

VERMONT TRANSPORTATION BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 21, 2019

Board Members Present:

David Coen, term expires 2/28/21
T. Faith Terry, term expires 2/28/19
Richard Bailey, term expires 2/28/21
Tim Hayward, term expires 2/28/2020

Board Members Absent:

Wendy Harrison, term expires 2/28/22
Vanessa Kittell, term expires 2/28/19
James Fitzgerald, Term expires 2/28/21

Others Present:

John Zicconi, Board Executive Secretary
Pam Loranger, Incoming Board Member
Craig Zondag, Lemon Fair Insect Control District
David Dodge, Lemon Fair Insect Control District
Benjamin Marks, Cornwall Selectboard
Patti Casey, Agency of Agriculture
Dominique Golliot, Agency of Agriculture
Lou Cassell, Cornwall Fire Chief
Dinah Bain, Lemon Fair Insect Control District
Meg Madden, Lemon Fair Insect Control District
Chris Thresher, JBI Helicopter Services

Call to Order:

Chair David Coen called the Thursday, February 21, 2019 meeting to order at 10:30 a.m., which was held at the Weybridge Congregational Church, 2790 Weybridge Road, Weybridge, VT.

1. NEW BUSINESS

- 1.1 TB-482 Lemon Fair Helipad Application – Site Visits***
- 1.2 TB-482 Lemon Fair Helipad Application – Hearing***

The Board, prior to opening the meeting, conducted site visits to the four proposed helipad locations. Immediately following the site visits, the Board convened a hearing on the Lemon Fair Insect Control District's applications. A complete transcript of the hearing is available by contacting the Board's office.

- 1.3 Review/Approve Minutes of the January 18, 2019 Meeting***

On a motion by Ms. Terry seconded by Mr. Bailey, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2019 Board meeting with corrections.

1.4 TB-478 Dupont/Cotton Airstrip – Notice of Withdrawal

The Board reviewed a letter dated February 1, 2019 from the applicant's attorney, Harry C. Parker, informing the Board that his clients have decided to withdraw their application for a Restricted Landing Area at 89 Macomb Bay Lane in North Hero. The Board now considers this matter closed.

1.5 Executive Secretary's Report

Mr. Zicconi let the Board know that VTrans has yet to approve his proposal to combine the Executive Secretary's position with that of the Lemon Law Administrator. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to have Mr. Coen bring this subject up when he meets with VTrans Secretary Joe Flynn in April if no decision by then has been made.

1.6 TB-484 Request to Name Route 105 from Bloomfield to Derby

Mr. Zicconi informed the Board that it received a petition to name this stretch of roadway after Mark Biron, who was recently killed in an airplane crash near the Island Pond Airport. The petition was submitted by his widow. Mr. Zicconi said the petition appears to be in order, and the next step would be to have Mr. Coen write the petitioner a letter informing her that the petition is substantially complete. Following that, the Board at a future meeting can discuss how it wishes to proceed and to schedule a public hearing, which is required by rule.

1.7 Legislative Proposals – RLA and Rail/Pipe

Mr. Zicconi informed the Board that the Agency of Transportation a few weeks into the legislative session floated the idea of providing the Board the new duty of hearing disputes related to water and sewer pipes that cross a railroad right-of-way. The Agency, however, shortly after the House Transportation Committee scheduled testimony withdrew the proposal and canceled the testimony saying the idea was not yet ripe for discussion. Mr. Zicconi said he believed the Agency floated the idea without first having detailed discussions with the Railroad community. The Board did not seek this new duty. Mr. Coen said he did not favor the Board pursuing this on its own. The Board agreed.

Mr. Zicconi informed the Board that the Governor's office rejected the Board's proposed changes to the RLA statute because "it was too prescriptive and read like Act 250 statute." As a result, the Agency will not place the Board's proposal in this year's Transportation Bill. After a short discussion, the Board chose not to pursue the change this year. Mr. Coen suggested that he place this topic on the agenda when he meets with VTrans Secretary Joe Flynn in April. The Board agreed.

1.8 Schedule Future Meetings

Following a short discussion, the Board scheduled future meetings for April 11, May 16th and June 20.

Following the meeting, the Board changed the April 11 date in favor of April 18.

2. OLD BUSINESS

2.1 Cote and Doucette Small Claims – Appeal

At 11:40 a.m. the Board on a motion by Ms. Terry, seconded by Mr. Bailey and approved unanimously entered into deliberative session, pursuant to Title 1 § 313, to discuss TB-466 Small Claim of Doug Cote, TB 467 Small Claim of Michelle Doucette, and TB-482 Heliport Applications of the Lemon Fair Insect Control District.

Mr. Zicconi and Ms. Loranger were invited to join the deliberative session.

The Board exited deliberative session at 12:05 p.m.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

3.1 Round Table

No one had any issues to discuss

4. ADJOURN

On a motion by Ms. Terry seconded by Mr. Bailey, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Zicconi
Executive Secretary