

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 2, 2013, 6:00 p.m., Old Schoolhouse Common

Present: Selectboard members John Warshow and Chris Martin; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Zoning Administrator Robert Light; Visitors Rich Phillips, Tom and Susannah Blachly; Les Snow; Melissa Seifert; Jesse Russell

At 6:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair John Warshow

Solar Project: The Selectboard reviewed the wording for a sign that the Energy Committee has prepared. They discussed precautions that could be taken to make the panels safer. It was decided that a fence is not necessary, but the back of the panels will be covered with hardware cloth to keep children from climbing on them.

Rich also notified the Board that there are people in town who are interested in a group solar project. There is no up-front cost now for a group solar project. He asked the Board to consider leasing some town land for a solar project. He noted that especially for businesses, there is a good rate of return.

House Concerts: It was brought to the Board's attention by the Fire Department that there are cars in the road during the house concerts at the Blachly residence on Ennis Hill Road. Susannah Blachly explained that the cars were in the road last summer when her husband was rehearsing a play at the house. She explained that the concerts are held about once each month, with attendance of about 25 people, and they park on the lawn. She doesn't feel that it is commercial because it is by donation only and the money goes right to the musicians. Bob Light asked if the garage was built with the concerts in mind. She stated that initially the garage was not intended for concerts, but they finished the upstairs with the concerts in mind. She wants to be able to provide quality music without people having to drive into Montpelier. She has checked with the neighbors and they don't object. They do have someone in charge of parking to make sure the road doesn't get blocked. Bob Light explained that accepting money, even though it's by donation, makes it a commercial venture, even though the donations are given to the musicians and the Blachlys do not keep any of the money. He explained that this has been decided in court. He explained that there is nothing saying they can't do the concerts, but they should apply for a conditional use permit to be in compliance. They thanked Bob for the information and they will apply for the permit. They noted that there are a couple of concerts already scheduled and Bob explained that they could hold those concerts while the application is pending.

Boards and Commissions: Les Snow offered to serve on the Planning Commission. Bob Light suggested that he should come to some of the Planning Commission meetings to see how the Board functions. Melissa Seifert would like to be on the Planning Commission. She moved to Marshfield two summers ago. She has been attending the meetings. Her background is in farming and working with children and adults with developmental disabilities. She grew up in Fairfax.

Planning Commission: Chris moved to increase the number of board members to 7. John seconded – all in favor. John moved to appoint Melissa Seifert to the Planning Commission, with a term to expires on April 15, 2015. Chris seconded – all in favor.

Cree Farm Road: The Town received the documents that were requested but they were signed by Tal Datner instead of Tal Zanna. Avi Datner called in to the meeting to ask if the documents were in order. He explained that Tal sometimes uses his mother's last name and sometimes uses his father's last name. Bobbi explained that the documents need to be signed by the agent listed on the Secretary of State's website. She will email the documents and he will have them signed again.

Circus: The Town has received an inquiry from Jesse Russell about holding a circus at the Onion River Campground. They are exploring the idea of doing 6 shows over 3 days in July. One of the shows would be a gala catered event. He sees the issues as being parking and traffic. He would hire an officer or put up event signs to help with traffic. John stated that traffic would be the Town's greatest concern, and he feels they would need two sheriffs, one coming from either direction. Chris suggested that they contact the school about using the parking area at Twinfield. John suggested that they talk to the Washington County Sheriff's office, and also the Agency of Transportation. Bobbi suggested that they would need a liquor permit if they plan to serve alcohol at the catered event. John stated that the campground is in the floodplain, and also the emergency services should be notified. Bob Light suggested that he contact the neighbors to keep them informed. Mr. Russell has managed circuses in the past and knows how to deal with the issues that the Board has raised. The Board asked him to keep in touch regarding his plans.

Grader Loan: John moved to authorize Bobbi to sign the application for the municipal loan fund, to borrow \$80,000 towards the cost of the new grader. Chris seconded – all in favor.

Signs: The Maple Hill School asked permission to put school zone signs up on the John Fowler Road, and they agreed to pay for them. Dan will get prices and let them know how much it will cost.

Codes and Standards: John moved to adopt the road and bridge standards as recommended by VTrans. Chris seconded – all in favor.

Grant: Bobbi applied for and received a grant from the Secretary of State's Office for paving the handicapped parking spots and for installing automatic door openers. The Board authorized Bobbi to go ahead with the door openers but asked her to check to be sure the paving will meet ADA specifications.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll. They approved minutes of the March 19, 2013 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the April 2, 2013 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
