

BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, December 20, 2023, 5:30 PM

Brookfield Town Office, 40 Ralph Road, Brookfield, VT

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

The following members attended, Michael Rutkovsky, Stuart Edson, Dan Mason and Lew Stowell. Amy Ingrassia, Treasurer, and Nate Schmechel from West Brookfield were guests.

- A. 5:30: Call to Order. Called to order at 5:30.
- B. Review, and revise or approve the November 15, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion to approve made by Michael Rutkovsky and seconded by Dan Mason. Approved 4-0-0
- C. Questions or issues brought by members of the public.

Nate Schmechel of 37 Cram Hill Road, West Brookfield was referred to the committee by the Select Board. He presented the difficulties that he and his neighbors have had with the Wakefield farm. He stated that the farm machinery was being operated in a reckless and dangerous manner and the operators were extremely rude with curses and horn honking. He suggested traffic control strategies such as a much lower speed limit, speed bumps and special signs. He also mentioned that there were videos provided to the Select Board to support his complaint. Stuart Edson reported that the Selectboard had had the Road Crew install a Stop sign on Cram Hill Road. Lew Stowell reported that he had requested patrols on Cram Hill Road and adjacent roads from Captain Zenonos of the Orange County Sherrif's Department. Committee members asked questions and agreed to place it on the January 2024 agenda.
- D. Review and Discussion of OCSD activities including patrol hours, bills and reports. Members reviewed the hours of patrols performed and their cost. Lew Stowell promised to send committee members copies of the October and November bills and reports.
- E. Speed Cart Deployments. The Speed cart has been returned to OCSD storage and will not be deployed again until Spring 2024.
- F. Emergency Management Shelter Volunteer Program Status. Amy Ingrassia reported that the meetings and training were going well. There will be no meeting in December 2023 because of the holidays. The volunteers are looking forward to food safety and CPR training.
- G. Flooding Recovery Progress in Brookfield- Discussion. The most recent weather event made most of the roads rutty and soggy in places. Halfway Brook Road and Northfield Road may have had the most damage.
- H. High Risk Voluntary List Program. Lew Stowell reported that there was more work to be done.
- I. Reflective Vest Program. The project is on hold awaiting funds in 2024.

- J. E-911 House Number Signs Project Status. Michael Rutkovsky reported that Work Safe in Berlin, VT would make the signs for \$12.95 each similar to what we have been getting. The signs will take approximately two weeks once an order is received. The committee will continue its practice of getting a number of orders before submitting them for construction. Dan Mason will determine if neither VTRANS nor Corrections will make the signs for us.
- K. Public Safety in 2024- Discussion. 2024 looks like a busy year. A motion was made by Stuart Edson and seconded by Dan Mason to increase the budget for OCSD patrols in FY2025 to \$17,500 to maintain the number of hours of patrolling to approximately 300. Approved 4-0-0. The January meeting will cover preparation for the March Town Meeting. Lew Stowell will prepare a summary of committee activities for the Town Report.
- L. Traffic and Road Name Sign Progress. Stuart Edson will speak with Keith Sprague for a written status report from the Highway Dept. on signs in 2023.
- M. January 2024 Public Safety Message. The draft was approved with the inclusion of Section 1.C and 2 of Article VI of the current Brookfield Traffic Ordinance.
- N. Acknowledging the time and date of the next meeting. Wednesday, January 17th, 2024 at 5:30 PM at the Town Office at 40 Ralph Road.
- O. Inviting one or more guest(s) to the next meeting. No guests are to be invited but members of the public are welcome.
- P. Final Public Comment.

Lew Stowell read an email that he had received that day from Linda Kelly concerning parking in Pond Village. She recounted how her car was towed at her expense while attending an evening party at 93 Stone Road on December 8, 2023. She also asked questions about the town property adjacent to the Old Town Hall parking area on the East side of Stone Road and where citizens could legally park in Pond Village. Those issues will be included on the next meeting agenda. Amy Ingrassia offered to include Article VI in the future tax bills as the no plowing snow on to highways was recently.
- Q. Entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by Dan Mason and seconded by Michael Rutkovsky. The motion was approved 4-0-0 at 7:05 PM.