

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 21, 2012, 6:00 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common

Present: Selectboard members John Warshow, Chris Martin, and Helen Ducharme; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Energy Committee Member Rich Phillips; Planning Commission Member Faeterri Silver; Will Walters (Hardwick Gazette); Belinda and Paul Lussier

At 6:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin.

Cemeteries: Joe Mangan received a verbal quote from Josh Gouge of \$200 - \$250 to dig holes for 12 trees to replace the trees removed from the Eaton Cemetery. He got prices from Gardener's Supply. Helen got better prices from B&B Nursery in Morrisville. John will check with Niko Rubin to see if he would plant them and how much he would charge. Helen will ask if B&B would warranty the trees. The Road Crew is working on the Wooster Cemetery.

Covered Bridge: Rich would like to replace two trees that were removed by beavers during an earlier flood. The Board will try to coordinate the purchase of these trees with those in the cemetery to save money.

Energy Project: The Energy Committee applied for a grant to install a small-scale solar project at the Old Schoolhouse Common. The project would need to be installed within 6 months. Rich initially prepared a request for proposals for a project that would cover 2/3 of the power for the Old Schoolhouse Common. This would be a 20 watt system. The project would cost \$100,000 and the incentive would be approximately \$37,500. In addition to the power savings, the Town would earn 6¢ per kilowatt produced. The incentive is highest for the first 10 watts, and it drops for the second 10 watts, so the Board would like to have proposals for both sizes. There would need to be a vote by the town, so there will need to be a special town meeting, in October or November. Bobbi will check to see what procedures need to be followed if the Town borrows money over a period longer than 5 years.

Chair Martin recessed the meeting at this point to hold the public hearing on the Town Plan.

TOWN PLAN PUBLIC HEARING

Faeterri Silver had the following comments (as a citizen, rather than a member of the Planning Commission):

P. 20 No horsefarms are mentioned.

P. 44 Central Vermont Solid Waste District should be changed to Northeast Kingdom Solid Waste District.

P. 53 She doesn't like the use of numbers because we don't know for sure how many independent projects there are. Rich noted that the number of sites is from 2010, from actually driving around town and looking for solar projects. She doesn't like the assumption that 70% of our energy use is derived from fossil fuels. Rich Phillips stated that the number comes from the Department of Public Service.

P. 54 e. and j. are objectives whose deadlines have passed. They should be removed. The appendices are not included in the draft.

Belinda and Paul Lussier had the following comments:

P. 26 Wetlands: It is their understanding that Towns can add wetlands to the State's wetland inventory. One of the Town's stated objectives is to encourage the Conservation Commission to inventory town wetlands.

Vermont enacted new wetland regulations in 2009. They went into effect in 2010. They have been told that the State has provided wetland maps to the towns. The Lussiers have purchased a camp in Lanesboro. When they decided to improve the property, they found out they can not make any changes to the property because of the State wetland rules. She has been forced to hire an environmentalist, who has determined that their entire property is either class 2 wetlands, or within the buffer zone, so they are now in violation of the rules. They have been told by the State that it is the property owner's responsibility to know whether their property is wetlands, even though there is no information available. They had no notice before they bought the property, and they have invested significant money in the property. They can be held accountable for changes that have been made to the property. They want to make sure property owners are aware that the potential is there for their property to be classified as a wetland, and they could be in violation for anything that they do to the property.

The hearing closed at 8:00 p.m.

The Selectboard will make minor, non-substantive changes and review them at the September 4th meeting.

Stranahan Town Forest: Jim Brimblecombe asked permission to trim some branches and cut some dead trees along his conductor system from the bottom of the moon field to the gathering tank. He noted that he will steer clear of the 50' stream buffer. The Board approved. Chris noted that this piece of property was on the State Forester's list of properties that should be logged sooner rather than later.

He stated that the Stranahan Stewardship Committee is looking for some direction from the Selectboard about what they want to see for logging. Chris stated that if small logging jobs are done frequently, there is always a mess somewhere because there is always a landing, etc. If a larger job is done, you might not have to log again for 10 or 20 years. Helen noted that if you do a larger job, you might get more loggers to bid, because some loggers wouldn't be interested in the smaller jobs. You might also get a better price. Chris stated that he feels that the forestry management plan was well done and it should be followed. Jim noted that the other way to look at it is smaller jobs may have less of an impact. John asked what the wood prices are now. Helen thinks the prices have stabilized.

Jim asked the Selectboard how many acres they consider to be a large job. Chris stated that he is more interested in doing what the management plan recommends, rather than specifying a number of acres. He suggested logging the stands that are ready to be harvested, taking into consideration the market. John noted that the Board needs to decide whether the Town wants to make money from the property or just cover the taxes. They will discuss it at their next meeting and make a

recommendation to the Stewardship Committee before the next Stewardship meeting.

Energy Committee Grant: Rich Phillips notified the Board that they received a grant for \$2,800 for energy reduction projects at Twinfield and the community. The Committee has spent about \$1,500. He would like to find ways to spend the rest of the money within the grant guidelines.

Front Porch Forum: Bobbi has been approached about starting a Front Porch Forum for Marshfield. FPF is a computer-based forum of local residents and businesses. It would be another way for people to send and receive information about local activities. Rich has investigated the process and he feels that it would be worthwhile and beneficial to the townspeople. There is a one-time startup cost of \$2,500, but if Plainfield joined at the same time, it would be \$1,500 per town. There is no cost to the Town after the initial startup. John moved to contact Plainfield about joining Front Porch Forum together, and if they will do it we will do it. If they don't want to do it, we will revisit it. We will use the donation that we received from Cabot Creamery. Chris seconded – all in favor.

Old Schoolhouse Common: The Town received a free bike rack to be placed in front of the building. Ernie will construct a concrete pad to anchor it. Chris stated that the work on the ball field will begin on Monday the 27th.

Development Review Board: Bobbi and Bob Light have revised the procedures for applications that need to go before the DRB, in order to streamline the permitting process. All applications will first be sent to Bob, and he will notify Bobbi to do the warning immediately without waiting for the application to be circulated to the DRB.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the August 21, 2012 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
