

BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 19, 2024, 5:30 PM

Brookfield Town Office, 40 Ralph Road, Brookfield, VT

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

The following members attended, Mike Stoddard, Michael Rutkovsky, Ed Neas, Stuart Edson and Lew Stowell. Guest attending was Jon Jickling, Brookfield Town Forester, Member of the public attending was Amy Ingrassia, Assistant Town Treasurer.

- A. 5:30: Call to Order. Called to order at 5:30 PM. Meeting Rules read by Lew Stowell.
- B. Review, and revise or approve the May 22, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion made by Stuart Edson and seconded by Michael Rutkovsky to approve the minutes. Approved 5-0-0.
- C. Questions or issues brought by members of the public. Amy Ingrassia had a comment about the Emergency Management Shelter Volunteer Program Status which was moved up in the agenda to accommodate her. See below.
- D. Guest: Jon Jickling, Town Forester- the Current Status of the Emerald Ash Borer in Brookfield and the Surrounding Area. Jon Jickling reviewed the history of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and its present status. Half of the counties in Vermont are known to be infected including Orange County and the town of Brookfield. Approximately 90+ % of the Ash trees are expected to die in the next several years. It usually takes a tree 3 to 5 years to die after it is attacked by the EABs. All Ash trees are not attacked at the same time. Approximately 15 percent of the trees in Brookfield are Ash trees. Completely dead Ash trees are a safety hazard to cut because they become very brittle. One strategy is to wait until the trees show signs of dying before cutting because some Ash trees may be immune to the attack of the EAB. It would be helpful to encourage those Ash trees to survive and eventually repopulate the forests with immune Ash trees. Jon hopes to do some more testing in the next few years to determine the status of the infestation.
- E. Review and Discussion of Recent Legislative Changes to Public Meeting Law. Lew Stowell made a brief presentation about the recently passed legislative action (S-55)

which updates Vermont's Public Meeting Law. The Public Safety Advisory Committee is an advisory body and as such is not significantly affected by the changes.

- F. Review and discussion of a Brookfield Public Safety Advisory Committee meeting protocol. Stuart Edson made a motion to approve the Policy for Public Input and participation at Brookfield Public Safety Advisory Committee Meetings and Mike Stoddard seconded the motion. There was discussion and then the motion passed 5-0-0.
- G. Emergency Management Shelter Volunteer Program Status. Amy Ingrassia requested the Public Safety Committee's help. She explained that Rich Doolan, Brookfield Emergency Management Director started the Emergency Management Shelter Volunteer group, recruiting volunteers and providing training. When the group started it was hoped that it would be a "Tri-Town" shelter group with Randolph, Braintree and Brookfield all cooperating to provide one or more shelters as needed. Randolph and Braintree are apparently not interested in cooperating. Additionally Rich Doolan is looking for someone in the group to step up and manage the Brookfield group. Ann Hunt and Amy are planning to do that but are looking for an organizational structure under the town that would allow them to raise donations and request funds from the town to be prepared for the next disaster, which could occur at any time. Amy requested that the Shelter group be placed under the Public Safety Advisory Committee. Amy is planning to attend the next Select Board Meeting. Stuart Edson will also bring it up at the next Select Board Meeting. This is a necessary function for Brookfield. The question is where to locate it and how to fund it.
- H. Review and Discussion of OCSD activities including patrol hours, bills and reports. Lew Stowell presented the monthly report on the hours of law enforcement services provided by the Orange County Sheriff's Department in May and its cost. \$1375.50 remains in the contract for June before the contract ends. Lew Stowell will send Sheriff

Contois a reminder of the funds and hours remaining after coordinating with Kristi Ehlers, Town Treasurer.

- I. Review and Discussion of Goals and Objectives for Windsor County Sheriff's Department (WCSD) provision of Law Enforcement Services to Brookfield in FY2025. After discussion Mike Stoddard made the motion to approve the draft Goals and Objectives with some minor word changes and have Lew Stowell be the contact person for the Windsor County Sheriff, Brian Palmer. It was seconded by Ed Neas. It was approved 5-0-0.
- J. Orange County Joint Select Board Law Enforcement Committee Status. There is at least one more meeting scheduled on July 11, 2024. Sheriff Contois has said he and his personnel will no longer attend the meetings. Stuart Edson and Lew Stowell will attend remotely.
- K. E-911 House Number Signs Project Status. Michael Rutkovsky reported on reflective sign prices from Work Safe in Berlin, VT. For reflective house number signs that are 12 x 3.5 inches, it will be \$12.95 for one side and \$14.95 for two sides. If we provide an order of 25 or more signs, it will be \$9.95 for one side and \$11.95 for two sides. Because our previous signs were 12 x 4 inches, one sided and with drilled holes, Michael will obtain a quote for that size and both sizes with predrilled holes. Lew Stowell will speak with Carol Monness, Town Clerk about handling the orders
- L. Traffic, Parking, No Parking and Road Name Sign Progress. Stuart Edson reported that Keith Sprague had told him that the no parking signs have been ordered.
- M. July 2024 Public Safety Message. Stuart Edson made a motion to approve the draft July safety tips which was seconded by Michael Rutkovsky. The motion passed 5-0-0
- N. Acknowledging the time and date of the next meeting. Lew Stowell will check with Carol Monness to see if July 24 at 5:30 PM is available at the town office. If not, the committee will meet on July 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM.
- O. Inviting one or more guest(s) to the next meeting (July). Stuart Edson will ask Keith Sprague if Tim Higgins, Road Forman would like to be our July guest.

P. Final Public Comment. There was no final public comment.

Q. Entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ed Neas made the motion to adjourn. Mike Stoddard seconded the motion. It was approved 5-0-0 at 6:58 PM.