

Greensboro Selectboard

August 13, 2014

Meeting Minutes

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bridget Collier, Marsha Gadoury, Peter Romans, Warren Hill, Jr., Susan Wood

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Chief Erwin Salls, Jr., Gina Jenkins, Tom Anastasio, Chief Aaron Cochran, Naomi Ranz-Schleifer, Rick Ely, Linda Ely, June Cook, Dan Tanner, Nancy Sullivan, Lenny Schiavone, Judy Carpenter, Ted Donlon, Willie Smith, Ben Luna, Kristen Leahy, Erika Karp, Tony Acheson, Gordon Stoner, Cindy Rove, Richard Lovett, Francy Hays, John O'Brien, Jill O'Brien, Fiona McMurtrie, Alain McMurtrie, Niall Kirkwood

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

MINUTES

Minutes from July 9, 2014 approved as amended.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

There is concern that brush is encroaching on gravestones in a town cemetery. The Board unanimously agreed to ask the cemetery groundskeeper to clear out the brush.

POLICE

H.P.D. Chief Aaron Cochran was present and reviewed the July police report with the Board. The Dept. has been working on the Miller's Thumb burglary, with arrests made and some stolen items recovered.

ROADS

- **Road Supervisors Report – Dan Tanner.** The road crew has been working on culverts and grading. Paving is completed. Repairs to loader (front end work) and truck #15 (transmission) completed. Crushing will begin soon. The new town truck has been built, but the body has not been put on yet.
- **Upgrading White Rd.** A letter was sent to Joan Schlitt explaining that if she paid to have the road upgraded from Class IV to III, the town would then maintain it to the Class III specs. The town has not received a reply.

- **Yield Sign at the Town Park.** There are two yield signs in close proximity in the center of town near the Town Park. Dan will remove the older one and move the newer one closer to the road intersection.
- **Sidewalks – Naomi Ranz-Schleifer.** Naomi asked the Selectboard to consider repairing sidewalks on Breezy Ave., and possibly installing a new one that would continue to the ball field. Due to the lack of good sidewalks, many pedestrians walk and run on Breezy Ave., which is a busy road and not safe. NVDA will be asked about doing a feasibility study and possible grant funding.

GRANGE COMMITTEE – POSSIBLE APPEAL OF D.R.B.’S DECISION

Ted Donlon told the Board that the town’s Development Review Board (D.R.B.) turned down their Grange renovation proposal for the second time, saying their design for egress was ‘beyond the minimum required’. The committee is considering appealing the decision to Environmental Court, and would need Selectboard approval to do so. Such an appeal must be filed within 30 days of the D.R.B.’s decision.

Sue felt that there must be a way to compromise, weighing a historically appropriate design with town zoning regulations. She proposed the grange committee talk to the town attorney to see if an appeal makes sense. She also posed the question: do we trust our D.R.B.?

Peter said that an appeal is a poor use of town funds. Would the town be paying for two attorneys, one on either side?

Discussion about mediation, which would cost less than litigation.

Attorney Ben Luna, who was present, offered 10 hours of mediation pro bono.

Bridget attended the D.R.B. meeting as the Selectboard’s legal liaison, said there is no time for mediation, and proposed the Board vote to appeal the D.R.B.’s decision. Several emails have been received from residents about this issue; she read a letter from Andrew and Elizabeth Brown in favor of an appeal. The Browns feel the grange committee has put forth a good proposal.

Ted said that the Grange Committee met recently and worked out a possible new renovation design, which could be put forward if the Selectboard decides not to approve an appeal, or if the appeal fails.

Bridget made the following motion:

Subject to the town attorney thinking an appeal makes sense, the grange committee may, at its discretion, file an appeal of the D.R.B.’s decision. The only monies approved for the appeal are for the town attorney’s initial consultation, and the appeal filing cost of \$250. While the appeal is under way the grange committee, at its discretion, may move forward with their revised renovation plan.

Marsha seconded the motion, which carried (B.C., M.G., S.W., W.H. in favor; P.R. against).

Further discussion. Ben Luna noted that it would be a good idea for the town to hire an attorney to write the appeal.

Bridget made the following motion:

Assuming both the D.R.B. and Grange Committee are willing, the Selectboard suggests that mediation be used to try to come to an agreement on the Grange's renovation proposal.

Peter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board thanked Ben Luna for his offer of mediation services.

SHORELAND ZONING DELEGATION FROM STATE OF VT – Kristen Leahy

Kristen said that the delegation paperwork has finally been received from the state. Three sections of town are not covered by the delegation, affecting 18 property owners: the eastern shore of Eligo, Horse Pond, and Little Eligo. These areas will fall under state shoreline regulations. All other shoreline areas in town will fall under Greensboro's regulations. The town will send letters to the 18 landowners, informing them of the situation. Kristen added that the state will step in if it feels that the town is not enforcing its water quality regulations.

Bridget made the following motion:

The Board accepts shoreland zoning delegation from the State of Vermont.

Sue seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Sue signed the delegation papers.

The Board and members of the public thanked Kristen Leahy for her work on this issue.

GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT.

Water Rescue. Chief Erwin Salls, Jr. said that the Dept. has received a few calls about overturned boats on Caspian Lake; however, the Dept. has no equipment to assist in such situations. This issue will be discussed with the Greensboro Association.

Old Firehouse.

- **Firehouse Committee Report.** All town departments were asked if the old firehouse could be of any use; only the road department showed any interest. The committee feels that selling the building should not be rushed, and recommended waiting a year before making a decision about the building's future. In the meantime, the road crew will use the building for storage, and the town will discuss the possible future sale of the building with a real estate professional.

The committee decided that neither the building's location, nor the building itself, would work for a recycling center.

Marsha made the following motion:

The Board will wait for up to a year before making a decision about what to do with the old firehouse. In the meantime, the road crew will use the building for storage and see how useful the space might be.

Warren seconded the motion, which carried (M.G., W.H., P.R., S.W. in favor; B.C. abstained).

- Chief Salls reported that the G.F.D. has started clearing out the old firehouse.

- Tom Anastasio suggested that the old firehouse needs painting and other maintenance. Warren suggested that the building not be painted until it's known what the town is going to do with the building.
- Valdine reported that the town's insurance company inspected the building and reported a roof leak. Marsha will ask a roofing contractor to assess the roof; ideally, the roof would just be patched for the time being.

TOWN CLERK – Valdine Hall

Budget. FY 2015 Budget reviewed by the Board.

Town Hall.

- Energy efficiency improvements will be budgeted for in next year's budget.
- The boiler needs replacement. Estimates were received from Rod Kerr, Jack Kaufman, and Fred's, but for somewhat different units and configurations. Peter will come up with specifications and ask the three contractors to bid again, this time on the same specs.
- Valdine reported that a light upstairs in the town hall caught on fire. An electrician inspected all the lights of similar type and reported they were all deteriorating. The Board unanimously approved replacing the wires in these type of lights.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Willey Beach. The Willey Beach Committee recently met again and discussed creating a minimal parking area, located at the very front of the parcel (adjacent to Wilson St.), with a single row of approx. five parking spaces, including one handicapped accessible space. There would be room for cars to back up in the parking lot so they won't have to back into the street.

Once the parking area is delineated and constructed using existing gravel on site, the remaining graveled area will be stripped of gravel, topsoil brought in as necessary, and reseeded. A few walking trails would be created, with some handicapped accessible areas. Boardwalks would be necessary in the wetter areas. Funds would be needed for shrubs to delineate the Willey Beach property from Altman's and the Parsonage. The 'Willey Beach' sign (already made) would be put up either at the entrance of the parcel or at the trailhead.

The town road crew would do any of the work involving heavy equipment.

Discussion of having Hazen Forestry, VT Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC), or a Dept. of Corrections work crew help with trail construction and landscaping work. Ben Luna suggested the committee contact Disability Rights VT to make sure the parcel has proper handicapped access.

The overall idea is to develop the parcel as little as possible initially and see how it gets used.

Peter made the following motion:

The Board approves the Willey Beach Committee's proposal with minimal parking, designed so backing out into the street will not be necessary. Once the parking area is delineated and constructed using existing gravel on site, remaining graveled areas will

be stripped of gravel, topsoil brought in as necessary, and reseeded. Up to \$3k may be spent on landscaping. The use of the parcel will be assessed after approx. one year to see if further development is warranted.

The motion did not receive a second.

Discussion of creating a larger parking area. A few members of the public spoke out against this idea, proposing the discussion be continued at town meeting.

Bridget made the following motion:

Existing gravel will be left on site. Approx. 10 parking spaces will be made, avoiding the water main and designed so cars don't have to back out into the road. Screening will be provided between the parking area and adjacent properties; funds will be put in next year's budget for the screening. And get on with it!

Warren seconded the motion, which carried (W.H., B.C., M.G. in favor; S.W., P.R. against).

HILL FARMSTEAD BREWERY

Traffic at Special Events. Peter talked to owner Shaun Hill, and came away from the discussion believing that the brewery's events are very safe, with designated drivers required.

Warren noted some neighbors have complained about brewery customers parking in the road; it is assumed that Shaun has plans for a larger parking lot.

OTHER BUSINESS

- H.P.D. Chief Cochran endorsed Ben Luna for Orleans County states attorney, and spoke of Luna's community leadership.
- **Noise complaints.** Peter went to Nancy Sullivan and Lenny Schiavone's house when a wedding party was going on at the Lakeview Inn next door. Peter agreed with Anne Stevens' assertion at a Selectboard meeting last year that "no one in this room would tolerate the noise Lenny and Nancy have to deal with". The parties typically go to 10 or 11 PM. The Board agreed to look into a noise ordinance at next month's meeting.
- **Touch of Grace Church Event at Bend Community Park.** Lori Hislop and Matt Preston of the Touch of Grace Church (E. Hardwick) requested permission to have an afternoon picnic at the Bend community park. Pastor Matt Preston would hand out church-related flyers.

Bridget said the Board can either turn down the request, or approve it – but that approving this event means any future requests to hold religious events must also be allowed. Warren felt that if the event involves neighborhood kids, it could be positive for the community.

After discussion, the Board agreed that more information is required before a decision can be made. Marsha will request that a church representative come to the next Board meeting.

- **Greensboro Bend Official Posting Location.** Tabled, updated needed from Valdine.
- **Library Trustee Needed.** Ed Stehle has resigned as library trustee. Josh or the town clerk will post an ad for a library trustee; letters of interest will be required.

- **D.R.B. Member Needed.** Bud Harvey has resigned from the D.R.B. Kristen Leahy will post an ad for a new D.R.B. member; letters of interest will be required.
- **Memorial Garden – Fruit Tree Pruning.** Christine Armstrong wants permission to have fruit trees pruned next to the memorial garden. The Board unanimously approved this, assuming the trees are on town property.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Bridget made the following motion:

The Board will enter executive session at 9:28 PM to discuss a personnel issue, with Dan Tanner present.

Marsha seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board left executive session at 10:05 PM and took no action.

ADJOURNED: 10:07 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk

AMENDED 9/15/14 J.K.