

Minutes June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2011

Present at meeting: Mike Weisel, Mike Morin, Seth Freidman, Lea Van Winkle, Luana Nudrich and Dan Close

Members of general public present Peter Benet and Pat Lamphere. Pat was asked to come in and speak with us about past experience he has had and Peter Benet sat in on the meeting.

Began the meeting with an introduction to Pat Lamphere both for his experience with the town's old gravel pit and the potential of the town's purchasing property he and family members own as a future gravel pit site for the town.

Pat's feedback spoke of the town's mismanagement in closing the old pit located on Beartown Rd as well as the management of it while it was open. The town sold gravel to other towns and used up the gravel that should have been available to the town of Underhill only.

Further, the town still has not appropriately closed this site. He felt that the town lacks management skills for instance: no clean up, a death occurred, crusher was set on top of his water line and broke it. A fence was suppose to be installed around the pit for safety reasons and it never got done, and a young man went off the pit on his snow mobile, hit his head and died. To this day there is still an open, unlocked gate and still not appropriately closed off., He feels that people come to the site and dump whatever they want to in it.

Pat suggests that before the town moves forward and opens another gravel pit they should close this one properly. His concern is that with a 3 person, volunteer select board that proper over site is just not possible. Pat talked in some detail about the pit that was run by Cliff Hill in Underhill Flats he thought it was the best run and restored and now it is in beautiful shape and you would never know that it once was a gravel pit.

We all agreed that over site by state permits alone would require greater focus on restoration but still the concern of a volunteer select board continued to raise questions especially regarding increased cost burden to town, for instance: no taxes produced on land, increased cost in employment and hiring of out side company such as Mc Cauliff's for crushing and sifting gravel.

Some mention was made that currently it looks like the town is using fill from the clean up of Pleasant Valley Rd and bringing it to fill the old Beartown Pit but the question came up again as to why last year when there was a much greater amount of work occurring here why that fill was not used to close this old project and instead it was used for a private property.

Also mentioned and discussed was the potential of purchasing Pat Lamphere's mother's land. He currently appears to have a potential buyer in place but if it fell through he would indeed entertain discussions with the town. Again he mentions the town's lack of follow through when about 3-4 years ago he approached the town with an offer and the Former road Forman was actually up at the site apparently doing some testing but he never heard a word one way or the other. Again suggesting a lack of follow through

We asked Brad Holden and Steve Owen (2 of 3 ) Select board members to join us and asked them to present to town the opportunity for other property owners willing to consider their property. Brad's suggestion was to pin point some larger parcels on town maps (attached for this meeting) and to pursue those parcels. We again asked the select board to pursue these themselves. Brad will ask the town clerk to make a query on the GIS site and look specifically for large parcels with good gravel type soils. Once the query has been completed then the question could be more directed to these parcel owners. Mike Weisel thought it would still be a good idea to put this question out to the town at large as well.

To this date here are some thoughts and recommendations from the Task Force:

#1 We need further boring to verify what really is at the Albertini site, and more than one.

#2 If Pat Lamphere's site is available we should explore with Select Board follow through.

#3 Bonding for purchase, a road will need to be built, reclaim and close the old pit

#4 Negotiate for a better price

#5 We need to consider budgetary concerns for spreading gravel

#6 Not in my back yard feeling, how to reduce noise as best as possible and keep dirt and dust down. Nobody really wants a gravel pit in their back yard.

#7 We use town money to build road to the proposed Albertini site, pay permit costs, pay engineering and we extract gravel for a stated period of time 3-5 years, reclaim land as 4 building lots and Albertini then sells the building lots for profit.