

SELECTBOARD MINUTES

August 13, 2008

This meeting was called to order at 7:30pm at the Dummerston Town Office in Dummerston, Vermont.

Members Present: Chair Lewis White, Wayne Emery, Andrew MacFarland and Jack Manix

Absent: Cindy Jerome

Also Present: Catie Berg, Mark Lane, Molly Cook, Quinn Field, Maria & Steve Glabach, Ron & Dawn Hubbard, Jason Davis, Eric Davis, Lee Chamberlin, Ezekiel Goodband, Diana Lischer-Goodband, Carol Wood, Margaret Everitt, Paul Cameron, James Howe, Harold & Jean Newell, Richard Cogliano, Beverly Knapp, Bill & Mary Lou Schmidt, Mary Ellen Copeland, Bill McKim, Larry Cassidy, Michael Kolsun, Marie Caduto, John Evans, Pam McFadden, Cary Gaunt (at 8:20PM) and Laurie Frechette

On a motion from Andrew and second from Jack, the Board approved 4-0 the minutes from July 30th.

The Board tabled action on the warrants for payment until later in the meeting.

The Board recognized Marie Caduto from the Agency of Natural Resources who requested the Board's support for filing a grant application to perform a feasibility study on the Rock River access project. \$1500 is being requested from both the Town of Dummerston and the Town of Newfane for the application fee. Andrew spoke about the safety concerns expressed by the fire/rescue services for both towns, as well as who would be responsible for the ongoing maintenance costs. Mary Ellen Copeland advised that the Conservation Commission has reviewed the proposal and is in support of the project.

As no funds are included in the current year's budget, the Board declined to support the project at this time. They encouraged Ms. Caduto to approach them again in the fall when they begin work on next year's budget.

The Board recognized Mary Lou Schmidt, a member of the Prospect Hill Trustees and Mary Ellen Copeland from the Conservation Commission. Mary Ellen distributed a map of the trails on Prospect Hill and explained that the Conservation Commission is the steward of Prospect Hill. Mary Lou requested permission of the Trustees/Selectboard to spend up to \$500 on necessary clearing. Andrew moved to authorize the expenditures. Wayne seconded the motion and it passed by a 5-0 vote of the Prospect Hill Trustees.

Mary Ellen spoke to the Board about the Conservation Commission's concern about the lack of public use on the Prospect Hill trail. They would like to move the trailhead closer to the Town Trail.

John Evans and Margaret Everitt spoke to the Board of their concern regarding the firing range located on the property of Ron Hubbard on Bunker Road and its proximity to the trail.

Ron Hubbard spoke in response to their concerns. He advised that the firing range is for personal use only; it is not open to the public. Shooting takes place six to eight times a year. He is careful not to shoot during any scheduled activities in the village.

Mark Lane and Molly Cook, both certified hunting instructors for the State of Vermont, spoke in support of shooting rights.

Bill Schmidt questioned whether or not Mr. Hubbard has a zoning permit for the shooting range.

Mary Ellen Copeland asked the Board whether they have permission to erect a sign to redirect access to the Prospect Hill Trail. Andrew moved to authorize the sign erection and the closing of the lower portion of the trail. Jack seconded the motion and it passed by a 5-0 vote of the Prospect Hill Trustees.

The Board recognized Emergency Management Director, Dawn Hubbard, who displayed a map of proposed locations for the five emergency notification sirens that are available to the Town. She explained that the sirens will be used for any emergency, not just for notification of an accident at VT Yankee. The five proposed sites are: Junction of Bunker & Miller Roads; Maple Valley on RT 30; Intersection of Nourse Hollow, Middle & Houghton Roads; Black Mountain Road by the Hickin property; Hill Road or Stickney Brook Road.

Wayne questioned the decision-making process that was used to site the sirens and expressed his displeasure at not being aware of the decision, yet receiving phone calls at home from unhappy residents.

Zeke Goodband and Steve Glabach both spoke against the siren placement and of their wish that the Town had notified the abutting landowners. Lewis advised them that the Town is planning on having an informational meeting on August 25th to discuss this issue.

Larry Cassidy spoke of his opposition to having a plethora of sirens in town.

Lee Chamberlin spoke in support of having the five sirens; reiterating Dawn's explanation of using them for all emergencies.

Town Clerk, Pam McFadden suggested using the existing sirens at the fire stations to perform sound tests.

The Board recognized Jean Newell, who discussed her recent correspondence with state legislators and the Lt. Governor's office regarding the application of the state prebate/rebate monies to property owners' tax bills. The Board thanked Jean for her efforts.

The Board recognized Town Listers, Beverly Knapp and Jean Newell, who spoke to the Board about the recent appeal of Bill & Mary Lou Schmidt to the Board of Civil Authority (BCA). While the Listers are not appealing the BCA's decision, they are questioning the procedure of the BCA site inspection as well as the inspection report. It was agreed that the BCA should review the procedures provided by the Secretary of State's office.

Andrew and Cary Gaunt updated the Board on the Southern Loop Project. As was noted at a previous meeting, the Town missed the deadline for Filing for Notice of Appearance. It was agreed to have the Town's contact people for the Southern Loop changed from Patricia Stello to Cary Gaunt and Andrew MacFarland. Andrew and Cary agreed to file a Notice of Appearance making the change official. The Board reviewed the Town's draft second Response to Discovery Request. On a motion from Wayne and second by Jack, the response was approved by a 4-0 vote.

The Board invited Road Foreman, Lee Chamberlin to the table to present his report. They reviewed and briefly discussed a questionnaire from the VT Off-Roads Recreation Assoc.; no action was taken.

After a brief discussion about the site visit to Beaver Pond Road, Wayne moved to begin the process of changing the upper end of the road to Class 4. Andrew seconded the motion and it passed on a 4-0 vote.

Wayne questioned Lee about the status of the High Bridge project. Lee is waiting for Renaud Bros. to be available to begin the work.

Laurie was asked to invite Dan Snow to the August 27th Board meeting to discuss his idea to recreate the historic town pound. The Board will meet at 7PM to conduct a site visit.

The Board reviewed and briefly discussed correspondence from Town Atty. Bob Fisher regarding Arthur Phaneuf’s zoning violation on Camp Arden Road.

The Board reviewed a request from Town Clerk, Pam McFadden to have a bulletin board installed on the outside wall of the Town Office building. On a motion by Wayne and second from Andrew, the Board voted 4-0 to grant Pam’s request, with the stipulation that the Board be for Town information only.

On a motion from Andrew and second by Wayne, the Board voted 4-0 to authorize Lewis to sign the FY 2008 RERP Expenditure report.

The Board tabled discussion on proposed changes to the Personnel Policy until the next meeting.

On a motion from Wayne and second by Jack, the Board voted 4-0 to approve the payment of Warrants 4, 4P, RB1, CC1 and CF3. Laurie will send a memo to all town boards and committees advising them that all receipts and invoices must be received no later than 3PM on the Monday preceding a Selectboard meeting in order to be considered for payment. Otherwise, they will be processed at the following regular meeting in two weeks.

On a motion from Andrew and second by Wayne, the Board voted 4-0 to sign a Certificate of Changes to the 2008 Grand List.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 10:20PM and immediately convened as the Liquor Commission.

The Commission reviewed a liquor catering request from Harvest Moon Catering for a wedding reception at the Scott Farm on September 6th from 4-11PM. On a motion from Andrew and second by Jack, the Board approved the request as submitted on a 4-0 vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25PM.

August 27, 2008
Approved

Lewis White, Chairman

Andrew MacFarland, Vice-Chair

Submitted by: Laurie Frechette, Administrative Assistant

