# Town of Pomfret Selectboard Meeting Agenda Town Offices

# 5218 Pomfret Road, North Pomfret 05053 February 1, 2023, 6:30 pm

Zoom instructions below

Zoom instructions below				
Business Items				
1. Executive Session (attorney-client communications; employee matters)	6:30 pm			
2. Public Session – Call to Order	7:00 pm			
3. Public Comment				
4. Agenda Review				
5. Road Foreman's Report & Highway Items				
a. Reconsideration of Eydt Estate driveway access application				
b. Eydt Estate driveway access new application				
c. Carmen Noradunghian driveway access application				
d. Open Culverts Engineering RFPs				
6. Items for Discussion or Vote	8:00 pm			
a. Schedule So. Pomfret Scoping Study Recommendations Presentation	_			
b. ARPA Projects				
i. Generator Quotes (Town Garage, Teago & Pomfret Fire Stations)				
ii. Town Hall upgrades, kitchen appliances				
iii. Town Hall solar installation				
iv. A/V equipment				
v. Other				
c. Covered Bridges Half Marathon				
d. Flood Resilient Communities Fund grant application				
e. Fire Department pager purchase				
f. Warrants				
g. Approval of 01/18/2023 and 01/21/2023 Minutes				
7. Meeting Wrap Up				
a. Correspondence				
b. Review of Assignments				
c. Agenda for Next Meeting				
8. Adjournment				
Time frames are approximate. Members of the public wishing to attend for				
specific business items are encouraged to arrive before the time indicated.				

#### **Zoom Instructions**

- Computer or Smartphone https://zoom.us/j/95395079923?pwd=ZjBEd3ZuZWgvWmx2M0tpOE8zbjg2dz09
- Mobile Phone +19292056099,,95395079923#,,#,306922#
- Landline or Mobile Phone (301) 715 8592, followed by Meeting ID 953 9507 9923 and Password 306922



# VIA EMAIL January 6, 2023

Town of Pomfret Selectboard c/o Emily Grube, Chair 5218 Pomfret Road North Pomfret, VT 05053 emily.grube@pomfretvt.us

Re: Request for Reconsideration of Eydt Estate Driveway Access, Pomfret Rd.

Dear Members of the Pomfret Selectboard,

I write concerning a recent application by the Estate of Fred Eydt ("Estate") and Eric Scanlon (together, "Applicants") for a road access permit for the Estate's 105-acre parcel off Pomfret Rd, Parcel ID #1034-A ("Property") as shown on a survey entitled "Total Station Survey – Portions of Lands Owned by Fred J. Eydt," dated July 11, 2016 and of record in the Pomfret Land Records ("Final Survey"). The Property is accessed from Pomfret Rd by a previously approved 50-foot wide right of way as shown on the Final Survey.

On September 27, 2022, the Applicants submitted their permit application for approval of the driveway access from Pomfret Rd in the location shown on the on the Final Survey ("Access Application"). At its October 19, 2022 meeting, the Selectboard voted to deny the Access Application but did not explain the reasons for the denial. Following a request for clarification and reconsideration by the Estate on November 7, 2022, the Selectboard, in a letter dated November 11, 2022, explained that the basis for its denial was the Selectboard's belief that the application did not comply with the site distances required by Section 5.3(k) of the Pomfret Highway Ordinance — requiring a 150 ft. minimum site distance in both directions from a point 15 feet back from the edge of the traveled way. For that reason, the Selectboard concluded that the proposed location does not promote the safety of the traveling public as required by 19 V.S.A. § 1111(b).

In its November 11, 2022 correspondence, the Selectboard invited Applicants to submit an additional request for reconsideration if they believed the Selectboard's conclusion was erroneous. By this letter, the Estate hereby formally requests reconsideration of the Selectboard's denial of the Estate's September 27, 2022 access permit application.

Reconsideration is appropriate to, amongst other reasons, correct errors of law or fact upon which the prior judgment is based. *See e.g., In re SP Land Co., LLC*, 2011 VT 104, ¶ 16, 190 Vt. 418. Here, reconsideration is warranted because the Selectboard denial was based on a mistake of fact. As documented in the Declaration of Brad Ruderman attached hereto and as can

Town of Pomfret Selectboard January 6, 2023 Page 2

be confirmed by the Town Road Foreman, the access location exceeds the required site distances of Section 5.3(k) of the Pomfret Highway Ordinance. Accordingly, the proposed access location complies with 19 V.S.A. § 1111(b). Therefore, the Estate respectfully requests the Selectboard reconsider its decision in light of this mistake and approve the Applicants' Access Application.

To the extent the Selectboard concludes it is unable to reconsider its prior decision, submitted contemporaneously herewith is an updated driveway access application addressing the concerns identified by the Selectboard as the basis for its denial of the September 27, 2022 Access Application. As these application materials demonstrate, the updated application complies with the requirements of the existing Pomfret Highway Ordinance and should be approved.

The Estate's representatives would be happy to discuss these items with the Selectboard during their next available public meeting if the Selectboard has further questions.

Sincerely,

SHEEHEY FURLONG & BEHM P.C.

/s/ Peter G. Raymond

Peter G. Raymond

Cc: Renee Mobbs, Esq. Peter Vollers, Esq.

# Declaration of Brad M. Ruderman, PE

### I, Brad M. Ruderman, declare:

- 1. I am a professional engineer licensed in the State of Vermont and President of Brad M. Ruderman & Associates, Inc.
- 2. I prepared the plan entitled Estate of Fred Eydt Pomfret Road Pomfret Vermont, Highway Access Plan dated September 27, 2022, and last rev. Oct. 12, 2022 ("Access Plan") that accompanied the Residential Driveway Permit application by the Estate of Fred Eydt and Eric Scanlon that was previously submitted to the Pomfret Selectboard.
- 3. I am familiar with the location where the proposed driveway identified as "Proposed Residential Driveway" on the Access Plan will enter onto Pomfret Rd.
- 4. The Access Plan depicts that sight distances looking to the north from the location where the proposed driveway will enter onto Pomfret Road are 200 feet or greater and 150 feet or greater looking to the south.
- 5. Following receipt of correspondence from the Pomfret Selectboard indicating they did not believe the proposed driveway met the applicable 150-foot sight distances required by the current Pomfret Highway Ordinance, I conducted an additional site visit to take additional measurements and make further observations.
- 6. On Friday December 30, 2022, I met at the site of the proposed driveway's access onto Pomfret Rd with the Pomfret Road Foreman, Jim Potter, to review the sight distances from the proposed driveway's centerline.
- 7. To take the appropriate measurements to verify the sight distances from the proposed driveway's access location, I performed the following:
  - a. First, I set a grade stake along the center line of the proposed driveway at a location 15 feet back from the edge of the travelled way that is Pomfret Rd. This is documented in the photograph attached as Exhibit A.
  - b. Next, I tied an orange flag on the stake at a height of 3.5 feet.
  - c. Then, I measured 160 feet in a southerly direction along Pomfret Rd and, when standing in the north bound lane, observed that the orange flag and grade stake remained visible. A photograph of my view from the north bound lane at a point 160 feet southerly of the proposed driveway access location is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

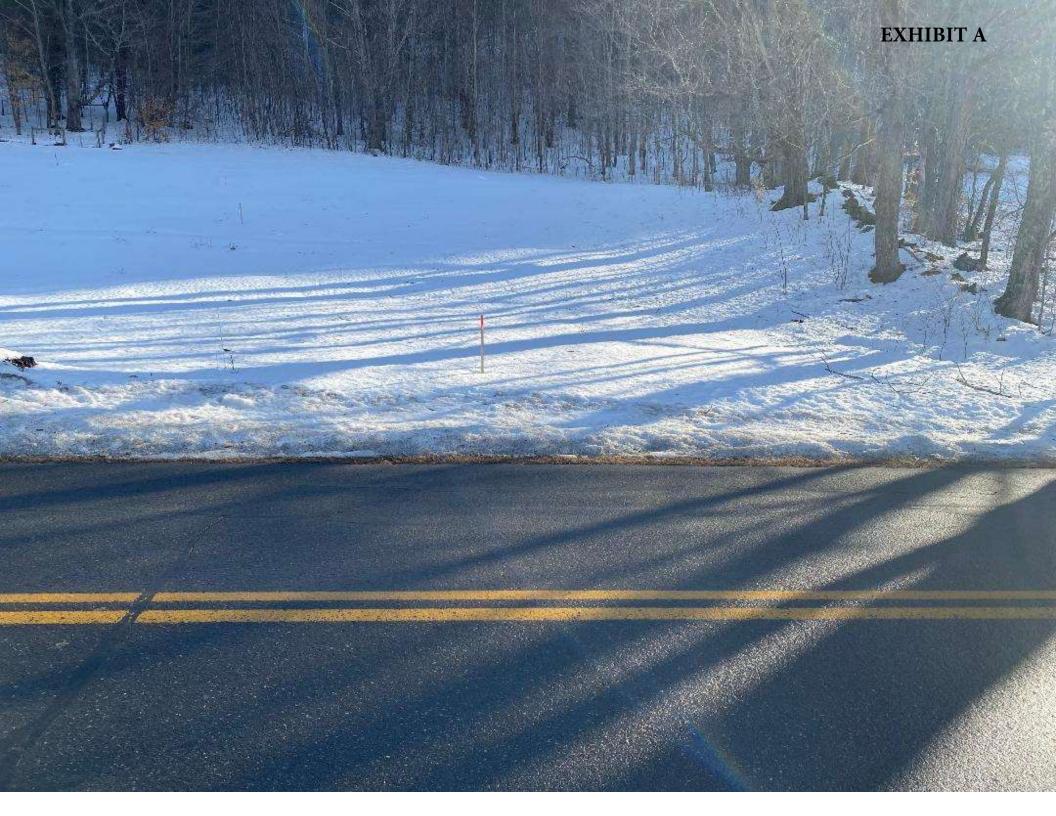
8. Based upon the measurements and observations I made on Friday December 30, 2022, which I believe would be confirmed by the Pomfret Road Foreman, the proposed driveway access location as shown on the Access Plan exceeds the sight distances required by the Pomfret Highway Ordinance without any additional vegetation clearing.

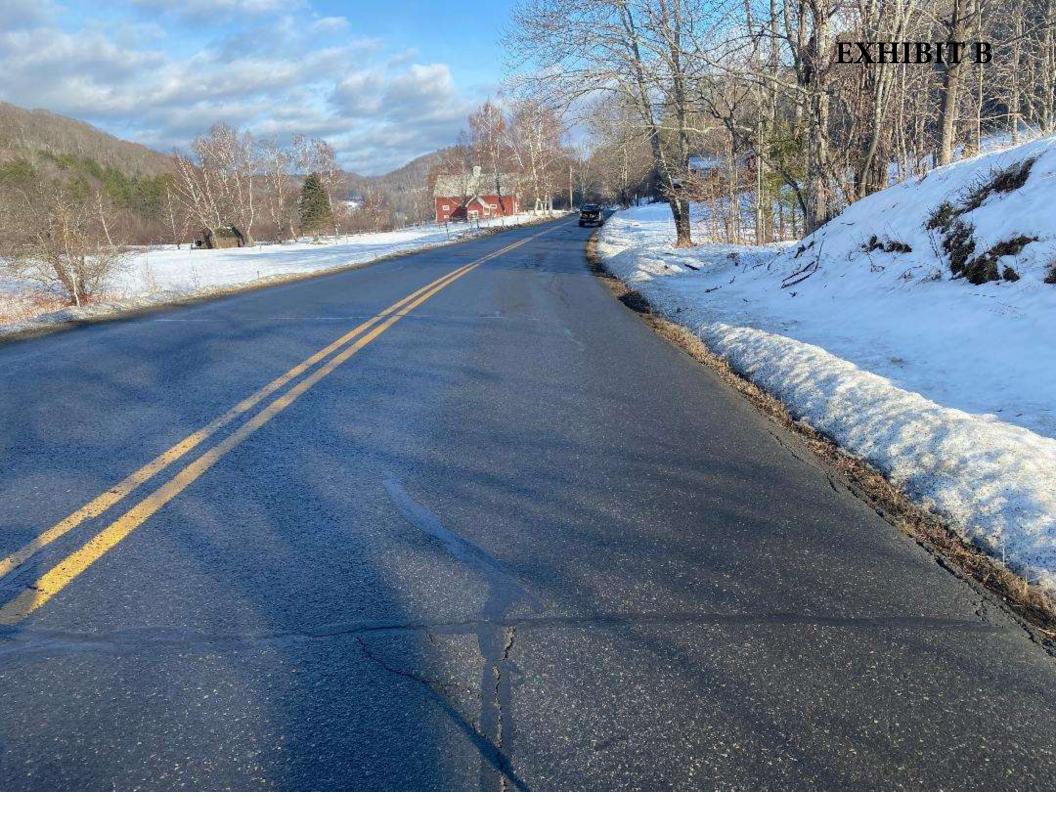
I declare that the above statements are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that if the above statements are false, I will be subject to the penalty of perjury, or other sanctions in the discretion of the court.

Executed this 5th day of January 2023 at Hartland, Vermont.

Brad M. Ruderman

Brod M. ilidun





### BRAD M. RUDERMAN & ASSOCIATES, INC.

CIVIL ENGINEERS – LAND SURVEYORS 28 U.S. ROUTE 5 NORTH WINDSOR, VERMONT 05089 EMAIL: RUDERMAN1@AOL.COM TELEPHONE: (802) 674-4248

January 5, 2023

Jim Potter Road Foreman Town of Pomfret 5218 Pomfret Road North Pomfret, Vermont 05053

> Re: Application for Residential Driveway Permit Estate of Fred Eydt Pomfret Road, Pomfret, VT Parcel ID #0134-A

Dear Jim:

On behalf of the Estate of Fred Eydt and Eric Scanlon, enclosed please find an updated Application for a Driveway Permit, one copy of the site plan, a location map, plus a \$100 check for the application fee. Also included with this application are two photographs taken on December 30, 2022 that confirm the proposed access meets the required sight distances: the first shows the grade stake set at the centerline of the proposed driveway, 15-feet off the edge of the travelled way; the second is an image of that grade stake taken from the northbound land of Pomfret Road, 160-feet south of the proposed driveway access.

This property is a land-locked 105-acre parcel located behind parcel #0134 (currently owned by Tom Gubbins) on the east side of Pomfret Road (Gubbins is at #4056 and #4070 Pomfret Road). Fred Eydt was approved by the zoning administrator with a 50-foot right-of-way through parcel #0134 when the land was subdivided in 2016.

The proposed access is to serve a future residence on the 105-acre retained parcel. I have set a grade stake at the desired center point along the town road. This access point meets the minimum sight distance requirements of 150-feet minimum in both directions and can be constructed to town standards.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to meet at the site.

Sincerely,

Brad M. Ruderman

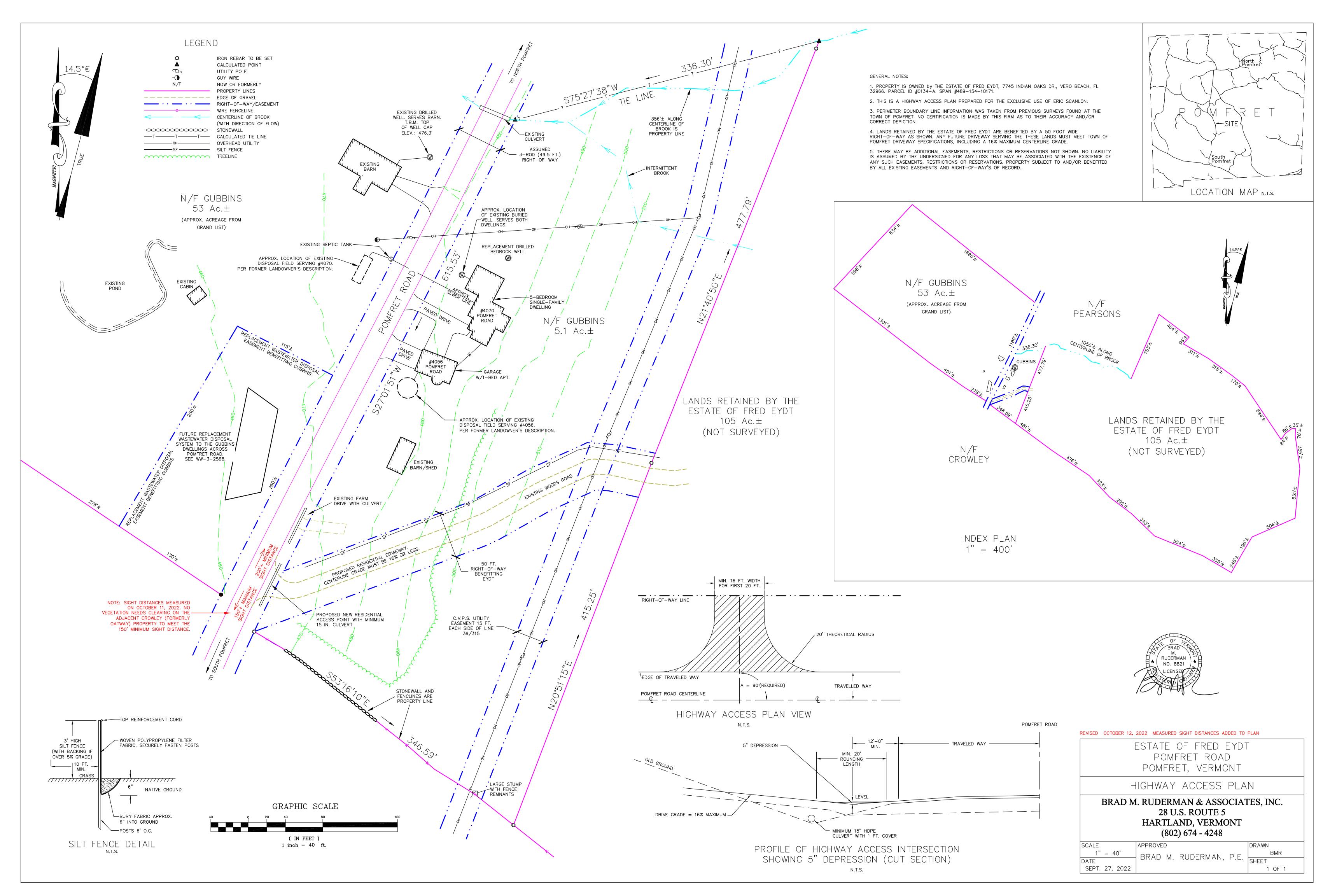
(Electronically signed by Brad M. Ruderman, P.E., L.S., President)

# TOWN OF POMFRET

# APPLICATION FOR A DRIVEWAY OR APPROACH ROAD ACCESS PERMIT

Landowner	Estate of Fred Eydt	Phone	
Address	7745 Indian Oaks Dr., Vero Beac	h State FL	Zip32966
	ned requests an Access Permit to cons Pomfret Rd side of	truct an access to serve the lar	
	access will be located approximately_	2750 ft(ft./ mi.) from t	he intersection of this
	bounty Rd (T.H. # 11)	_(E911 highway name).	
(DETAILED SI	KETCH MUST ACCOMPANY THIS AF Highway Access Plan by Brad R	PPLICATION.) uderman, last rev. Oct. 12,	2022 submitted herewit
1. Be con 2. Have a the trav 3. Have a 4. Be grad Both sides of p to the town hig and conditions Dated at/ Signature, Apr  Application fe  Directions, re 18-inch culvert	Slicant or Applicant's Agent Applican	wn highway et both ways when viewed 15 fe 0 feet back from edge of town h t run onto the town highway. with ribbons to indicate desired lo	eet back from the edge of highway shoulder.  ocation at point of access e directions, restrictions
of Pomfret. This undertake cons	ssued in accordance with Title 19, V.S.A spermit may be voided in the event of matruction of the access within one year of the access is given this day ofRoad Commissioner	isrepresentation, substantial inaction the date of approval, 20 Chair, S	electboard
constructed by building constr	al: The first 20 feet of a driveway or a by the applicant and approved by the truction may be started.  as been installed in accordance with the der State and local regulations. This	e Selectboard and Road Comi	missioner before any and conditions and is
	Road Commissioner		Chair, Selectboard

Form adopted by Pomfret Selectboard June 21, 2017 Application fee updated by Pomfret Selectboard June 2, 2021







# Natural Resources Atlas Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

vermont.gov





Parcels (standardized)

#### Roads

- Interstate
- US Highway; 1
- State Highway
- Town Highway (Class 1)
- Town Highway (Class 2,3)
- Town Highway (Class 4)

#### **NOTES**

Map created using ANR's Natural Resources Atlas

1: 21,873

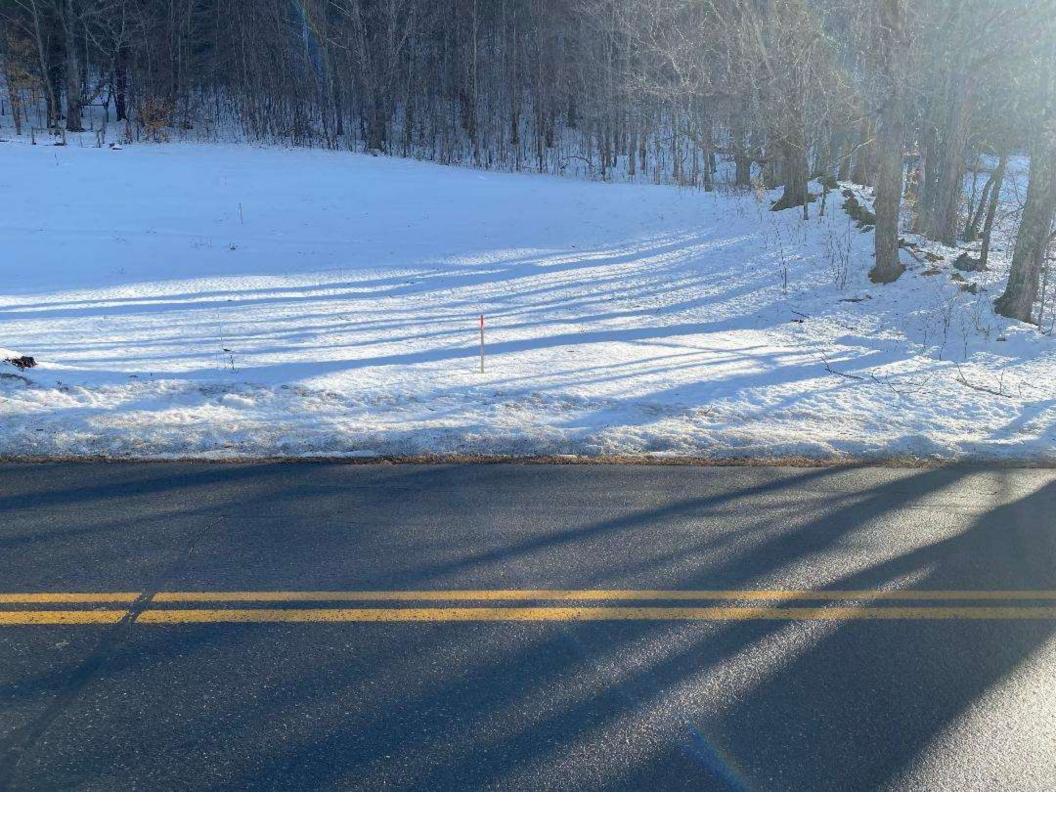
January 5, 2023

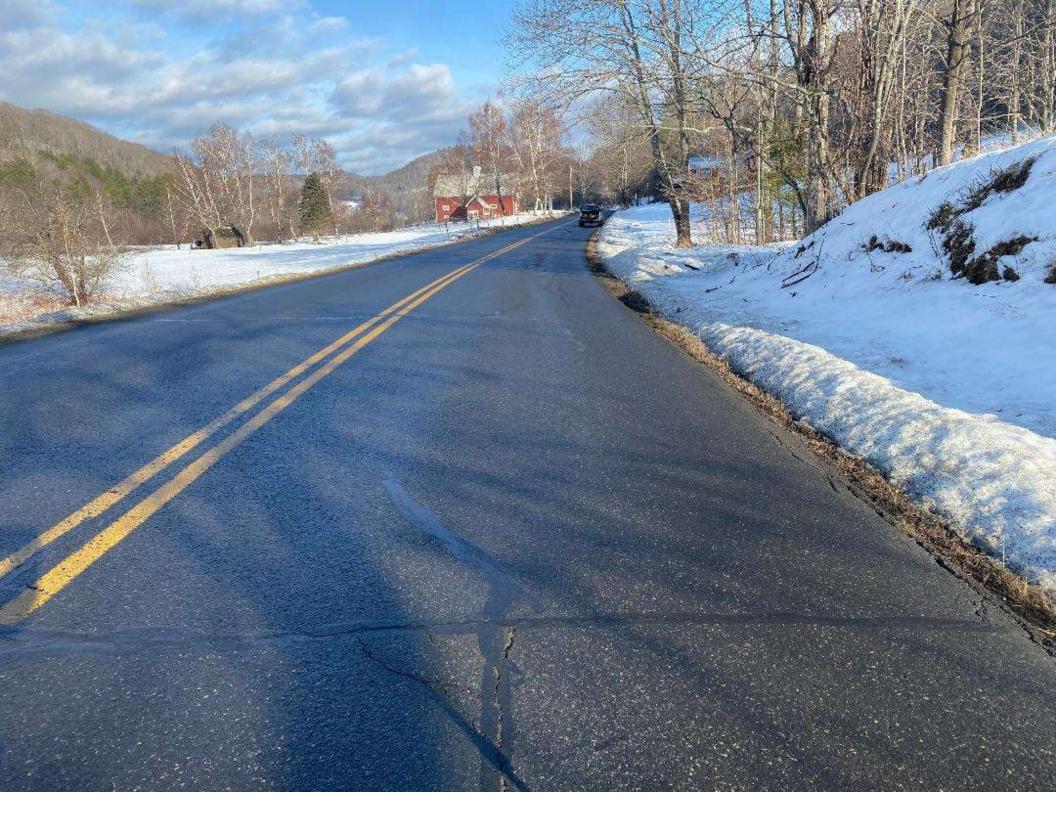


3,645.0 0 1,822.00 3,645.0 Feet

WGS\_1984\_Web\_Mercator\_Auxiliary\_Sphere © Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

1" = 1823 Ft. 1cm = 219 Meters THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION DISCLAIMER: This map is for general reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable. ANR and the State of Vermont make no representations of any kind, including but not limited to, the warranties of merchantability, or fitness for a particular use, nor are any such warranties to be implied with respect to the data on this map.





## TOWN OF POMFRET

APPLICATION FOR A DRIVEWAY OR APPROACH ROAD ACCESS PERMIT

APPLICATION FOR A DRIVEWAY OR APPROACH ROAD ACCESS FERMIT				
Landowner CARMEN D NORADUNGHIAN Phone 802-683-8827  Address 474 STAGE RD SO. POMFRET State VT Zip 05067				
Address 474 STAGE RO SO. POMFRET State VT Zip 05067				
The undersigned requests an Access Permit to construct an access to serve the landowner's property; located				
on the North side of Stage Pd (E911 highway name) Town Highway No. 2				
The proposed access will be located approximately 0.47 (ft./ mi) from the intersection of this				
road with <u>Pomfret</u> Rd (E911 highway name).				
(DETAILED SKETCH MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION.)				
Driveways and approach roads entering a town highway shall meet the following standards:  1. Be constructed at a 90-degree angle to the town highway  2. Have a minimum site distance shall be 150 feet both ways when viewed 15 feet back from the edge of the travelled way.  3. Have a minimum width of 16 feet for the first 20 feet back from edge of town highway shoulder.  4. Be graded and ditched so that water does not run onto the town highway.  Both sides of proposed driveway shall have stakes with ribbons to indicate desired location at point of access to the town highway. The applicant agrees to maintain said access and adhere to the directions, restrictions and conditions forming a part of this permit.  Dated at this //day of /anuary , 20 23.  CARMEN D NORAD UNCHIAM  Applicant or Applicant's Agent  Applicant or Applicant's Agent's Name {printed or typed}  Application fee of \$100. Received Date				
Directions, restrictions and conditions:  18-inch culvert requiredXyesno Other restrictions or conditions				
This permit is issued in accordance with Title 19, V.S.A. relative to all highways within the jurisdiction of the Town of Pomfret. This permit may be voided in the event of misrepresentation, substantial inaccuracy or failure to undertake construction of the access within one year of the date of approval.  Permit to construct access is given this day of Chair, Selectboard				
Final Approval: The first 20 feet of a driveway or access road entering a Town highway shall be constructed by the applicant and approved by the Selectboard and Road Commissioner before any building construction may be started.  This access has been installed in accordance with the above directions, restrictions and conditions and is acceptable under State and local regulations. This day of  Chair, Selectboard				

Form adopted by Pomfret Selectboard June 21, 2017 Application fee updated by Pomfret Selectboard June 2, 2021



Date: January 26, 2023 Notes Taken By: Jenn Conley

Project No.: 58786.00 Re: S Pomfret Alternatives

Public comments have been received in response to the Alternatives Presentation Meeting and are summarized as follows:

#### Library Trustees and Librarians

- 1. Wants a right turn from Pomfret Road to Library Street
- 2. Keep Pomfret Road and Library Street 2 way
- 3. Maintain 6-8 pkg spaces on east side of library (potential future HC parking on west side)
- 4. Define parking, wide shoulders, crosswalks, open to medians concerned about sidewalk maintenance and replacements, concerned about drainage impacts
- 5. Check truck maneuvers

#### Sharlene Kelly

- 1. Oppose streetlights
- 2. Focus on Teago to school especially sharp curve
- 3. Prefers Option 1 she prefers, eliminate medians, peds on side of Teago, library etc.
- 4. Second choice is Option 4 because likes green space, spacious, and organized flow
- 5. Least favored is alternative #2 and #3

#### Glenn and MaryAnne Barbi

- 1. Wants to maintain rural and historic feel
- 2. Would like minimal widening to roadway and sidewalks
- 3. Few if any necessary changes to lighting. If lighting is necessary, use only during Grange Theater activities

#### Theresa Antal

- 1. Supportive of alternative #1
  - a. Moving Artistree access will help safety

#### Pam Pickett

- 1. Less is more
- 2. Supportive of alternative #1
  - a. In favor of additional crosswalks, signage, and sidewalks
  - b. Likes that the curved access will slow people down
  - c. Sidewalks on Library Street would be beneficial.
  - d. Possible medians to slow traffic with concern for maintenance and impacts from widening
- 3. Create shoulders by decreasing lanes with lines (Jon Harrington's suggestion during the meeting) to minimize the impact on adjacent homeowners.

#### **Nick Browning**

1. Suggest having the small length of road that cuts between the Teago Store and Fire department be permanently closed





a. Feels it would be safer intersection for bicyclist and pedestrians with that set up

#### Pam Pickett

- 1. Concern regarding lighting
  - a. Alternative to lighting may be adding more signage
  - b. if more lighting is need, use low level lights, and preferably only during theater events
- 2. Not in favor of additional lighting in village, feels there is currently adequate lighting for Artistree events and at Teago Store, additional lighting will negatively impact livability, rural character, and aesthetic of village

#### **Hunter Ulf**

- 1. Supportive of alternative 1
- 2. In favor of the median to define the gateway
- 3. In favor of the parking on library street
- 4. In favor of the wider shoulders and would like them extended to S6 and to Prosper Valley School

#### Neil Lamson

- 1. In favor of library street being closed
  - a. Parking could be expanded
  - b. Would feel safer for pedestrians
  - c. The dangerous Artistree exit onto library street would be eliminated
  - d. Artistree lane would be safer exiting on Stage Road
  - e. Intersection of Pomfret Road and Stage Road could be redesigned to accommodate traffic turning onto Pomfret Road from Stage Road
  - f. Included rough sketch of ideas.

#### Lindsay Hyde

- 1. In favor of safe pedestrian connections focused between Teago's, Artistree, The Grange Theatre, the Library, and Saskedena
- 2. Would like to remove one of the roadways and lower the speed limit
- 3. Overall feels that speed should be lowered if there are more bike/ ped infrastructure
- 4. Have entire area between Teago, Artistree, library and theater be pedestrian only
- 5. Reduce speed from all approaches to project area

#### Eleanor Pizzani (via phone on 1/11/2023)

- 1. Concerned with including lights at crosswalks
- 2. Concerned with widening towards her house would rather not worried about runoff into her driveway
- 3. Would like to be able to walk from Teago Store from end of bridge very uneven to walk into parking lot also the old island space collects water
- 4. Could Artistree change their circulation ins v. outs?

#### Artistree

- 1. Likes the roadway configuration shown in Alternative #1 at Alternatives Presentation Meeting.
- 2. Not interested in modifying the parking lot circulation to exit onto Stage Road instead of Library Street due to concerns of moving children between their two facilities would not like vehicles exiting adding to the conflict at that location

Date: January 26, 2023 Page 3



3. Open to modifications to the drive on Library if improves the safety

January 24, 2023

Town of Pomfret 5218 Pomfret Road North Pomfret, VT 05053

I am writing to request permission to hold the Covered Bridges Half Marathon on Sunday, June 4, 2023 at 8:15 a.m..

The race will follow the same course as past years, beginning at Saskadena Six Ski Area and following Stage Road to Route 12.

A certificate of insurance will be provided to the town from CBHM.

As in past years, traffic control will be handled by Windsor County Sheriff's and race volunteers. We will notify residents in advance through signs and newspaper notifications.

In the past, the road crew has been very helpful in grading River Road a week or so before the event when needed, if possible we would appreciate it if that could be done again this year.

Thank you in advance for your consideration; please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Nancy Nutile-McMenemy

Race Director

PO Box 722

Woodstock, VT 05091

802-230-5152, coveredbridgeshalfmarathon@gmail.com

The best 13.1 miles in New England



Start: Suicide Six Ski Area, South Pomfret, Vermont. Race starts at 8:15am. NO PARKING

Water Stops: Miles 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12. Gatorade drinks at miles 6, 8, 10, and 12. Water and Gatorade at the Finish.

**Spectators:** Woodstock Village – Parking on the streets and municipal parking lots. Miles 2.7-5.

NO PARKING IN TAFTSVILLE! Spectator parking before 10:00 am at Quechee Polo Field – entrance just past Quechee Gorge

Racer parking for buses at Quechee Gorge Village, one mile east of Quechee Gorge, from 5:30am to 7:00am. (Spectators after 10:00 am)

Finish: Quechee Polo Field, Quechee, Vt. First runners at 9:25, last runners at 11:10am.

**More Info:** www.cbhm.com

# Fw: [DPS.VEMFunding] Additional Hazard Mitigation Funding is Available to Reduce Risk in your Community!

1 message

Emily Grube < Emily. Grube@pomfretvt.us>

Fri, Dec 9, 2022 at 12:23 PM

To: Benjamin Brickner <benjamin.brickner@pomfretvt.us>, Jon Harrington <jon.harrington@pomfretvt.us>, "John Peters Jr." <john.peters@pomfretvt.us>, Jim Potter <jim.potter@pomfretvt.us>, Steve Chamberlin <steve.chamberlin@pomfretvt.us>

#### for your information

From: DPS - Hazard Mitigation via Dps.vemfunding <dps.vemfunding@list.vermont.gov>

Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 12:30 PM

To: Dps.vemfunding@list.vermont.gov < Dps.vemfunding@list.vermont.gov>

Subject: [DPS.VEMFunding] Additional Hazard Mitigation Funding is Available to Reduce Risk in your Community!

#### Additional Hazard Mitigation Funding is Available to Reduce Risk in your Community!

Millions of dollars are still available for Vermont communities to reduce future impacts from floods and other natural disasters. Funding is available under two grant programs outlined below for communities that qualify.

#### Flood Resilient Communities Fund:

Funding is still available under the Flood Resilient Communities Fund – applications will **be accepted on a rolling basis as funding allows**. Eligible projects include flood-vulnerable property buyouts outside of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA); buyouts of vacant, at-risk properties; floodplain restoration projects; and buffer plantings. Prior flooding is not a requirement to participate in this program. To see the full program overview, visit: https://vem.vermont.gov/flood-resilient-communities-fund.

#### **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program:**

Additional funding is available under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), disaster round DR-4621, with a State deadline of <u>Friday, February 3, 2023</u>. This funding pot has a *90% federal share* and only requires a 10% local match. The best use of this funding is for project implementation, including property buyouts in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and infrastructure projects, such as upsizing culverts and bridges. Prior flooding is also not required for property buyouts under this program. For more information, visit: <a href="https://vem.vermont.gov/disaster-based-funding">https://vem.vermont.gov/disaster-based-funding</a>.

Questions? Reaching out to: DPS.HazardMitigation@vermont.gov.

Stephanie A. Smith

State Hazard Mitigation Officer

Vermont Emergency Management

dps.hazardmitigation@vermont.gov

### **FD Pagers**

1 message

#### Scott Barger <sgbarger91@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 2:21 PM

To: "John Peters Jr." <john.peters@pomfretvt.us>, Emily Grube <emily.grube@pomfretvt.us>, Benjamin Brickner <br/>
<br/>
<br/>
<br/>
<br/>
<br/>
| Steve Chamberlin <br/>
<br/>
| Steve.chamberlin@pomfretvt.us>, Jon Harrington <br/>
|

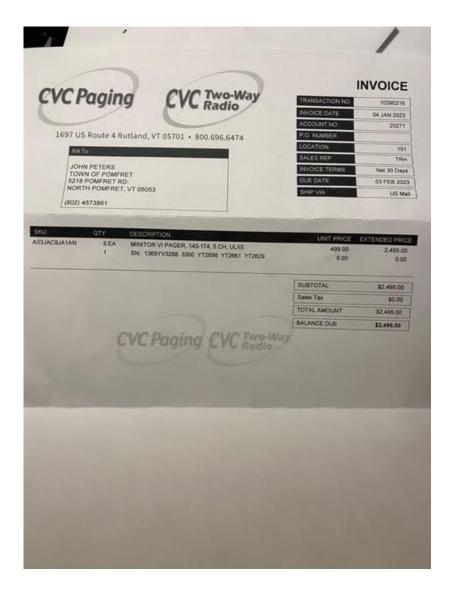
Good Afternoon Pomfret Select Board,

As we have discussed in the past, the FD has a need for additional pagers and radios. That need for new pagers reached the point that we needed to purchase 5 new pagers to ensure our firefighters are receiving emergency notifications. The fact is that our firefighters live and work in areas of the town and surrounding area without cell coverage where they can not get the Active 911 alerts to their mobile devices.

We went ahead and purchased these pagers because the need was immediate. Our question to the board is if we can use ARPA funds or communications reserve funds for this purchase?

It is our plan to inform the board of such needs & gain approval before making purchases in the future. Between the budget and the arduous federal grant process we are currently in the middle of this slipped through the cracks.

Thanks and we look forward to hearing from you.



Thanks,

**Scott Barger** 

Treasurer & Lt. PTVFD

Town of Pomfret Selectboard Draft Meeting Minutes January 18, 2023

Present: Emily Grube, John Peters, Benjamin Brickner, Steve Chamberlin, Jon Harrington

Public: Aaron Rubin (Standard), John Moore (Planning Commission), Cathy Peters, Kristen Esty, Nancy Matthews, Scott Pearce, Karen Osnoe, Ellen DesMeules (Treasurer), Neil Lamson (Lister), Cynthia Hewitt (Selectboard Assistant)

- 1. Emily called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
- 2. Public Comment None.
- 3. Agenda Review None.
- 4. Road Foreman Report Jim was not in attendance.
  - a. Certificate of Highway Mileage Jon questioned whether two sections of town roads that are depicted as Class 3 roads on the Vtrans map are possibly being maintained by the town as Class 4 roads. These are Johnson Road and a portion of the Old King's Highway. Emily stated that no residents have asked for winter maintenance. Also, signs are up warning tourists the roads are not maintained/passable during the winter. Jon will search the land records for clarity. In the meantime, John moved and Ben seconded approval of the annual highway mileage certificate. The motion carried 3-2 (Emily, John and Ben in favor; Steve and Jon opposed).
  - b. FY 2024 Highway Budget Steve commented he did not appreciate the threatening tone of a recent email. Questions still remain around how much money to set aside for paving, and whether the salt budget should remain at \$75,000. Gross pay was increased to \$280,000 and the FY 2024 COLA is anticipated to be 6.1% based on the methodology adopted by the Selectboard last June. The Board decided to leave the amount set aside for paving at \$200,000. After discussion the salt budget was left at \$75,000. Ben stated that if we use 60% of the available surplus, the increase in taxes to be raised will be kept at about 5.6%.
  - c. Law Enforcement It is agreed that more law enforcement presence is needed in town. Further negotiations and discussion with Sheriff-elect Palmer will be undertaken; our current contract runs through June 30, 2023.
- 5. Items for Discussion or Vote
  - a. Past Due Payments Approval Process this item was decided in April meeting and it was agreed that the existing delegation to the chair to unilaterally approve timesensitive and overdue payments (subject to later board review) should suffice.
  - b. Notices of Zoning Violation Karen has two violations for which she sent certified letters. She will pursue if no response within 7 days.
  - c. Delinquent Property Taxes Karen is ready to initiate tax sales on five properties; she is using Stitzel Page & Fletcher to do so.
  - d. Use of ARPA Funds Emily will contact Hunter Ulf for design assistance re: handicapped access at Town Office. Immediate needs are generators at the Town Garage and N. Pomfret Fire House. Quotes to be presented at the next meeting. John has purchased a Google Chrome device that is working as well as the Apple TV/TV

- combination. The Town Hall needs a major electric overhaul. John will get some electrician quotes.
- e. Annual Meeting Format The Legislature is expected to pass a bill allowing Australian balloting for Town Meeting. The board will hold a special meeting to determine the annual meeting format and complete the warning. This meeting is tentatively scheduled on 01/24/23 but may be held sooner if needed. If Australian balloting is used, candidates for office will need to petition and get at least 8 signatures of registered Pomfret voters in order to have their names appear on the ballot.
- f. Budget Narrative The proposed draft follows the same format as the past 3 years. Ben moved and Steve seconded approval of the narrative as presented. Unanimous.
- g. Warrants John moved and Steve seconded payment of the following warrants:

23069	\$ 9,987.96	Payroll		
23070	21,452.13	A/P		
23072	228.01	Property tax refund		
23073	22,852.70	A/P		
Unanimous.				

- h. Approval of 12/21/2022 Minutes Jon noted a typo. Ben moved and John second approval. Unanimous.
- 6. Meeting Wrap Up
  - a. Correspondence None.
  - b. Review of Assignments: Emily contact Hunter Ulf, Send list of equipment to Nancy, Check with Ellen re: Electronic Payment; Ben Check with VLCT re: advisory questions on the warning; Stitzel Page re: 7-day tax sale letters.
  - c. Agenda for next meeting (Feb. 1): Jenn Conley re: So. Pomfret Scoping Study recommendations; driveway access permits; open culverts replacement engineering work proposals.
- 7. Adjournment Steve moved and John seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 pm.

Town of Pomfret Selectboard Draft Special Meeting Minutes 01/21/2023

Present: Emily Grube, John Peters, Benjamin Brickner

Absent: Steve Chamberlin, Jon Harrington

Public: Nancy Matthews (Auditor), Kevin Rice (Fire Chief), Marge Wakefield (Trustee of Public Funds), "Liza's iPad", Cynthia Hewitt (Selectboard Assistant)

1. Emily called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

- 2. Public comment None.
- 3. Agenda Review No changes.
- 4. Items for Discussion or Vote
  - a. Legal Counsel for Delinquent Tax Sales Ben moved and John seconded that Stitzel, Page & Fletcher be authorized to work with the Delinquent Tax Collector to conduct the town's tax sale process. Unanimous (Steve and Jon absent).
  - b. 2023 Town Meeting Format Kevin Rice expressed a preference for returning to a floor vote town meeting. Emily explained that with so much respiratory illness still going around it would be safer to vote by Australian ballot for another year. Liza agreed with Emily. Ben moved and John seconded that the 2023 Town Meeting be held by Australian ballot; *provided* that House Bill 42 is signed into law by 5 P.M. Wednesday, January 25, which is the date by which the Auditors need the final warning in order to meet their annual report print deadline. Otherwise, the 2023 Town Meeting will be held by floor vote. Unanimous (Steve and Jon absent). Emily will email the listserv informing residents that if the 2023 Town Meeting is held by Australian ballot, candidates for local office will need to gather at least 8 signatures from registered Pomfret voters before their name can appear on the ballot.
  - c. 2023 Town Meeting Warnings If the 2023 Town Meeting is held by Australian ballot, an informational hearing will be held on Saturday, February 25, by Zoom only. If the 2023 Town Meeting is held by floor vote, an informational meeting will be held concurrent with the Selectboard's meeting on Wednesday, February 15, at the Town Office and by Zoom. In either case, Kevin Geiger will be invited to moderate. Three articles were added to the floor vote version of the warrant, asking voters whether Pomfret shall at subsequent town meetings (i) elect its town officers by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. 2680(b), (ii) adopt all budget articles by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. 2680(c), and (iii) vote on all public questions by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. 2680(d). John moved and Ben seconded that the Australian ballot version of the warning be approved as amended. Unanimous (Steve and Jon absent). John moved and Ben seconded that the floor vote version of the warning be approved as amended. Unanimous (Steve and Jon absent). On or before Wednesday evening, Emily will email the listsery informing residents whether the 2023 Town Meeting will be by Australian ballot or by floor vote.

<sup>\*</sup> **Editor's Note:** House Bill 42 was signed into law before 5 P.M. Wednesday, January 25. As a result, the 2023 Town Meeting will be held by Australian ballot.

### 5. Meeting Wrap Up

- a. Correspondence None.
- b. Review of Assignments Emily to contact Kevin Geiger regarding moderating the informational hearing/meeting, email the listserv regarding the candidate petition requirement and deadline. Ben to contact Stitzel Page regarding their authorization to assist with delinquent tax sales, finalize the two warrants and communicate the same to the Auditors.
- c. Agenda for next meeting Jenn Conley regarding the South Pomfret Scoping Study recommendations; driveway access permits; open culverts replacement engineering work proposals.
- 6. Adjournment Ben moved and Emily seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous (Steve and Jon absent). The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm.