

TOWN OF NORWICH
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Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Tuesday, September 23 , 2003 at 6:00 PM

Members Present: Liz Blum, Chair; Jack Candon, Linda Cook; Nancy Hoggson; Suzanne Stofflet; Dennis Pavlicek, Town Manager, Secretary Tina Moses.

Also Participating: Barbara Barnes, Peter Clark, Fred Davis, Phil Dechert, Matt Degan, Andrew Hathaway, Bob Hollensby, Jennie Hubbard, Dennis Kaufman, Nick Krembs, Dennis Lally, Cheryl Lindberg, Jeff Mathias, Barbara McKelvy, Lynn McGrew, Liz Russell, Stanley Teeter, Irv Thomae, Paul Tierney, There were approximately 50 members in the audience at this meeting

- 1) Executive Session (Personnel) - Hoggson **moved** to enter into Executive Session for purposes of personnel discussion whose premature disclosure could prove a disadvantage to the town (second Stofflet). **Motion passed.** The board reconvened into public session at 6:30pm.
- 2) Approval of Agenda – 6:30pm – Hoggson **moved** to approve the agenda (second Stofflet). **Motion passed.**
- 3) Public Comments – Mathias mentioned an upcoming Stormwater conference to be held by the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission and sponsored by the Connecticut River Subcommittee. May asked about truck transport with the Elizabeth Mine issue. Cook explained the current plan for the trucks to make transport should not affect the village. Pavlicek said he was told that the most prevalent means of transport would be Route 5 and River Road. Thomae said the Finance Committee highly recommends Alison May to the Sewer Committee. Lindberg said she attended the recent Clerks and Treasurers Conference and spent day talking with other municipalities treasurer’s about common issues. She thanked the town for allowing her to attend.
- 4) Town Manager’s Report – Pavlicek read his report aloud for the group. See attached.
- 5) Finance
 - a) Legal Bills – One bill to Desmeules, Olmstead and Ostler in the amount of \$54.00 for professional services.
 - b) Orders on the General Fund – processed in between meetings.
- 6) Roads
 - a) a) Final Report of the Committee to Identify Specific Class 4 Roads for Possible Reclassification as Trails
 - i) Public Hearing (7:00pm) of 24 VSA §708 proceeding for consideration of reclassification or discontinuation of specific Class 4 Roads. Stofflet **moved** to open the public hearing to take testimony on the above (second Hoggson). **Motion passed.** Kaufman said he is opposed to reclassifying as trails as it limits the amount of properties available for sale and by limiting the supply we drive up the cost of land. Tierney asked if all abutters were contacted and if there were any negative responses. He said we shouldn’t make any changes if there was not unanimous consent by landowners. Mathias said he sees a great deal of value in conversion to either trails or discontinuation. Much discussion took place about the issue. Pavlicek will find out about the permit issue. Davis said his son owns a camp on Tigertown and he is opposed to any change. Hollensby from Hartford said he owns a camp on Tigertown also and he is opposed to it being reclassified as a trail. He said he is ok with it being

discontinued. Blum entered into the record letters from Lizann Peyton, Ralph Hybels and the Conservation Commission all in favor of the proposed changes. Clark asked what kind of signs would be used if any. McKelvy asked what created the desire to want to change these roads? Russell said the only roads recommended were those that were badly eroded and those that wouldn't cause any problem with access. Krembs said the Conservation Commission is in agreement with the recommendation of the Class 4 Road committee report. He read aloud a letter from the Conservation Commission. Barnes said she is in support of the recommendation to convert the pieces of Dutton Hill to trails. Teeter said he has seen a number of contradictions already tonight. He finds it incomprehensible that there is no money to maintain trails but there is money for erosion to some trails. Thomae urged the board to bear in mind the comments made by Teeter and Kaufman about scarcity of property and what affect that will have on Norwich taxes. Candon asked if we have 100% agreement by abutters. Richardson said he did not know but that every abutter did get certified letters. Russell responded to Teeters concern about erosion control and said the erosion control that is done now is done by volunteers of the town. Hubbard said the committee was very sensitive to make sure they were not disrupting any landowner's access to their own property. Davis said all roads should stay the way they are. Hoggson **moved** to close the hearing but to accept written testimony for 15 days (second Stofflet). **Motion passed.**

7) Listers

- a) Errors and Omissions – Cook **moved** to approve the memo dated September 17 for the parcel owned by Arthur and Shirley Owens and Minnie Slater (second Candon). **Motion passed.** Candon **moved** to authorize the Listers to make the town owned land in the memo from the Listers dated September 16th, tax exempt and authorize the Town Manager to conduct further research (second Cook). **Motion passed.** Kaufman explained the situation and confusion with the Melendy property. Cook recused herself from discussion from the parcel which referenced the Ruth Cook Estate.

8) Planning

- a) Municipal Planning Grant Application FY04 –Dechert explained he prepared a memo to the board explaining the steps of the application and that distributed the actual application today. The grant is designed to help municipalities with planning functions. This particular one would be looking at what we call mixed-use high density planning units. He explained the background for the grant in detail for the board. Pavlicek said he reviewed the document today and it seemed to be in order. Stofflet **moved** to approve the municipal planning grant pending approval by the Planning Commission and the Town Manager (second Hoggson). **Motion passed.**

9) Correspondence - None

10) Selectboard

- a) Create agenda for community health meeting – Blum said the meeting is set for October 14th at 7:30pm. She said that Deb Richter who has extensive knowledge in the health care industry has offered to come and speak. Pavlicek said we have also invited VLCT and Dave Sickel has offered to speak. Blum asked Pavlicek to invite the Vermont School Board Association also.
- a) Appointments
 - i) Sewer Committee – Hoggson **moved** to amend the charge to an 11-person committee consisting of Lynn McGrew, Bob White, Jeff Goodrich, Alison May, Glennis Gold,

Brian Livingston, Douglas Hoffman, Dean Seibert and Dan French, Stuart Richards and Bob Haynes (second Candon). **Motion passed.** Lynn McGrew will convene the first meeting of the Sewer Committee. Cook asked that minutes of the Sewer Committee be kept in a binder in the Town Clerk's Office.

b) Letter to Dresden School Board

- i) Playing fields on Route 5 – Blum reminded the board that Moffatt came before the board in the summer and that a vote was passed to draft a letter to the school board. Candon recused from the discussion. A draft was presented to the board and Hoggson offered to redraft the letter. This will be brought back to the next meeting.

c) Minutes of Selectboard Meeting

- i) September 9, 2003 – Cook **moved** to approve (second Candon). **Motion passed.**

Stofflet **moved** to adjourn at 8:53 (second Hoggson). **Motion passed**

Next Regular Meeting – October 14, 2003 at 5:45 PM

Approved by the Selectboard on October 14, 2003

By, Kristina Moses
Selectboard Secretary

Liz Blum
Selectboard Chair