

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, July 9, 2008 at 6:00 PM

Members present: Gerard Chapdelaine, Chair; Alison May; Sarah Nunan; Stephen Soares, Town Manager; Nancy Kramer, Assistant to the Town Manager. Absent: Ed Childs and Suzanne Lupien.

There were about 15 people in the audience.

Also participating: Van Chesnut, Neil Fulton, Dennis Kaufman, Karen Kayen, Jill Kearney, Lynn McGrew, Roberta Robinson, Gerry Tolman, Chuck Wise.

Chapdelaine opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

1. 6:00 pm - First Public Hearing Zoning Regulations (Discussion/Action Item). Nunan **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> May) to open the first public hearing on the Preliminary Zoning Regulations as approved by the Norwich Planning Commission and Norwich Selectboard. **Motion passed.**

Dechert said the public hearing for the Zoning Regulations was officially warned on May 21, 2008 at which time the Preliminary Zoning Regulations became effective for up to 150 days pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §4449 (d). A second public hearing will be held on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Dechert is keeping a list of outstanding issues and the Planning Commission is aware that some things need to be addressed.

There was discussion regarding wildlife corridors which Nunan stated was important to her. Also discussed were: adding in requiring permits for interior renovations even if the amount of living space did not change, codes vs. regulations, educating the public about the changes and that permits should be good for longer than a year. McGrew again asked the Selectboard what steps they were taking to address public comments. McGrew also reiterated his comments regarding changes from the August 23, 2007 approved Regulations. He is particularly concerned about wildlife habitat and natural areas, historic and cultural resources and agriculture soil changes. The Board asked for his comments in writing so they could be addressed before the 2<sup>nd</sup> hearing in September. Tolman will also be sending comments to Dechert. Dechert will take all comments and get them back to the Selectboard for consideration.

May **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Nunan) to close the first public hearing on the Preliminary Zoning Regulations as approved by the Norwich Planning Commission and Norwich Selectboard. **Motion passed.**

2. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). By consensus, the Selectboard approved the Agenda.

At this point, Nunan said that TRORC was unable to find a facilitator for the planned July 23<sup>rd</sup> strategic meeting. After some discussion, the Board agreed to incorporate this into their August 27<sup>th</sup> meeting at 7:30 pm. The August 27<sup>th</sup> meeting will start at 5:00 pm to accommodate the strategic "vision" planning.

3. Public Comments (Discussion). Kaufman said the State has sent a list of homestead filings. According to the State, 977 homestead declarations were filed for Norwich this year which is down from last year. The Listers have sent a list of 175 names to the State that were not on the State's list, but they feel should have filed.

4. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). Soares has been in touch with Ann Cousins of the Preservation Trust of Vermont and has requested a \$250 matching grant from the Trust to hire an architect as part of the team being developed by the Trust to address rehabilitation, restoration or reconstruction and accessibility for the Norwich bandstand. As requested by the Selectboard, the Town Manager has responded to Lindsay Putnam's email. Stephen Leinoff, the selected candidate for Fire Chief, is working through the "conditions of employment". The expectation is that the new Fire Chief will take over sometime in August. The Board will have a special meeting July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm to review and approve the contract. Northwoods Construction started work on Kendall Station Road today. Town work should be completed by the end of next week.

5. Correspondence (Please go to [www.norwich.vt.us](http://www.norwich.vt.us), click on Town Offices bullet in left panel, scroll down to Norwich Selectboard section and click on Recent Selectboard Correspondence to view resident correspondence):

a) Nonresident –

- 1) Memo from State of Vermont Re: Fiscal Year 2009 Education Tax Rates (Discussion Item). May **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Nunan) to receive a memo from the State of Vermont re: fiscal year 2009 education tax rates. **Motion passed.**

6. Set Tax Rate (Discussion/Action Item). After a brief discussion, Nunan **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> May) to set the Town Tax Rate for FY09 at \$.4772, plus the Local Agreement Rate of \$.0038, for a Total Town Tax Rate of \$.4810. **Motion passed.**

7. 7:15 pm - Appointment with Chuck Wise (Park & Ride Concept) (Discussion/Action Item). Wise explained that this concept started in 2004 and gave a brief history. The Park-and-Ride grants are state-wide and very competitive. The grant would be for \$250,000, no matching funds, and the application is due July 31, 2008. Wise believes combining the sidewalk project with a small park-and-ride at Huntley Meadows would elevate this project with the State. Also discussed were the proposed spaces at the Legion and the wooded area adjacent to Huntley on Beaver Meadow Road. Flood issues and not cutting trees down on Beaver Meadow Road were brought out. Dechert recommended that he view all three locations before any decisions were made. Kearney spoke about the Recreation Council's support for both the park-and-ride and sidewalk expansion.

Chesnut said Advance Transit was aware of the Legion's offer and that the proposed loop was on the table for discussion in the upcoming public forum designed by VTrans to receive comments regarding public transportation. The forum will take place July 21<sup>st</sup> at the Hotel Coolidge.

After some discussion regarding Recreation Council emails and Wise being involved with the July 21<sup>st</sup> forum, May **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Nunan) that Wise working with the Town Manager move ahead with the proposed grant for a park-and-ride and that Nunan be the liaison person for the Selectboard. **Motion passed.**

8. 7:30 pm - Appointment with Karen Kayen (Town Auditor) (Discussion/Action Item). Kayen spoke about her inability to do anything official as the lone Auditor. She read the Statute regarding the auditors' responsibilities. She believes that only 20% of the current material in the Town Report is required. Kayen also said she needs more people to help with the Report and that deadlines should be respected. After some discussion, May said she was willing to consider, along with one other person, being editor. Board members will actively pursue both recruiting auditors and getting Kayen help.

9. Selectboard

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the 6/25/08 Meeting (Action Item). May **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Nunan) to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2008 Selectboard meeting. **Motion passed.**

May **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Nunan) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on August 27, 2008.

By Nancy Kramer  
Assistant to the Town Manager

Gerard Chapdelaine  
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – August 27, 2008 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Strategic Planning Committee Organization
- 2) Zoning Regulations Hearing (9/24/08)
- 3) Ancient Roads (9/10/08)
- 4) Class 1 Road Designation (9/24/08)
- 5) Communications Study
- 6) Department of Public Works Site Planning
- 7) Transportation Capital Program
- 8) Community Communications Outreach

PLEASE NOTE THAT CATV RECORDS ALL REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE NORWICH SELECTBOARD. FOR A MORE DETAILED TRANSCRIPTION PLEASE REFER TO THE DVD. DVDs ARE AVAILABLE ONE WEEK AFTER AIRING AT THE NORWICH PUBLIC LIBRARY.