

**CHARLOTTE SELECTBOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
TOWN HALL
FEBRUARY 23, 2015**

APPROVED

Selectboard Members Present: Matthew Krasnow, Lane Morrison (Chair), Charles Russell, Ellie Russell. Joining via telephone for the Burns Property agenda item; Fritz Tegatz.

Also Present: Freeda Powers (Recording Secretary).

Public Present: Catherine Bock, Wolfger Schneider, Bonnie Christie, J. Snow, Christina Booher, Peter Trono, Sue Smith, John Hammer, Jenny Cole, Jeff Finkenstein, Louise McCarren, Robin Reid, C. Hughes, Jennifer Chiodo, Rebecca Foster, Jane Lawlis, Bob Heiser, Gil Livingston, Margaret Russell, Michael Russell, Ed Sulva, Kate Lampton, Cali Griswold, Bob Hyams.

ITEMS TAKEN UP:

- 7:05 PM Verification of CVFRS FY14 surplus. *Discussion only*
- 7:20 PM Resolution to Increase the Input of Vermont Municipalities Regarding the Siting of Renewable Energy Projects in Certificate of Public Good Proceedings Before the Public Service Board. *Action under consideration: sign Resolution*
- 7:35 PM Mowing & brush-hogging requests for bids. *Action under consideration: approve*
- 7:45 PM Cali Griswold—interview for appointment as Town Health Officer. *Action under consideration: appoint for a three-year term ending in March, 2018*
- 8:00 PM Burns property—*Actions under consideration:*
- *approve revised Memorandum of Agreement; and*
 - *approve Letter of Agreement and fee of \$10,000 to cover closing costs, baseline document and stewardship endowment for a conservation easement on 23 acres of forest to Vermont Land Trust*
- 8:15 PM Scope of work for obtaining assistance with financial policies, bank statement reconciliations and review of journal entries. *Discussion only*
- 8:25 PM Thompson's Point Wastewater Budget. *Action under consideration: approve*
- 8:30 PM PBM Acquisition, LLC d/b/a Point Bay Marina—application to renew a Second Class Liquor License. *Action under consideration (as Liquor Control Board): approve*
- 8:35 PM Spear's Corner Store, Inc.—application to renew a Second Class Liquor License. *Action under consideration (as Liquor Control Board): approve*
- 8:40 PM Richard Tenney—applications to renew a Second Class Liquor License. *Action under consideration (as Liquor Control Board): approve*
- 8:45 PM Town Meeting presentations. *Discussion only*
- 9:00 PM Selectboard updates
- 9:05 PM Approve warrants to pay bills

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm

Wolfger. Schneider spoke from the audience to offer thanks to the Selectboard for the brush-hogging of the Town Trails and regarding the resolution, he encourages the Board to listen to the energy commissions' input on the matter.

Bonnie Christie spoke from the audience, saying that as a community safety committee member it has been a frustrating process. They are seeking the Selectboard's commitment and want to know about the status of the speed cart etc. Matthew Krasnow responded by saying that the committees run independent of the Selectboard and said the Selectboard has in fact offered updates on the speed cart. The Selectboard also planned two publicly warned meetings which did not take place he added.

Lane Morrison said he agrees; the Selectboard has nominated members to the committee. He said they won't oversee your committees' work but suggested they need a chairperson to facilitate the meetings. He said you as the committee members are empowered to do what you need to do and know that the Selectboard will support you.

Jenny Cole spoke from the audience, suggesting that perhaps after Town Meeting, the Selectboard could take the opportunity to discuss and clarify its role and that of the liaisons. Lane M. said that is a good suggestion. Ellie Russell clarified that the role of the liaison is to attend as they can other meetings and be the channel between the Selectboard and Committee.

Verification of CVFRS FY14 Surplus: Mary Mead asked if the financials she was given included post-auditor adjustments. The Board said yes. John Snow explained that accounting was trying to be more compliant regarding the nonprofits status and that therefore the auditor had made changes which is why the end numbers are different than at the beginning of the process. The adjustments seen are to bring the numbers back to reconcile these accounting changes. Mary said the numbers should be clear and feels that this is not. John said he feels we have made great improvements in how they manage their data and feels that we will continue to evolve in how we document financials. Matthew K. asked if there is anything in the MOA that needs to reflect the changes. John said he is open to any changes if the Selectboard sees fit. He said they have operated in good faith in calculating the surplus numbers and waited for the completion of the audit. There will likely be format improvements going forward. Lane Morrison suggested that Mary submit her suggested changes to the MOA. Mary asked if the surplus would be identified in its own unique line item. John said that the money is in an open account currently, not in a segregated account. At the end of the year reconciliation, we can document those numbers. Quarterly financial reviews also act as macro-review. They can put that money in a separate account for financials.

Resolution to Increase the Input of VT Municipalities Re: Siting of Renewable Energy Projects in CPG Proceedings Before the PSB: The Board discussed a letter from the town of Rutland's municipality asking for a show of support for them with a resolution stating that we support allowing an increase in the input of VT municipalities regarding the siting of renewable energy projects in Certificate of Public Good proceedings before the Public Service Board.

A member of the Energy Commission suggested not restricting this language to only renewables.

Jeff F. spoke from the audience, suggesting that the language define *industrial* or strike it.

Louise M. spoke from the audience, urging the Selectboard to support the resolution. She said this is a land planning issue. This is not the same as pipelines and central power station.

Ed Amidon said this resolution is an effort to support and communicate with our local legislator. Also, the Planning Commission is looking into Industrial Solar Siting Standards and are not alone in doing so. Currently, this type of development can happen just between a land owner and developer.

Ellie R. said she supports the resolution but said it seems specific to solar. Louise M. said solar is very land consumptive.

Rebecca Foster spoke from the audience, saying the process is to allow the Town a greater legal standing. She feels the resolution is too limited and discourages other forms of energy and development from Town review. She feels the Town should have more of a say. She said currently S85 in the legislature is addressing the issue of solar and energy development.

Catharine H. spoke from the audience, saying it would be good to get more Town input as transmission and generation infrastructure changes.

Lane M. said the consensus seems to be to have the language address “energy” not “renewable”.

Ellie R. **made a motion to approve as revised the resolution to increase the input of Vermont municipalities regarding the siting of energy projects in Certificate of Public Good proceedings before the Public Service Board.** Matthew K. **seconded the motion.** All Board members will sign the document. The Board **voted 4-0.**

Town Health Officer: Cali Griswold interviewed before the Board for appointment as Town Health Officer. There is a stipend of \$1,300/yr. for the position. Cali said she feels comfortable and capable in taking on the position. Charles Russell made a **motion to appoint Cali Griswold as the Town Health Officer for the Town of Charlotte for a 3 year term ending in March, 2018.** She will be paid 1/12th of the stipend per month effective immediately. Matthew K. **seconded the motion.** The Board **voted 4-0.**

Burns Property: Fritz T. joined this agenda item via telephone conference.

First, the MOA was discussed: VT Land Trust & Preservation Trust of VT made some revisions. The latest draft provided reflects suggested language changes regarding trails in the clay plain forest and added flexibility for allowance of utility lines and access to septic easement. There were some map modifications as well which demonstrate a slight decrease in acreage to 22 acres. A letter of agreement is a non-binding document. The items in the budget are pretty standard. Margaret Russell talked about trail locations, specifically noting the 250 Loop Trail, asking that they be noted as well on the map. Charlie Russell said the Letter of Agreement Section 6 mentions this and said the applicant will map trails prior to the easement being finalized.

Bob Hyams. spoke from the audience, as a member of the Conservation Commission, asking about the overall stewardship of this parcel as it relates to the preservation of the clay plain forest. The applicants said they would like to take the biology of the area and reports done into account but likely any management there will be light and the protection of the Clay plain forest is a priority.

Robert Mack spoke from the audience asking of the 23-22 acres, is there any good septic soils there? The applicants said mapping in recent years indicate mostly wetlands. Mike Russell said the area there may have some septic capacity and he agrees with Robert that the Town should look into that and be able to say definitely.

Kate Lampton said they feel they have adequately respected the concerns regarding the limited septic capacity in the village and feel they have listened to and responded to town feedback. Robert Mack said he just wants to know for sure what we're giving away.

Larry Hamilton encouraged protection of the Clay plain forest and discouraged development there. The land was too wet for septic use based on the soils test report on hand.

Gil Livingston spoke from the audience, saying that conservation was an important part of the purchase of that land.

Margaret R. spoke from the audience, saying she wonders why not take the time to see what's there before making a decision.

Bonnie Christie spoke from the audience, saying what could go on the developable areas of the parcel? The Board said mainly municipal services. Lane M. said there was adequate information on the issue of soils and feels the Board was ready to move forward.

Ellie R. made a **motion to approve the revised memorandum of agreement**. Charles Russell **seconded the motion**. The Board **voted 5-0**.

Next, the Board discussed the Letter of Agreement: Fritz T. asked about pg.7 regarding stewardship. The applicants said that is banked as a secure depository. Fritz T. said he feels it is such a high profile parcel/project he questioned the need for future stewardship. The applicants said they understand but feel it is appropriate.

Ellie Russell made a **motion to approve the Letter of Agreement and fee of \$10,000 to cover closing costs, baseline document and stewardship endowment for a conservation easement on 22 acres of forest to Vermont Land Trust**. Charles Russell **seconded the motion**. The Board **voted 4-1 with Fritz T. voting Nay**. Ellie R. offered thanks to Kate for all of her work and time.

Brush-Hogging & Mowing Requests for Bids: Jenny and Sue gave input and suggested cleaning gutters at Town Hall to be included as part of spring & fall clean-up. Ellie Russell said she agrees it needs to be done but does not feel it belongs in this section. John Baggs perhaps could take that task on.

Charles Russell made a **motion to approve the Request for Bids as presented.** Ellie Russell **seconded the motion.** The Board **voted 4-0.**

Financials: The Board discussed the scope of work for obtaining assistance with financial policies, bank statement reconciliations and review of journal entries. The auditors input is that they are capable of doing it but should be tabled until after the elections to do reconciliations. Currently, Christina is doing reconciliations on NEMRC. Lane M. said he feels we should get a quote and ok to release this. The Board agreed.

Thompson's Point Wastewater Budget: Charles Russell made a **motion to approve the Thompson's Point Wastewater Budget.** Matthew Krasnow. **seconded the motion.** The Board **voted 4-0.**

At 8:58pm, Charles Russell made a **motion to adjourn as the Selectboard and to reconvene as the Liquor Control Board.** Ellie Russell **seconded the motion.** The Board **voted 4-0.**

Charles Russell made a **motion approve the application for PBM Acquisition, LLC dba Point Bay Marina to renew a 2nd Class Liquor License.** Matthew Krasnow **seconded the motion.** The Board **voted 4-0.**

Charles Russell made a **motion approve the application for Spear's Corner Store, Inc. to renew a 2nd Class Liquor License.** Matthew Krasnow **seconded the motion.** The Board **voted 4-0.**

Charles Russell made a **motion approve the application for Richard Tenney to renew a 2nd Class Liquor License.** Ellie Russell **seconded the motion.** The Board **voted 4-0.**

At 9:00pm Charles Russell made a **motion to adjourn as the Liquor Control Board and to reconvene as the Selectboard.** Ellie Russell **seconded the motion.** The Board **voted 4-0.**

Town Meeting Presentation Discussion: The Board discussed the plans for the Town Meeting Day presentation. The presentation will be followed by Q&A then Articles, Budget, John Snow & John Hammer to talk to Section 6. The Board discussed topics and made editorial changes to the presentation slides.

Selectboard Updates: Ellie Russell said the financials from Fire & Rescue now show a break-down of the expenses to each department. They have received three applications for current openings and are conducting interviews with 2 of them. Budget seems to be on track. They have hired a per-diem paramedic. They successfully passed their proposed bylaws and are now working on a Code of Behavior. The library is doing well.

Matthew Krasnow said the Speed Cart is in, he will be opening it tomorrow.

Charles Russell said thank you to Ellie Russell for her many years of service.

The meeting adjourned at 9:41pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Freeda Powers (Recording Secretary)