

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 2, 2012, 6:00 p.m., Old Schoolhouse Common

Present: Selectboard members John Warshow, Chris Martin, and Helen Ducharme; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Visitors Avi Datner, Tova Datner, Jim Colgan, Dan Mucherino Jr., Dawn Rinker, Willy Sayers, Gilman Street residents Dennis Jewett, Joel Trupin, Kathryn Trupin, Pam Quinn, and Art Gilman; Albert St. Cyr; John Morris (Energy Committee), Jon Groveman (Planning Commission); Will Walters (Hardwick Gazette)

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

Cree Farm Road: Jim Colgan explained that he had someone come and locate the underground power line. It is approximately 54' from the proposed new end of the road. Mr. Datner thanked the Board for allowing him to come and speak to the Board. He has agreed to do whatever the Town wants. He doesn't care if the bus turns around on his property, he doesn't care if the snow will get plowed, and he doesn't care where the road will end. He was under the impression that everything was done. Chris explained that the discontinuance was conditioned on the Town receiving an easement, which Mr. Datner has given, and conditioned on the Mucherinos receiving an easement, which they have not received.

Mr. and Mrs. Mucherino have an easement prepared, but Mr. Datner does not approve of the wording. The Selectboard looked at wording of other easements on record, and assured him that the wording is similar. He agreed to sign it. He pointed out that the company is not a corporation, but an LLC. John asked him to send something that shows that he is authorized to sign on behalf of TAL, LLC. Dawn called Mrs. Mucherino, who stated that she agrees with the wording of the easement (prepared by her attorney), but she wants her attorney to review the authorization. John pointed out that the easement states that Mr. Datner is a duly authorized agent.

Mr. Datner stated that the document is not a proper document but he will sign it as a courtesy to everyone, to resolve the issue.

Solar Project: John Morris of the Energy Committee explained the proposed solar project. The Selectboard has received and accepted a proposal for 3 large solar panels on trackers. The exact location of the trackers still needs to be determined, but they will be located between the basketball court and the road. The panels are approximately 20' wide and 17' tall. When they are vertical, early in the morning and late at night, they will stand 20' tall. Pam asked whether the Town has thought about how to protect them from vandalism, or a baseball. John Morris explained that the panels will be insured, and they are made to withstand 1" hail. Art Gilman asked how much area they will take. They need to be placed 75' apart. They will be connected to the power pole that has a transformer on it, connected underground. He asked about their expected life. John M. explained that the parts are warranted for 10 years, and the power production is warranted for 25 years. As far as maintenance is concerned, the hydraulic fluid (about a quart) will need to be changed in 10 years, and the inverter will need to be replaced in about 20 years. The grass around them needs to be cut once per year. John W. explained that he has two of the panels at his house and they have exceeded his expectations. Pam Quinn thinks it's great to do this but it is going to have an impact on her property,

so she would prefer that they be located as low as possible. John M. stated that the Energy Committee has taken some photos of the site and he will photo-shop in some panels to give people a better idea of what they will look like. Mrs. Trupin asked if there are any installed in our area that we can look at. John W. stated that people can come and look at his, and there are some located on Eaton Cemetery Road and also on the Templeton Road in East Montpelier. John M. explained that Green Mountain Power will credit the Town's bill for the power produced, plus a 6¢ per kilowatt solar incentive. The payback will be in 12-14 years. In 20 years, we will have a total net gain of around \$14,000 - 18,000 after the panels are paid for. Dennis Jewett asked whether the system can be upgraded if improved models are available. John M. believes that upgrades won't be made until the parts need to be replaced. Dennis asked about expansion. John M. thinks it would be difficult to add another panel at this site because of the space required, but the Town could add panels at other locations and include it in the net metering. Dennis asked about the field between the OSC and the river. John M. explained that the field is in the flood plain so nothing can be built there.

Zoning: Jon Groveman explained that the Planning Commission has been working on revisions to the subdivision regulations. They are wondering if they should begin their public hearing process now, because the time frame is so tight that they will need to rush for Town Meeting. They could slow down and have them ready for the following year. Bobbi noted that they don't have to wait until Town Meeting 2014 – they could be voted on at a special town meeting. The Board felt that they should take the time that they need, and not rush the process.

Winter Sand: Albert St. Cyr brought his bill for hauling winter sand. He explained that he has been having a problem getting loaded at Gravel's sand pit. He feels that they were intentionally slowing him down so that they could get the work for their own trucks, and they closed at noon on some days when he was planning to haul all day. Now the sand pit has stated that they are closing, but they are still hauling with their own trucks (Dan has allowed Gravel to haul for us). Albert wants the Board to know that he wanted to complete the work but was prevented from fulfilling his end of the deal by Gravel. The Board understands the situation and does not hold him responsible.

911 Road Name: The Board named the shared driveway on the O'Rourke property. Helen moved to name it O'Rourke Lane. John seconded – all in favor. It will remain a private road.

Village Tax: Bobbi made the Board aware that there are properties that are partially in the Village and the entire property is being taxed by the Village. The Village Clerk and Trustees are aware of the issue.

Front Porch Forum: Plainfield has agreed to join Front Porch Forum, and they will take Marshfield up on the offer to pay the full \$3,000 up front, and they will fundraise to pay us back. Chris noted that \$2,800 of the \$3,000 will come from money that was donated to the Town by Cabot Creamery and the Thomas Hirschak Company, and we will save \$1,000 because they are joining with us. The Board agreed that a combined list makes the most sense.

Executive Session: At 8:50 p.m., John moved to enter executive session to discuss a personnel issue. Chris seconded – all in favor. The Board returned to open session at

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

and Payroll. They approved the minutes of the September 18th and September 20th meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the October 2, 2012 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
