next month. Temporary street markings would be displayed during the event. Bonnie Donahue has been involved with several local pedestrian safety and other transit projects as part of Common Connections and other local community organizations. She has worked with Kelly Poor from AARP Vermont over the past three years on various placemaking projects funded by AARP or state grants. In 2019, a \$3,000 placemaking grant from AARP Vermont funded the installation of temporary pedestrian markings and signage with a demonstration walk from the Common to Dog River Park. Over one hundred residents participated in this short walk to the fairly new nature park. In 2021, Northfield was awarded \$18,000 from the AARP's national organization for the installation of traffic delineators along Wall Street to separate pedestrians from automobile traffic as well as the painting of dedicated pedestrian lanes. These temporary safety feature will be installed again this summer. Northfield also was awarded a \$18,000 Better Places grant last year from the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development that was used for Northfield Common area enhancements such as new tables, chairs, benches, etc. These grant funds also were used to create the hand-painted community banners that were displayed on and around Depot Square last year (and will be reinstalled this year when weather permits).

Ms. Poor said a big part of AARP's mission is to improve individual lives by creating more livable communities with better access to affordable housing, improved mobility within the community, etc. She has enjoyed partnering with Ms. Donahue and other Northfield volunteers on the previous local initiatives. AARP Vermont holds placemaking workshops each year and conducts monthly demonstrations in different localities in order to put theory into practice. They would like to hold one in Northfield on Friday, May 20, 2022 in order to show how safe access to the green spaces at the heart of Depot Square could be improved. Ms. Poor believes this will meet stated Select Board goals to make the downtown area easier to access by foot, bicycle, automobile, etc.

Founded in 1999 to address bike path concerns in the Burlington area, Local Motion has since become "Vermont's statewide advocate for active transportation, vibrant communities, and safe streets." Jonathon Weber is Manager of their Complete Streets Program. Using a satellite photo of the Depot Square area, he indicated how temporary markings would be used on the demonstration day to show how curb extensions could improve pedestrian safety in the area by slowing down vehicular traffic. Temporary crosswalk markings also would be installed to make it safer to walk from the sidewalks on the four sides of Depot Square to the interior green space (i.e. Common). Ms. Weber said such demonstrations are effective and low-cost ways to try out possible safety enhancements.

Board member Morse asked if all the markings, etc. are truly temporary. Mr. Weber confirmed they were and all would be removed at the end of the event. Board member Morse asked if community feedback would be obtained regarding whether such changes are wanted or not. Mr. Weber said that was one of the goals of the demonstration. Board member Morse felt the proposed curb extension on the southwest corner of Depot Square near the Community Bank building would negatively affect heavy trucks accessing the businesses on the other side of the railroad tracks. Ms. Weber said he would review and monitor vehicular traffic at that corner before installing the markings in case some adjustments are needed.

Steve Fitzhugh was Village Manager at the time of the Common Rehabilitation Project in 2014. He said an extended curb extension at the intersection of South Main Street and Depot Square was part of the original project plans in order to promote pedestrian safety at the crosswalk there. However, this extension had to be removed from the plans when it was determined that it would create too tight a steering area for heavy vehicles and tractor trailers trying to turn left onto Depot Square. Mr. Weber said the temporary markings would not impede vehicular traffic unable to navigate the suggested path. Board member Morse appreciates all the attention Northfield is receiving from AARP and other public and private organizations trying to provide assistance to senior citizens and others with mobility issues.

Board member Petty has worked on these types of connectivity issues several times as a member of Northfield Common Connections, the Northfield Ridge + River Routes Steering Committee, etc. She felt it was very good to have Northfield highlighted for such a safety demonstration. Board member Petty noted Norwich University (NU) is hosting the 2022 Resilient Vermont Conference that same day (05/20/22). The NU webpage for this conference states it is "for Vermonters seeking to engage with each other, their communities, and the state at large through meaningful and interdisciplinary discussions and problem-solving." Therefore, there will be a number of experts on these issues in the community that day who might be willing to participate in the event. Board member Petty then asked if many parking spaces would be affected by the demonstration. Mr. Weber thought it would be no more than four or five spaces temporarily lost. Board member Petty thought it would be good to evaluate the impact of these lost spaces during the demonstration to see if permanent changes should be made in future.

Board member Stevens agrees with Board member Morse that the proposed curb extension near the Community Bank would create problems for tractor trailers trying to access the businesses located along Wall Street. However, the actual impact could be better determined during the one-day demonstration. Board member Goodrich asked if the proposed informational kiosk/bus stop to be located by the Community Bank parking area would be installed by the time of the demonstration. Manager Schulz believes the current plan is to install the kiosk by the end of this month. Chair Maxwell agrees that the proposed curb extension and potential loss of parking spaces might be unresolvable concerns but he is more than willing to learn from the demonstration process.

Ms. Poor then thanked the Select Board members for their willingness to allow this experiment on the Common. It is very likely other communities could learn and benefit from Northfield's experience. Ms. Poor said it still need to be determined what would be the best method of gathering community feedback during and after the demonstration. AARP Vermont will hold a meeting soon to make this determination. Chair Maxwell then expressed his appreciation to Ms. Poor, Mr. Weber, and Ms. Donahue for all their work on proposed demonstration, which should yield great benefits for Northfield.

V. LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION

- a. **Liquor License Renewal: Cumberland Farms.** Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Stevens, to approve the liquor license renewal. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. **March 22, 2022 (Regular Meeting).** Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Stevens, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

VII. APPROVAL OF BILLS

- a. **Approval of Warrant #19-22.** Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Stevens, to approve Warrant #19-22 in the amount of \$648,558.01. Board member Stevens is glad to see no repair bills for the 2014 Police Cruiser but did note the 2014 Western Star was back in the shop. Manager Schulz said this vehicle did a lot of work over the winter so repair work now is not unexpected. Board member Stevens also noted some work on some Northfield Fire Department (NFD) vehicles; did this include the one just purchased? Manager Schulz said the tanker is the new NFD vehicle under warranty and it was not one of the three vehicles (Tower Truck, Engine 1, and Engine 2) that had parts replaced and/or service work. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- b. **Approval of Biweekly Payroll through March 20, 2022.** Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Stevens, to approve the biweekly payroll in the amount of \$107,946.30. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- c. **Approval of Biweekly Payroll through April 3, 2022.** Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Stevens, to approve the biweekly payroll in the amount of \$105,245.68. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

VIII. SELECT BOARD

- a. Review and Approval of FY 2022/2023 Water and Sewer Rates.** Manager Schulz said he worked with the elected Utility Commissioners (Steve Fitzhugh and Dennis Donahue) along with Select Board members Morse and Stevens to develop the Water and Sewer Department budgets for the next fiscal year. It was an interesting process this year due to pandemic-related revenue losses due to major customers reducing their usage, etc. The water and sewer rates developed based on the budgets will result in a combined rate increase of 4.96%. There was every attempt to stabilize the rates but this became difficult due to the aforementioned revenue losses. Manager Schulz said previous year surplus funds as well as American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds were used to keep the rate increase relatively low. The Water Department budget saw the use of \$125,000 in prior year surplus funds and \$70,000 in ARPA funds. The Sewer Department budget will make use of \$78,000 in ARPA funds. Manager Schulz believes some of the utility revenue losses will be temporary but some may be permanent with business closures, improved efficiency, etc. He added that in the next couple of years, some old water bond debts will be retired and this will result in annual savings of about \$165,000. Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Petty, to approve the FY 2022/2023 Water and Sewer Rates as presented by management. Board member Petty said using ARPA funds to keep the rate increase relatively low is an appropriate use of these funds. Without using the ARPA funding, the combined rate increase might have been as high as fourteen percent (14%). Board member Stevens opposes this use of ARPA funds as this will benefit only some Northfield residents (Northfield utility customers) but not all. This action also undercuts the work of the ARPA Funds Outreach Committee that is determining the best methods of determining local opinion on how the \$1,600,000 in local ARPA funds should be spent. Board member Goodrich said one of the rationales for the ARPA program was to assist municipalities that suffered revenue loss that was directly attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, this seems to be a very appropriate use of these funds. Mr. Fitzhugh also believes using ARPA funds is correct since stabilizing the local utility rates will benefit the entire community. Chair Maxwell also felt the federal government's guidelines for proper uses of ARPA funds specifically includes offsetting municipal revenue losses due to the pandemic. He usually doesn't like using prior year surplus to lower utility rates but feels this is a special circumstance. Chair Maxwell also looks forward to debt retirement over the next couple years. **Motion passed 4-1-0, with Board member Stevens voting in opposition.**
- b. Main Street Stormwater Abatement and CSO Elimination Project Bids.** Manager Schulz noted that at a previous meeting (03/08/22), the Select Board members authorized the project engineers (The Dufresne Group) to solicit bids for the construction phase. The bid deadline was Wednesday, April 6, 2022 and three bids were received from Courtland Construction (Milton, VT), Munson Earthmoving (Williston, VT), and JA McDonald, Inc. (Lyndon Center, VT). The engineers had estimated the cost of the project at \$1,362,000 and the actual bid results were as follows: Courtland Construction: \$1,136,436; Munson Earthmoving: \$1,349,712; and JA McDonald, Inc.: \$1,826,212. Manager Schulz noted the State of Vermont has committed \$2,000,000 to the project budget so there will be little to no local expense. He consulted the engineers and given all three bidders were well-qualified to perform the required work, they recommend awarding the contract to the low bidder, Courtland Construction. Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Petty, to award the Main Street Stormwater Abatement and CSO Elimination Project contract to Courtland Construction for the bid amount of \$1,136,436. Board member Petty noted in the bid breakdowns, Courtland Construction estimated the cost of "Miscellaneous Work and Cleanup" at \$53,042 whereas Munson Earthmoving had budgeted \$125,000 and JA McDonald \$490,000 for this purpose. Since the disparity over this one project budget item resulted in Courtland Construction being the low bidder, she asked if Manager Schulz had any concerns about this. Manager Schulz said he did not and he was comfortable with the engineers' recommendation to go with Courtland Construction. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- c. Town Loader Purchase Bids.** Manager Schulz said the Select Board members had included in the proposed FY 2022/2023 Highway Department Capital Equipment Plan (CEP) budget funding for a new Town Loader. Since this budget was approved by Northfield residents on Town Meeting Day (03/01/22), Highway Foreman Trent Tucker has solicited bids for the loader purchase. Five bids were received from Beaugard Equipment (Colchester, VT), Milton Cat (Richmond, VT), G. Stone Commercial (Middlebury, VT), United Construction & Forestry (Williston, VT), and Wood's CRW Corporation (Williston, VT). The bid amounts included the trade-in of the Town's 2000 Kawasaki Loader and are as follows: Beaugard Equipment: \$140,175; Milton Cat: \$133,900; G. Stone Commercial: \$137,745.91; United Construction & Forestry: \$155,450; and Wood's CRW Corporation: \$172,400.

Manager Schulz and Mr. Tucker recommend going with the low bidder and purchasing a 2022 Caterpillar 920 Wheel Loader from Milton Cat for \$133,900. Their submission includes the option of entering into a seven-year lease/purchase agreement. Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Stevens, to purchase a new Town Loader from Milton Cat for \$133,900 (including the trade-in deduction). Board member Stevens noted some of the submitted bids included full breakdowns of vehicle components, etc. whereas others provided much less information. He would prefer if the bidders used the same format so it would be much easier to make direct comparisons between the vehicles offered for purchase. Chair Maxwell asked if there was any thought of retaining the Kawasaki loader as an extra vehicle. Manager Schulz said that would result in the Highway Department having three loaders on hand but they really only need two. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

- d. Main Street Bridge Replacement Project: Standard Finance and Maintenance Agreement.** Manager Schulz said the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) is asking the Select Board members to approve this agreement, which specifies the allocation of funds for this project; responsibilities regarding traffic control, utility relocation, use of rights-of-way; etc. The agreement also states VTrans will take responsibility for any environmental concerns discovered at the project site. The total project cost is now estimated at \$6,500,000 and the federal government will pay eighty percent (80%) of this, the State of Vermont fifteen percent (15%), and the municipality five percent (5%). Motion by Board member Goodrich, seconded by Board member Morse, to approve and authorize Manager Schulz to sign this agreement. Board member Goodrich has some questions about item number eleven in the agreement, which states VTrans will “perform liaison and negotiation with utility companies as necessary to relocate all privately-owned utilities that are in conflict with the project.” The municipality is expected to “cooperate” with this process. Manager Schulz said he could contact VTrans officials to get a better understanding of the process. This brief delay should have no impact on the project timeline. Without objection, the motion to approve the agreement was tabled until more information is received.
- e. South Main Street Waterline Replacement Project: Authorization to Submit Loan Application.** Manager Schulz said there are state funds available for this upcoming project that might cover the entire cost. There is a requirement that the Select Board members approve and sign an application to the State Revolving Loan Program. Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Goodrich, to approve and sign this revolving loan application for the South Main Street Waterline Replacement Project. Board member Morse noted the municipality usually employs The Dufresne Group to engineer our water infrastructure projects. Is it possible that the State will require us to hire someone else for this project? Manager Schulz thought this was very unlikely. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- f. Extension of Town Audit Agreement.** Manager Schulz noted the municipality has hired the accounting firm Kittell, Branagan, and Sargent (KBS) to conduct the annual audit of its finances for the past few years. He asks for this agreement to be extended an additional year to cover the audit of the current fiscal year (FY 2021/2022). Manager Schulz noted KBS did not increase its fee for services the past couple years due to the pandemic but this year the cost will increase by \$2,000. It is likely the municipality will go out to bid next year for auditing services to determine if there are less expensive options. Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Petty, to extend the municipality’s audit agreement with Kittell, Branagan, and Sargent for an additional year and authorize Manager Schulz to sign the extension agreement. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- g. American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA): Method of Revenue Loss Calculation.** Manager Schulz said under the final rules governing local use of ARPA funds, municipalities receiving less than \$10,000,000 have the option of using the “Standard Allocation” method of determining the amount of local revenue loss due to the pandemic. This eliminates the need to generate a significant paperwork in order to calculate the “exact” amount of revenue loss and link future expenditures of ARPA funds directly to categorized costs. The Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) has been reviewing ARPA guidelines for its member communities and it recommends that eligible municipalities (like Northfield) adopt the Standard Allocation in order to greatly simplify the reporting process. Municipalities are required to file their next ARPA reporting by April 30, 2022 and the chosen method must be specified in this report. Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Petty, for the municipality to adopt the Standard Allocation Method of Revenue Replacement. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

- h. Formation of Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) Grant Committee.** As reported at the last regular meeting (03/22/22), the municipality received a \$121,000 VOREC grant as the result an application submitted by the Northfield Conservation Commission (NCC). NCC Chair Deb Zuaro spearheaded this effort and the grant funds will be used to expand public access to the Town Forest; draft and implement a Town Forest masterplan; collaborate with Norwich University (NU) to offer additional outdoor recreation opportunities to the Northfield community; etc. Manager Schulz spoke recently with Ms. Zuaro and they agreed it would be best to form an ad hoc committee to facilitate grant implementation. As indicated in the VOREC Community Grant Program workplan distributed to the Select Board members, this seven-person committee would consist of Manager Schulz, NU representatives, NCC members, members of the Town Forest Stewardship Committee (TFSC), and interested Northfield residents. Manager Schulz would like the Select Board members' authorization to form this committee and to advertise for the positions that would be filled by community members not affiliated with the specified groups. Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Petty, to establish the VOREC Grant Implementation Committee and authorize advertising for committee members. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- i. Board of Listers Vacancy Appointment.** Manager Schulz said it was discovered soon after Town Meeting Day (03/01/22) that the candidate who had received the most votes for Lister was not a registered Northfield voter at the time of election and thereby ineligible. The Vermont Secretary of State's office was contacted and their recommendation was for the municipality to solicit letters of interest from Northfield residents so the Select Board members could appoint someone to serve as Lister on an interim basis until the next Town Meeting (03/07/23). At that time, there would be an election to fill out the remaining two years of this three-year position. The deadline for applications was last Thursday (04/07/22) and longtime Northfield Falls resident Lawrence Garland was the only applicant. Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Petty, to appoint Lawrence Garland to fill the vacant position on the Board of Listers. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

IX. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. Stony Brook Road Bridge Repairs Project.** Manager Schulz said this major project is on schedule. Preliminary work has been done on site and the bridge will be closed for a while next month so major repairs can be made. Affected property owners and businesses will be informed of the closure schedule well beforehand. Board member Morse felt closing this bridge to traffic will have a huge impact so any warning should be well ahead of time so affected residents and businesses will have plenty of time to plan ahead. Dole Hill Road will be the detour route for many of them and this is not always the easiest road to navigate. Board member Goodrich felt it might be good to rent large electrical message signs from VTrans and place them near the bridge ahead of time so people cannot miss getting the news.
- b. Northfield Transfer Station & Recycling Depot.** Manager Schulz is working with Casella Waste System on a long-term agreement to operate the facility on behalf of the municipality. Casella submitted a draft agreement recently that he is now reviewing. The discussion and possible approval of this agreement will be on the next regular meeting agenda (04/26/22).
- c. Summer Paving Projects.** Manager Schulz said RFPs will be sent out soon for the paving projects planned for this summer. This includes work on Central Street, Stony Brook Road, West Hill Road, and the lower part of Freeman Road.
- d. Central Street Sidewalk.** Manager Schulz said in the next couple weeks the Town Highway crew will begin removing the deteriorating sections of sidewalk on the east side of Central Street. These areas will be reseeded and curbing installed where needed. Some of this will be the old curbing removed during the South Main Street Sidewalk Project and now repurposed. New concrete sidewalk will be installed on the lower section of Central Street from Wall Street to the Bliss Salon (87 Central Street). Board member Petty is disappointed the old sidewalk is being removed rather than restored. She felt Central Street is a good walking alternative to South Main Street and it provides direct pedestrian access to the NU campus. Board member Petty also felt that there should be improvements to the sidewalk situation where it ends at its intersection with Wall Street. The sidewalk ends abruptly there and creates a dangerous intersection for pedestrians. Chair Maxwell believes this would be a good time to implement pedestrian safety improvements on this street. The Town Highway budget includes funds for movable speed bumps that could be sited on Central Street to slow down vehicular traffic.

- e. **Street Sweeper.** Manager Schulz said the contracted street sweepers will be operating in Northfield by the end of this week.
- f. **Utility Office Manager Doug Reed Recognition.** Manager Schulz said a small employee celebration was held in the Municipal Building a couple weeks ago (03/31/22) to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of Doug Reed's first day working for the Village of Northfield (03/31/97).

X. BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS, CONCERNS, QUESTIONS

- a. **Select Board Letter to USPS Postmaster General.** Board member Morse asked if the joint letter to Postmaster General Louis DeJoy had been sent. A draft version had been prepared for the Select Board members for their meeting of March 8, 2022. Manager Schulz said the letter had not as there had been some disagreement then on how it should be worded. Board member Morse is very disappointed with the delay.
- b. **Times Argus Advertisement.** Board member Morse asked why an upcoming Development Review Board (DRB) meeting recently was advertised in the *Times Argus*, which is not the municipality's official newspaper. Manager Schulz said at their March 8, 2022 meeting the Select Board did name the weekly *Northfield News* as the official newspaper for municipal notices, etc. However, at the same time it did allow for advertising in the *Times Argus* when publishing deadlines required it. The *Times Argus* publishes five days a week (Tuesday through Saturday) so an advertisement sent to it usually prints within a couple days.
- c. **All Clean Waste Services.** Board member Stevens asked if All Clean Waste Services had all the permits it needs for its new location at 94 Water Street. Manager Schulz said required paperwork has been submitted to Zoning Administrator Mitch Osiecki. These applications will be discussed at the next DRB meeting (04/28/22).
- d. **Municipal-Owned Tax Sale Property.** Board member Stevens asked about the status of the mobile home with delinquent taxes that the municipality purchased at tax sale two years ago (08/27/20). Manager Schulz said the one-year redemption period for the former property owner has long passed so he has been contacted to see if he would like to repurchase the mobile home once all delinquent taxes have been paid. Other options include charging him rent to continue living there or starting eviction proceedings.

XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (UNSCHEDULED)

- a. **Lynn Doney: Questions, Concerns, etc.** Mr. Doney is a member of the Northfield Activity Group, a Northfield Ambulance volunteer, and a former Select Board member. He had a number of issues he would like to bring up at this time.
 - 1. **Mill Street Paving.** Mr. Doney said both of the approaches this Northfield Falls looped road has to Vermont Route 12 North were in very bad condition. These sections need to be repaved and levelled as soon as possible as recent temporary fixes (i.e. hot mix/cold patch) have not been successful.
 - 2. **Bump in the Road.** Mr. Doney is disappointed the "nasty bump" in the road by NU's Milano Ballroom, which formed several years ago when a new waterline was installed, remains a serious problem. This needs to be re-engineered and the road fixed for good. Manager Schulz said NU has addressed this problem twice. First, when the underground waterline was installed and afterwards when there were complaints about the subsequent bump. They did hire an engineer and excavated the area a second time. Manager Schulz can discuss this again with NU officials but the poor soil in the area makes it difficult to create an entirely smooth surface. Board member Morse doubts there will be a perfect fix until the whole road is repaved.
 - 3. **Fairgrounds Road Dumping Area.** Mr. Doney said on Vermont Route 12A by the intersection with Fairgrounds Road there is a break in the guardrails that some residents have used as a dumping area for unwanted items (AKA "free stuff"). He would like the municipality to take action so this doesn't resume again when the weather warms up. Manager Schulz said this is a state highway and he has reached out to VTrans in the past about this. He will contact them again to see if they could move this up on their priority list. Lucas Herring said he had a similar problem when he was Mayor of Barre City. He had large rocks and other fill put down in the gap area and that ended the problem.
 - 4. **Proper Shelter for the New Town Loader.** Mr. Doney would like to be sure that the new loader is properly covered when parked at the Falls pit in order to protect it from the elements. He has seen other Highway Department vehicles left uncovered and then suffered significant weather damage as a result. We are spending a lot of money on this new vehicle so there should be some effort to keep it in good condition.

5. **Proposed Northfield Dog Park.** Mr. Doney has heard about a proposed new park where unleashed dogs could run free. He asked where this was to be located. Manager Schulz said a local group known as “Friends of Northfield Dog Park” have approached the Select Board several times over the past year about siting a fenced-in dog park on the FEMA buyout property located at 248 Water Street. For additional information about this group, the website address is <https://dogriverdogparkvt.org>. The group currently is fundraising for the estimated \$20,000 needed to install the fencing, etc. Mr. Doney thought FEMA buyout properties could not have fences. Manager Schulz said that has been a matter of debate. His own research has found around the country at least twenty dog parks with fencing that are located on FEMA buyout properties. There is an especially large one (“Best Friend’s Dog Park”) in Rocky Mount, NC with three fenced-in dog runs on a nine-acre FEMA buyout property. This area had been a residential neighborhood until it was flooded by Hurricane Floyd.
 6. **Chicken Barbeque Fundraiser.** Mr. Doney said the Northfield Activity Group recently (04/03/22) held a \$15 barbeque chicken takeout dinner fundraiser. The monies collected will go towards the upcoming May Day celebration (with customary dancing around the May Pole) on the Common and other community activities.
- b. **Lucas Herring: Green Up Day in Northfield.** Mr. Herring is a recent Northfield resident who has been working with the Rotary Club of Northfield (Louisa Tripp, President) on this year’s Green Up Day, which will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2022. Those wanting to take part should gather behind the Northfield Fire Station (128 Wall Street) at 8:30 a.m. when the green bags will be distributed and cleanup areas assigned. Since some people work that day or have other commitments, green bags will be available at the Municipal Building and other locations around Northfield beforehand. Filled-up green bags left on the roadsides will be picked up either on Green Up Day or a later time.
 - c. **Elroy Hill: Depot Square Crosswalk Problems.** Mr. Hill said he and other pedestrians have had close calls when using this crosswalk and he felt it would be a good idea if a video camera was installed to catch the drivers on tape. The Select Board members were unsure whether this was legal under Vermont law. Perhaps it would be better to have the Police Department monitor this location more often during heavy traffic periods. Chair Maxwell asked Mr. Hill if this problem occurred even when pedestrians activated the flashing sign at this crosswalk. Mr. Hill said some drivers don’t seem to notice it. Chair Maxwell is surprised by this. He has noticed that sometimes people using the crosswalk don’t bother to activate the sign. Once he observed the situation and found that only one in four persons actually bothered to push the button to start the flashing lights.
- XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Stevens, to go into executive session, in accordance with 1 VSA 313 (a)(1), in order to discuss a legal issue and a personnel matter with Manager Schulz present. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board went into executive session at 8:58 p.m.

Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Goodrich, to come out of executive session. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board came out of executive session at 9:37 p.m. No action was taken.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT. Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Goodrich, to adjourn. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth L. McCann

Kenneth L. McCann, Acting Clerk

An audio recording of this meeting is available in the Town Manager’s Office.

These minutes were approved at the Select Board regular meeting of April 26, 2022.