

Bethel Town Meeting Committee Minutes of February 21, 2107 meeting

Present: Jean Burnham, Rick Benson, Davis Dimock, Rebecca Sanborn Stone, Victoria Weber.

Meeting called to order at 3:35. We approved the minutes of the January 17, 2017 meeting.

The *Operator's Manual* is being edited and we are looking for a graphic designer. Rick has submitted grant requests to Ben and Jerry's and to Northfield Savings bank. Together they could provide \$4,000.

Mural for The Wall.

Rebecca reported that since 6 to 10 other retaining walls in Vermont are in worse condition, the Vermont Dept. of Transportation has no immediate plans for replacing the wall at the junction of Routes 107 and 12/South Main Street. An artist has offered to paint a mural for it at no cost to the town. The painting would be on plywood that would be attached to the wall, and probably feature an animal. Citizens would have input as to which animal. This topic will be brought up under Other Business at Town Meeting.

Town Meeting

We have been writing posts to Front Porch Forum about various aspects of town meeting. Victoria will work with our town reporters to have an article in *The Herald*. We reviewed our plans concerning child care, food and coffee, and microphones. Seth Stoddard will set up one standing mic in the front left corner of the gym so speakers could face both the audience and the Selectboard, as well as in the central aisle. Principal Bradley is identifying students who can serve as runners to bring mics to people in their seats if they choose.

Exhibits: Victoria has contacted several committees and groups about having an exhibit at town meeting. Six groups have contacted Jean about this and Victoria will create an exhibit of the *Bethel Operator's Manual* with copies of the draft that people could comment on. Rebecca is investigating how we could post a copy of the *Manual* draft on the web so people could review it and make suggestions before we have it printed.

Handouts: Jean and Rebecca are creating a new handout listing the main duties of the officials who are elected at town meeting, and we will again have a 'Robert's Rules' handout explaining how to take part in the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25. Our next meeting will be Monday, March 20th at 3:30.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Victoria Weber, Secretary Feb. 25, 2017.