

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, March 9, 2005 at 6:30 PM

Members present: Alison May; Chair; Jack Candon; Ben Ptashnik; Ed Childs; Gerard Chapdelaine; Stephen Soares, Town Manager; Nancy Kramer, Administrative Assistant

Also participating: Roger Blake, George Clark, Virginia Close, Phil Dechert, Bill Emmons, Jane Finlay, Peter Gregory, Andy Hodgdon, Dan Jantzen, Corlan Johnson, Dennis Kaufman, Cheryl Lindberg, Betsy Maislen, Jeff Mathias, Henry Scheier, Bill Schults, Irv Thomae, John Tomeny, Karen Ward, Chuck Wise. There were about 23 people in the audience.

May opened the meeting at 6:32 pm. May recognized Scout Troop Norwich 253. They were in attendance as part of their Communications merit badge requirements.

1. Approval of the agenda. Chapdelaine asked that an additional item be added in order to request the Finance Committee to proceed with in depth reviews of the Police Department and Listers. May suggested moving Item # 5 to 8:30 pm due to Terry Boone's inability to arrive before then. Approval by consensus.

2. Public comments. None.

3. Town Manager's report. Steve noted that roads need to be posted on March 11 for Mud Season. There are now two openings on the Dresden Fields Committee. The Simpson Development application was denied. The TRORC agreement has been signed regarding mixed use grant.

Candon moved (2nd Chapdelaine) that the Town Manager under Title 19 Chapter 11 VSA § 1110(a) be authorized to post appropriate highway restrictions.

4. Finance – Set Policy for Signing/Processing Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrants. The Board reconfirmed, by consensus, its action of March 2 that the designated signer for payroll warrants will be May and accounts payable warrants will be brought to regular Selectboard meetings for their approval, with information being provided by the Finance Officer prior to Selectboard meetings.

5. (See 12.a)

6. Discuss/Set Selectboard Meeting Schedule – Review Draft Calendar. Various changes to the Draft Calendar were discussed. The Selectboard will review 2nd draft and approve changes. Once this is accomplished, the Calendar will be posted on the Town website.

7. Appointment at 7:30 pm with TRORC Representative Peter Gregory. Chuck Wise, who has reviewed the Corridor Enhancement Committee's paperwork, presented a short analysis of where the project stands to date. Peter Gregory talked about a variety of services where TRORC could provide expertise, including mixed use municipal planning grants, petroleum site analysis, multiuse paths, watershed planning and dry hydrant program match to name a few.

8. Appointment at 8:00 pm with George Clark of the Norwich Conservation Commission. Clark addressed the issue of whether or not Norwich should appoint an official representative to the Ompompanoosuc Watershed Council. The Selectboard agreed, in lieu of an appointed representative, that Ptashnik would represent the Town and bring back pertinent information to share at Board meetings. May expressed her disappointment at seeing Clark step down and stated his expertise would be missed.

9. Discuss Revised Tracy Hall Rental Policy. Soares asked the Selectboard to receive the revised policy. After considerable discussion from the public, where the positive community aspects of the Hall's rentals, possible sliding scales and wording changes were among the items talked about, the Selectboard charged the Town Manager with the oversight and putting in place of the new policy. It was agreed that before becoming policy the document would be posted on the web site and available at the Town Manager's Office in hard copy. User input would be sought prior to putting the policy in place. Soares will bring back a revised policy to the Board. No action was taken.

10. Discuss Norwich Welcome Sign. Karen Ward was present representing the Norwich Women's Club. Ward stated that she would bring the materials Hodgdon has supplied to their meeting on Monday. Ward will bring back the Women's Club recommendation to the next Board meeting.

11. Rescind Motion Re: Corridor Enhancement Committee Membership. Chapdelaine **moved** (2nd Candon) to rescind the motion by Ptashnik (2nd Stofflet), made at the February 23rd Selectboard meeting, "to have Soares make inquiries and organize a meeting with Selectboard and Corridor Enhancement Committee and that meanwhile Neil Fulton must not represent the Committee." **Motion passed.** Ptashnik **moved** that the Town Manager contact members of the committee to ascertain membership and that the Selectboard give the Town Manager the authority to reconstitute the committee. No 2nd. **Motion failed.** **Candon expressed the opinion that this motion would confuse the record considering that prior Selectboard action had already turned the responsibility for this committee to the Town Manager.**

12. Selectboard

a) Appoint Lister – action was postponed until 8:30 pm.

5. Listers – Interview Candidates for Vacant Lister Position. The Selectboard interviewed Roger Blake for the position. Kaufman, after discussion, recommended Blake for the position. Childs **moved** (2nd Candon) to appoint Blake to the Listers through Town Meeting 2006. **Motion passed.**

- b) Set terms for representatives to the RPC. Selectboard decided to appoint an alternate starting May 1st to the Commission to expire in 2006. **At the suggestion of Ptashnik, it was agreed to establish a term of one year on appointments to the RPC that would expire on April 30, 2006 with the expectation that the RPC will define term limits on board members prior to that date.**
- c) Elect a vice-chair. Childs made a **motion** to nominate Candon (2nd Ptashnik) as the Vice-Chair. **Motion passed.** Candon abstained.
- d) Request the Finance Committee to proceed with in depth reviews. Chapdelaine **moved** (2nd Candon) that the Selectboard request the Finance Committee along with the Town Manager proceed with an in depth review of the Police Department and Listers. **Motion passed.**
- e) Approval of the Minutes of the 2/23/05 meeting. Candon **moved** (2nd Ptashnik) to approve. **Motion passed.** Chapdelaine and Childs abstained.
Approval of the Minutes of the 3/2/05 meeting. Candon **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) to approve. **Motion passed.**

Candon moved (2nd Ptashnik) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on March 23, 2005.

By Nancy Kramer
Administrative Assistant

Alison May
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – March 23, 2005 at 6:30 pm

Pending Items:

- 1) Final report of the Sewer Committee
- 2) Ordinance Regulating Solid Waste “Junkyard Ordinance” (March 23)

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