

## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

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Tuesday, August 21, 2018, 5:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common

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Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker and Christopher Martin; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Rich Phillips (Stranahan Stewardship Committee); Nick Seifert, Becky Wigg and Wes Cate (Energy Committee); Joel and Kathryn Trupin, Jonathan Williams and Melissa Seifert (Planning Commission); Ed Jalbert (Conservation Commission); Anne Miller (Energy Committee and Conservation Commission)

At 5:40 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

**Changes or additions to the agenda:** winter sand and fuel

**Public Comment:** none

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** Approved minutes of August 7, 2018

**Stranahan Town Forest:** Rich Phillips came to discuss a proposal for a multi-use trail in the Stranahan Town Forest. The trail will start at the new parking area on the Jake Martin Road and connect to the Moon Field trail. He explained that a bike trail was approved in 2015 but it was not built at that time because logging was anticipated. The logging did not happen, and now the bike club would like to build the trail. The route is a little different than what was originally approved, to avoid wet areas and sap lines, and it includes a connector for walkers. Rich Phillips feels that there is committee support but the committee will take their final vote next Tuesday. Rich Baker moved to approve the trail, contingent upon the committee's approval, and upon receipt of a final map. Chris seconded – all in favor.

**Conservation Easement:** Chris moved to send a letter supporting the easement on the 2,200 acre parcel recently purchased by Forest Farmers. The easement would be funded by the Forest Legacy Program. Rich seconded – all in favor.

**Old Schoolhouse Common:** Rich Baker moved to waive the fee for use of the meeting room for an informational meeting on the 2018 Draft Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan. Chris seconded – all in favor.

**Resilient Roads:** Rich Baker reported that the first meeting of the committee went very well. He attended, as well as Anne Reed from the Conservation Commission and Scott Ciampi from the Road Crew. Representatives from Forests & Parks are going to go out and survey about half of our roads and then make recommendations about what should be done for vegetative control. They will be looking at roads with a lot of traffic, roads that are steep, roads that have wet areas, etc.

**Winter Sand:** The Road Crew has asked the Selectboard for permission to purchase another 1,000 yards of sand, more than anticipated because of the winter that we had last year. They also anticipate being over budget on fuel. They do not anticipate using all of the staymat budget this year, so the overall highway budget should be ok. The Board approved purchasing another 1,000

yards of sand. They will ask Paradee to do the hauling again.

**Meeting Date:** The Selectboard will not have a quorum on September 4, so they will meet on the 11<sup>th</sup> instead. Bobbi will check for scheduling conflicts and possible bump the second September and both October meetings ahead a week.

**Marshfield Dam:** The Energy Committee has requested that the town become party to the current filing for a Certificate of Public Good for Green Mountain Power's work on the dam. Nick Seifert explained that GMP has filed for a CPG to work on the service spillway and the penstock. As part of the approval process, towns have the right to weigh in with any concerns that they have about the work that is planned. He explained that to do work on the service spillway, they have to block it off. Because of that, they are relying on the emergency spillway, which has an earthen surface. He believes that if there is an emergency during the construction, the emergency spillway could experience a back-cut, resulting in a failure of the dam. The penstock is another means of releasing water but it only has 2/5 of the capacity that the spillway does. Although the work will ultimately improve the safety at the dam, the way that GMP is proposing to do the work raises concerns because they will have less capability to control the water level in case of an emergency. Becky Wigg explained that GMP has also not done enough to create a system to warn residents in case of an emergency. Chris Martin suggested that the Energy Committee should sit down with the Fire Department to discuss the communication system that has been worked out with GMP. Bobbi explained that GMP has worked out a way to notify the Fire Department, but with a volunteer fire department, there are no guarantees that there will be enough volunteers available to evacuate people. Becky agreed and suggested that they would like GMP to commit to assisting the town with a warning system for residents in Marshfield Village. Rich Baker asked whether the dam is licensed (it is not, it is grandfathered). Becky explained that since they are not licensed, this process is the only chance to get conditions put on the dam. Nick explained that if we are a party, we would be able to communicate our concerns that GMP is not prepared for an emergency that could occur during the construction. Wes Cate noted that in their first filing, none of the work that was planned addressed safety issues. Rich Baker asked whether we would have to hire a lawyer. Becky suggested that we wouldn't necessarily need a lawyer but it would be a benefit, and there is a possibility of sharing resources with Plainfield. Rich Baker moved to apply for party status, with the understanding that no lawyer will be hired without Selectboard approval. Chris seconded – all in favor.

**Correspondence:** The Selectboard received an invitation from the Vermont Council on Rural Development, asking them to designate a local leader to participate in a leadership summit, at no cost to the town. Rich Baker moved to nominate Jonathan Williams if he is available. Chris seconded; all in favor. Jonathan is going to check to see if he is available. At the last meeting the Board received a request from Teri Lloyd for reimbursement for a lilac that was mowed. Rich feels that the road crew should not have mowed as it was in their yard; it was an error on the road crew's part. He thinks the town should reimburse her but not allow it to be replanted in the right of way. Chris agreed. Bobbi will contact her about the cost.

**Expenses, Permits & Payroll:** Selectboard members read and signed reports for General

Expenses and Payroll.

Chris recessed the meeting at 7:10 p.m. and opened the hearing on the Town Plan.

**TOWN PLAN PUBLIC HEARING**

Jonathan Williams explained the process that the Planning Commission followed to revise the town plan, and reviewed the scope of the changes. Melissa Seifert explained that the requirement for a future land use map made the Planning Commission uncomfortable because they are not ready yet to propose changes to the current zoning map without getting public input, so the future land use map is the same as the current zoning map. Rich asked whether the energy plan will be detailed enough to satisfy the Regional Planning Commission. Becky Wigg explained that the Energy Committee will be working to make a more detailed plan, and it will be incorporated at a later date as an amendment to the plan.

Wes Cate applauded the Planning Commission for their work.

Rich Baker moved to close the hearing. Chris seconded – all in favor. Rich moved to adopt the plan. Chris seconded – all in favor.

Rich explained that plan is active now that the Selecboard has adopted it, but the Regional Planning Commission has to certify that the plan includes all of the required elements in order for the town to be eligible to receive planning grants.

The Planning Commission will now work on drafting a noise ordinance, and they will look at the future land use map. The Selectboard expressed concerns that a noise ordinance is difficult to enforce.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the August 21, 2018 Selectboard Meeting.  
A True Record. Attest, \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

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