

UNAPPROVED

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2016

The Selectboard meeting was called to order by Zeke Goodband at 6:00 p.m. at the Dummerston Community Center in West Dummerston, Vermont.

Members present: Steve Glabach, Zeke Goodband, Jerelyn Wilson, Hugh Worden, and Joe Cook.

Also present: BCTV, Sam Farwell, Harold Newell, Jean Newell, Alex Beck, and R.T. Brown.

On a motion by Joe and seconded by Hugh, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the meeting minutes of October 12th.

On a motion by Jerelyn and seconded by Joe, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the payment of Warrants 9 and 9P.

Under the Road Foreman's Report, the Board discussed the proposed curb cut on the Meinke/Brickley property across from 55 Park Laughton Road. The Town maintains culverts within road rights-of-way. Following a motion by Steve that was seconded by Hugh, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the proposed curb cut. Steve reported later in the meeting that the Sheriff's Department will be providing the Board with proposed rates for inclusion in the upcoming budget, and is prepared to meet with us.

On behalf of the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation, Alex Beck described their Fast Track to Success program that makes high school students aware of education and career opportunities available in Windham County. R.T. Brown explained the BDCC's INSTIG8 program that serves as an incubator for entrepreneurs to develop their businesses.

Sam Farwell distributed a draft of the Town Plan, which will be presented to residents at a Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, November 1st at 7 p.m. in the basement of the church adjacent to the Town Office. No zoning changes are being contemplated. Due to Hurricane Irene, town plans must now address flood resistance. Town plans now must be updated every 8 years. The Planning Commission welcomes comments concerning the draft of the Town Plan. Public hearings concerning the Town Plan draft will be held during the next three or four months, at which point it will be presented to the Board for adoption. Copies of the draft are available at the Town Office.

Michelle Cherrier will be joining us at our meeting on November 9th to discuss the Windham Solid Waste Management District's operations and proposed budget. On November 10th the District plans to decide whether to continue the operation of its aging recycling facility. That decision could affect the continued operation of the recycling bins in Dummerston and elsewhere.

As the Town's Animal Control Officer, Zeke described two aggressive dogs that are unlicensed, which presents a concern with rabies if those dogs bite others. Following a motion by Steve that was seconded by Joe, and pursuant to Vermont Statutes, the Board voted unanimously to authorize our Animal Control Officers to seize and destroy unlicensed dogs.

Under unfinished business the Board had received an estimate of the cost savings to the Town if we agree to participate in a net metering solar energy project at the Windham Solid Waste Management District facility in Brattleboro. Hugh agreed to review that estimate, and report back to the Board with a recommendation.

The Board reviewed the proposed job description for the Road Foreman. After "with endorsements" was removed from the CDL and a clean driving record job requirement, following a motion by Jerelyn that was seconded by Hugh, the Board voted unanimously to approve that job description.

Following a motion by Steve that was seconded by Jerelyn, the meeting was recessed at 6:55 p.m.

Following a motion by Jerelyn that was seconded by Hugh, the Selectboard reconvened at 7:00 p.m. to address the proposed speed limit change on Wickopee Hill Road and parking in the West Village. Catharine Simpkins, Gurudharm Khalsa, Catherine O'Callahan, Jo-Ann Tier, Ron Tier, Natalie Blake, Shorty Forrett, Terry Chapman, Laura Hickin, John Gregory, Rick Looman, Paul Chapman, Alan Scott-Moncreft, Melissa Worden, Jean Momaney, Susan Kern, Barbara Clark, Alex Wilson, Carrie Towle, Daniel Ridehossver, Olga Peters and Bev Tier joined the meeting.

Hugh read a proposed ordinance that had been published in the Commons to reduce the speed limit on Town Highway 48, known as Wickopee Hill Road, from 35 m.p.h. to 25 m.p.h. from Bear Hill Road south to the Town line. Hugh moved, and Steve seconded the proposed ordinance, which passed unanimously. **The new ordinance is within Article IV, Speed Restrictions, Section 2, West Dummerston, (add) K. Town Highway 48 (Wickopee Hill Road) from the intersection of Bear Hill Road south to the Town Line. The proposed ordinance and supporting documents will be available at the Town Office, posted and published in the Commons, and become effective after 60 days unless a petition signed by 5% of the Town voters to disapprove the ordinance is received at the Town Office on or before December 8th.**

Parking in the West Village was addressed at 7:05. Jean Momaney started the discussion by stating that the Community Center is responsible for the adjacent parking, which is for the Community Center and Town library, and is not to be used for overflow parking. Joanne Tier expressed safety concerns for fire and rescue trucks and children and pedestrians when cars are parked on both sides of West Street. Steve read a state statute that says that vehicles can be towed if they obstruct traffic or impede road maintenance, which includes snow removal. In response to questions about parking adjacent to rental units, Hugh said that property owners must adhere to the conditions of their permits. Infractions may be referred to our Zoning Administrator, who has the authority to impose fines. John Gregory said that rental properties and B&B's exacerbate the parking problem, and that parking must be addressed in the permitting stage. Natalie Blake, the owner of an Air B&B in the Village, said that she has worked diligently to make her guests aware of the parking problem, and the need to park off of the paved road. Sam Farwell explained that property owners own to the center line of West Street. Most of the residents of the Village have occasional guests, so it would not make sense to restrict parking to their properties. Sam said that he walks through the Village frequently with his children, and that he does not think that the current parking situation presents a safety concern. Gurudharm Khalsa expressed the same sentiment, that he is not inconvenienced by cars that park slightly in the road, and that he does not believe any parking ordinance is necessary. Paul Chapman said that he planned to file a complaint against the owners of the former grange building at 182 West Street, whose permit restricts parking to one space. Alex Wilson said that cars parked on both sides of the road actually serve to slow traffic. Rick Looman suggested that the Town consider restricting parking to one side of the street. Sam Farwell said that permits are not required when homes are rented, however they are required when structural changes are made. Zeke closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their participation, encouraging further discussion, and saying that the review of the draft of the Town Plan at the Planning Commission meeting next Tuesday would be an opportunity for further input. He said that the Selectboard, Planning Commission, Development Review Board, and Zoning Administrator would work together to address the parking situation in the Village.

There being no further business, the meeting was recessed at 8:10 p.m.

Following a motion by Steve that was seconded by Jerelyn the Selectboard reconvened at 8:12 p.m. in executive session to address a personnel matter. Following a motion by Steve that was seconded by Jerelyn the Selectboard came out of executive session at 8:46 p.m. Zeke moved to appoint Maria Glabach as the Selectboard's temporary assistant until the end of the upcoming budget session in January. Jerelyn seconded Zeke's motion. It passed 4-0, with Steve abstaining.

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Approved

Zeke Goodband, Chair

Joe Cook, Clerk

Submitted by: Joe Cook, Clerk