

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 16, 2012, 6:00 p.m., Old Schoolhouse Common

Present: Selectboard members John Warshow, Chris Martin, and Helen Ducharme; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Visitors: Mike Zahner (Conservation Commission); Carl Powden (Vermont Land Trust); Ann Smith (Friends of the Winooski); Will Walters (Hardwick Gazette)

At 6:05 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin.

Forest Legacy Program: Mike Zahner and Carl Powden attended the meeting to explain a conservation effort that is being considered in Marshfield and surrounding towns, involving Molly's Falls Pond and several parcels that are adjacent to the Groton State Forest. The intention of the program is to have the State acquire conservation easements on the parcels. He explained that since all of the properties are in the current use program already, there would be little or no tax consequences to the Town.

Carl Powden explained that the Vermont Land Trust made the application to the State. The application will be put through a regional and national ranking process. If the project is chosen, it will be in the President's budget. If successful, it would be funded in 2014. The parcels would remain privately owned. They would have to allow pedestrian access. The State would be the steward of the Conservation Easements so there would be no responsibility on the part of the town.

He noted that the Vermont Land Trust has already purchased the land around Molly's Falls Pond.

John moved to authorize the Conservation Commission to send a letter of support for the Forest Legacy prospects in Marshfield. Helen seconded – all in favor.

Fish Passageways: The Conservation Commission has been contacted by the Friends of the Winooski to discuss projects to improve fish habitat. There are two proposed sites on Beaver Meadow Brook. They propose to retrofit a culvert at Peck Place and replace a culvert at Tibbetts Road.

The Friends would put out a request for proposals for an engineering firm to work with them to design the passages. The design will consider needs for Brook and Rainbow Trout, while taking into consideration the flood flows. The Selectboard and Road Foreman will be invited to take part in the decision-making.

The funding for the project comes from US Fish & Wildlife, VT Fish & Wildlife, a grant from Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, and Cabot Creamery.

The Selectboard is supportive of the project.

George Jewett Road: Helen received a call from Mr. Thaler. He recently put his camp on the market, and he would like to pay a private contractor to plow the road in the winter so that he can access the camp. The Selectboard did not allow the road to be plowed last winter because

plowing increases the speed of spring runoff, damaging the road. The road is Class IV and has no ditches, and no room to put in ditches. The Vermont statutes allow the Selectboard to prevent the road from being plowed, and to charge the property owner for damage to the road that occurs as a result of the plowing. The Board will discuss it with the Road Foreman before making a decision.

Martin Covered Bridge Park: The Board decided not to replant the trees that have been damaged at the bridge park, because so many cars go off the road there.

Trash Complaint: The Selectboard received a complaint about trash at 1114 US Route 2. They saw building materials and what looked like bags of construction material. They noted that none of the bags had been ripped open by animals, so it is probably not garbage and most likely not a health threat. It appears that someone has been working on the property.

Flood Repairs: The railroad bed access to the covered bridge has been repaired. The ballfield has been raked and seeded; Chris will order material for the infield.

Cree Farm Road: The Town received minutes of a meeting of TAL, LLC confirming that Mr. Datner is authorized to act on behalf of the company.

Stranahan Stewardship Committee: The Selectboard read the minutes of the joint meeting of September 17th, and agreed with them subject to the Stranahan Committee approving them.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll. They approved the minutes of the October 2, 2012 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the October 16, 2012 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
