

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
JOINT MEETING OF TOWN BOARDS
AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION
May 29, 2007

This joint meeting of the Dummerston Selectboard (SB), Planning Commission (PC), Development Review Board (DRB), School Board (SB) and Conservation Commission (CC) meeting was called to order at 7:00pm in the downstairs room of the Congregational Church in Dummerston, Vermont.

Members Present: Chair Tom Bodett, Vice-Chair Cindy Jerome, Clerk Andrew MacFarland, and Lewis White. Absent: Paul Normandeau.

Also Present: Elizabeth Catlin (PC), David Ryan (PC), Jack Lilly, (CC), Amy Dews (SB), Enid Wainwright (SB), Charlotte Neer Annis (SB), Mary Ellen Copeland (CC), Herb Rest (DRB), Lynn Levine (CC) Steve Mindel (PC) John Warren (DRB), (CC), Patti Smith (PC), (CC), Reg Rockefeller (PC), DRB), Cindy Wilcox (PC), (DRB), Corin Nelsen (PC), Bill McKim (CC), Bill Schmidt (CC), John Evans (CC), Charlie Richardson (CC) Paul Heintz, Brattleboro Reformer.

Tom summarized the issues the Selectboard has been and continues to work on. These include roads, including efforts to take over Hopkins Rd. in the near future; present and future gravel pits; ancient roads; personnel policies; and possible consolidation of the Lydia Taft Pratt and Dummerston School libraries.

Steve and Elizabeth reviewed Planning Commission efforts. These include changes to zoning regulations; land use vision statement recently mailed to all Dummerston households; and the upcoming meeting on June 7 to discuss.

Mary Ellen Copeland, Patti Smith, Bill Schmidt and John Evans reviewed Conservation Commission activities. Discussed were grant-funded efforts to identify and map vernal pools, contiguous forest lands and endangered streams; an upcoming meeting on June 14 with Jamie Fiedell of VT Department of Natural Resources on forest fragmentation; discussion of upcoming walks on invasive plants at the Evan's land and Elysian Fields; an all day workshop in August on controlling invasive plants; trail-building activities for the Prospect Hill trail which will begin in June; and discussion of powerlines in Dummerston.

Tom mentioned some possible grant money for culvert repair and rebuilding and a possible link to fish and stream health. It was agreed that Jack Lilly will contact Lee Chamberlain with information on culverts the Conservation Commission has identified as problematic.

Amy Dews reviewed school board issues. These include library consolidation discussions; retirement of Linda Ives and elimination of a middle school teacher position; reconfigured classroom space to allow use of a classroom by a WSESU self-contained K-6 special needs population; receiving a \$42,000 small schools grant; efforts to draw students attending area private schools back to Dummerston School; review of transportation routes to seek efficiencies; and discussions with Putney School Board about possible collaboration.

Cindy and Reg briefly discussed Development Review Board activities. There has not been a DRB meeting for two months but the recent Planning Commission forum on Home Businesses elicited strong interest from town business owners and there have been two applications for permits filed in the last few weeks.

There was general agreement that joint meetings are useful. It was agreed that better mechanisms for communication between boards and commissions would be useful. Board and Commission chairs will send email addresses of members to Tom to allow creation of a comprehensive mailing list. In addition, Tom agreed to investigate the revitalization of an existing web-based discussion and information forum for use by all Boards as a way to improve communication.

All agreed that more opportunities for “hanging out” at social gatherings like the recent pig roast for Wayne Emery would be fun and useful.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Submitted by Andrew MacFarland

Approved: June 6, 2007

Tom Bodett, Chairman

Andrew MacFarland, Clerk