

# Greensboro Selectboard

September 12, 2012 – Meeting Minutes

**PRESENT:** John Guilmette, Heidi Joyce, Wayne Young, Mary Young, Mike Lammert, Nancy Lammert, June Cook, Hilary Hoffman, Dan Tanner, Valdine Hall, Marsha Gadoury, Peggy Lipscomb, Susan Wood, Aaron Cochran, Josh Karp, Erwin Salls, Jr., Andy Dales, Anne Hopper, Sharon Goering, Anne Pinkney

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 7:00 PM

**MINUTES:** August 22, 2012 special meeting minutes approved as amended.

## PUBLIC CONCERNS

- *Jim Silver.* Silver has concerns about the state of repair of certain buildings in Greensboro Bend; as he is not a resident of Greensboro, the Board decided not to discuss the issue.
- *Hilary Hoffman.* The painting contractor for town hall roof is using glass bead blasting to prepare the roof for painting. Hoffman's children attend Lakeview School, which uses rooms in the town hall; she believes the air quality in the school rooms has been poor due to dust from the blasting. She noted that there are very strict requirements for air quality in schools, yet children were exposed to dust in their classrooms for eight days prior to being moved to the upper school building. Hoffman said there was a substantial amount of dust on all surfaces, and her son developed a hacking cough.

Valdine told the Board that the town wasn't contacted regarding the dust until the morning of September 8, many days after school had started. Hoffman said that the town is responsible for the painting contract, and felt that if due diligence had been done this dust issue would have been taken care of before the project even started.

Marsha told Hoffman that a meeting will be arranged as soon as possible with Selectboard members, Valdine Hall, Superintendent Joanne Canning, and School Board Members.

## POLICE – H.P.D. Chief Aaron Cochran

- *Patrol Hours.* Cochran reported that Greensboro patrol hours have increased. In recent years hours have been lower, due in part to unfilled openings in the Dept. The Dept. is now fully staffed, meaning six full time officers, three part time officers, and the Chief.
- *False Alarms.* Cochran said that false alarm calls continue, and that this needs to be addressed. Cochran has drawn up a draft false alarm policy for the H.P.D. He told the Board that a Dept. policy allows charging for the officer's time and car use and is not really a 'fine', while a town ordinance would allow the town to levy fines, and/or collect reimbursement for fire dept. time and vehicle use.
- *Accident Reports.* Peggy asked whether the H.P.D. keep records of crashes that could be used to obtain state funding for road safety improvements. Cochran replied that the state keeps records of

fatalities and D.U.I. crashes. It was unclear whether the H.P.D. keeps records of other types of accidents.

### **ROADS – Dan Tanner, Road Supervisor**

- *Road Supervisor's Report.* Dan reported that the road crew has been ditching, grading, and just finished putting up winter sand.  
Don's hydraulic fracturer will be used by the road crew. He is charging the town \$300 instead of his usual rate of \$500.
- *Gravel.* Peggy noted that the town of Craftsbury uses smaller sized gravel on their roads, which may reduce flat tires and is nicer for running and biking. She asked Dan what are its pros and cons? Dan said that it packs better, but will cost more. Valdine noted that last spring, Dan presented the option of crushing either ¾" or 1 ¼" stone, and that the Board chose 1 ¼". Dan will research the costs of crushing different sized stone, and Marsha said that the Board will consider going to ¾" stone next year.
- *Limb Cutting Bids.* After discussion, Marsha made the following motion:  
*The Board accepts NorthCo. Land Management's bid of \$3420 to cut limbs along town roads.*  
Peggy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **TOWN CLERKS REPORT – Valdine Hall**

- *C.L.A. Appeal.* Valdine told the Board that the latest development of the town's 2010 C.L.A. appeal is that the town and state are going to mediation. If the town prevails, it will be beneficial to taxpayers as funds will be returned to the town.
- The Board reviewed the FY 2013 Budget Y.T.D.
- *Outside Audit.* The audit is still in progress. The town should have the first year report back very soon.
- The change to the NEMRC accounting system is in progress, but is proceeding slowly.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- *Greensboro Association – Beautification Funds.* Andy Dales, representing the Greensboro Association, told the Board that no committee has been formed yet to decide on beautification projects, but that the Town Green is high up on the list.  
Discussion of the tree on the Town Green. Sue reminded the Board that it had agreed to take no action on the tree at this time, and put the question of the tree on the 2013 town meeting warning.  
Andy said that the G.A. wants to work with the town to make sure that any given project is wanted and appreciated. He said the G.A. will try to form a committee, come up with some initial proposals, and get back in touch.  
Valdine noted that tree committee members could serve on this new committee. She felt that projects in the Bend should be considered, as well as improvements to the ballfield and streetlights.

- *Willey Beach Sign – update.* Valdine reminded the Board that it tasked the recreation committee with making improvements to Willey Beach Park. As a member of the committee, Valdine got the ball rolling on the signs that the state is requiring (it turns out three signs will be needed). A conditional use hearing was held (for a bigger sign size due to all the required wording), and she asked Ted Donlon to work on the signs, as he made the ‘Town of Greensboro’ sign at the entrance to the town offices which people liked.

According to the town’s purchasing policy, the sign(s) did not have to be put out to bid.

- *Taser meeting with Hardwick Selectboard.* Sue and Anne met again with Hardwick Selectboard members Mark Salls and Kathleen Hemmens to discuss Tasers, this time with H.P.D. Chief Aaron Cochran. The group discussed Greensboro resident Aaron Kromash’s concerns about Tasers. Sue and Anne reported that Chief Cochran gave a good report, and that all four Selectboard members left the meeting feeling good about H.P.D.’s Taser policy and Use of Force policy. Sue noted that many of Kromash’s concerns are dealt with in the H.P.D.’s ‘Use of Force’ policy.
- *Purchasing Policy.* The Board signed the purchasing policy that was adopted a few years ago, as there was not a signed copy.
- *Roller Skiers on the Bend Rd.* The Board decided that if Warren has any issues with Skiers’ use of the Bend Road, he should send a letter as a concerned resident, not as a Selectboard member.
- *Keys to Town-owned Buildings.* Marsha reported that VLCT has recommended that the town hold keys to all town-owned buildings.

Peggy made the following motion:

*The town will have keys to all town-owned buildings. The keys will be in such a place that the Selectboard Chair will have access to them at any time.*

Marsha seconded the motion, which was carried (S.W., P.L., M.G., in favor; A.S. opposed).

Marsha will acquire all the keys.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- *Heidi Joyce, VLCT:* Joyce works with VLCT’s Wellness Program. She told the Board about wellness programs that are available for town employees, and thanked Greensboro’s town employees for taking part in many of these programs for years.
- *Town Hall on-call maintenance person.* After discussion, it was decided that having a single person on call was not necessary, leaving open the option for a variety of individuals to be called as needed.
- *Eligo Lake Association.* Peggy, Valdine, and Marsha will meet with Bobsey Daniels about E.L.A. issues.
- *Long Pond – Proposed Improvements to Access Road.*

For the second time, the state sent an official to discuss improving the Long Pond access road. John Guilmette, an engineer with the Agency of Natural Resources, told the Board that he’s been involved for years with the Dept. of Fish & Wildlife’s public access program. Guilmette observed

that when public access improvements are proposed, local residents often have concerns - but he's never had a follow up complaint in over three decades of doing this work.

Someone noted anecdotally that the Nature Conservancy, which owns most of the land around the Pond, is against improving the access road.

Discussion of unlawful behaviors at the public access. Guilmette said to contact the local game warden (Russel Shopland).

Mike Lammert, whose property abuts the access road, said that folks park on their property, just off T.H. #8, and that is OK with them.

It was noted that there is another public access road to the Pond. This is the access the Nature Conservancy directs folks to use; it has a small parking area and sign-in station.

Sharon Goering lives across from the access road, and observed that if you have one precious place that is undeveloped, maybe a good foot path is all that should be there.

Anne made the following motion:

*The Selectboard declines the State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife's offer to improve the Long Pond access road.*

Peggy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- There will be a meeting to discuss the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund and Capital Budget on October 9 at 1 PM.

### **GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT.**

- *New Fire Station Committee.* Jr. Salls said that the committee is still researching the project, and is not ready to submit a report to the Selectboard. Erika Karp is chair of the committee, which has met two or three times. Minor aesthetic changes have been proposed, and have been submitted to the architect, who says there is no obvious problems incorporating them into the plan; the architect is also working on a model.

Jr. said that the committee will be getting an cost estimate for hiring a job estimator. This person would figure out building costs, including the cost of a project manager. Putting the cupolas back is a popular idea, but it appears that Greensboro's zoning height restrictions will prohibit this.

According to Jr., Erika thought that a Selectboard member should be present at each committee meeting, to make sure the Board is in the loop. Jr. told the Board that it should consider extending the committee's reporting deadline, as they are doing way more than they had planned to do, are doing good work, and really helping him out. He thought the committee wouldn't be finished until the end of the year.

The Board agreed that the committee should continue it's work and update the Board on a monthly basis until it is finished.

- *Stannard Fire Contract.* The town has received a signed contract from Stannard, covering G.F.D. services from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Marsha made the following motion:

*The Board will go into executive session at 9:37 PM to discuss personnel matters regarding the Greensboro Fire Dept. Chief Erwin Salls, Jr. will be present.*

Sue seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board left the executive session at 9:56 PM, and took no action.

**ADJOURNED: 9:57 PM**

*Respectfully submitted, Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk*

*AMENDED 10/15 J.K.*