

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, May 27, 2009 at 6:30 PM

Members present: Sarah Nunan, Chair; Ed Childs; Suzanne Lupien; Sharon Racusin; Roger Blake; Pete Webster, Town Manager; Nancy Kramer, Assistant to the Town Manager.

There were about 19 people in the audience.

Also participating: Van Chesnut, Roger Danilek, Phil Dechert, Andy Hodgdon, Nancy Hoggson, David Hubbard, Dennis Kaufman, Jill Kearney, Cheryl Lindberg, Alison May, Genevieve Morinville, Chief Robinson, Demo Sofronas, Andrew Toler, Paul Tuhus.

Nunan opened the meeting at 6:32 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). By consensus, the Selectboard approved the Agenda.
2. Congratulating Roger Danilek on Winning Vermont Geographic Bee. Webster explained that Roger is the first fourth grader in the 20 years of the competition to make the national finals. The National Geographic Bee is open to fourth through eighth graders. Roger was one of 55 students from around the country to go to the National in Washington, D.C. Roger talked about his roommates, playing football, touring Washington and a picnic he attended, as well as the competition itself.
3. Follow Up from Last Meeting (Discussion/Action Item). None.
4. Public Comments (Discussion). Hoggson reminded people again of the Norwich Historical Society and Community Center's celebration on June 5th and 6th. Details are on the Town website.

Kearney spoke about the Union Village Road and VT Route 132 intersection. She lived there about 20 years and serious accidents happened about twice a year, including one fatality. Kearney believes the changed signage will be a big plus. Lupien said she is not convinced that the proposed changes are the way to go. Webster discussed that this is a High Risk Rural Roads grant through Vermont AOT. Chuck Wise, Senior Transportation Planner for TRORC, and Dan Newhall, Vermont AOT Traffic Safety Engineer, both fully support and recommend these safety improvements. These safety improvements would resign the entire road and the signs are fully funded by the grant. The Town match will be \$810.25 of a total cost of \$8,102.50 for the traffic island. Plans have been submitted to the State, but the project has not been scheduled. There was further discussion regarding public input, preventing through traffic on Union Village Road and general Selectboard support of these safety improvements.

5. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). At this point, Chesnut gave an update on the Park & Ride at Huntley Field. The route will continue from Hazen Street to Beaver Meadow and then back to Dan & Whit's. The entire route will take 40 minutes instead of the 30 minutes it now takes. The new schedule will start July 6th and public notice will be well publicized. There will be a bus shelter at Huntley Field and additional stops at the Legion, etc. can and will be made. Chesnut said that this has been a cooperative effort between the Town and Advanced Transit. Sofronas thanked Chesnut for his efforts.

The Town Manager has finished personnel evaluations for all department heads. Webster met with Hodgdon and Blum regarding three trees that need to come down but are not in the Tree Warden's budget. Blum hopes to work with Green Mountain Power to get this done. Webster met with members of the Energy Committee, a representative of ReKnew Energy Systems and a representative from Green Mountain Power regarding assessment of sites for potential solar use. Dennis Kaufman, Gerard Chapdelaine and the Town Manager had a long session with Jim Kenyon regarding an article he is writing on the Bragg Hill lawsuit. Several discussions have been held with G.R. Porter guys concerning details of the bandstand such as decking, shingles and railing. There has been another burglary in Norwich. Citizens are asked to be vigilant and report any suspicious behavior. Webster has had two responses from the 14 delinquent tax letters he sent out. Nunan indicated one person had contacted her. Webster has asked Bonnie MacAdam of the Hood Museum for a current appraisal of the Paul Sample Norwich Pool painting we have here in Tracy Hall. Suggestions for Foley Park improvements are still coming in to the Town Manager. Webster was asked to bring these ideas to the Board for their consideration.

6. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). Childs **moved** (2nd Racusin) to approve Check Warrant Report #09-24 for the period from 5/14/2009 to 5/27/2009 in the amount of \$94,502.53; of which \$73,006.55 is General Fund and \$21,495.98 is Bandstand Fund. **Motion passed.**

7. Town of Norwich Open Positions Interviews/Appointments (Discussion/Action Item). Morinville, May and Tuhus were present, asked a few questions and thanked for their willingness to serve. It was agreed by consensus of the Selectboard that going forward candidates would be contacted by phone and notices of open positions would indicate interview and appointment process.

Lupien **moved** (2nd Racusin) to appoint Paul Tuhus as Grand Juror for a term ending in March, 2010. **Motion passed.**

Lupien **moved** (2nd Childs) to appoint Alison May as a Trustee of Trust Funds for a term ending in March, 2010. **Motion passed.**

Racusin **moved** (2nd Lupien) to appoint Genevieve Morinville to the Upper Valley River Subcommittee of the CRJC to serve until a successor is appointed. **Motion passed.**

8. 7:30-8 pm - Appointment with Andrew Toler, Thetford Selectman (Discussion). Toler discussed the two towns banding together more for regional planning issues and the possibility of regular meetings between the two boards. Also discussed was collaborating via TRORC reps since both town are member towns, stimulus grant hassles, paving project for VT Route 132 for Stratford/Thetford/Norwich that was rejected by the State and Town boundaries. Racusin suggested keeping our State representatives informed and enlisting their help. It was agreed that the two boards would share meeting dates and agendas with one goal being to schedule a joint meeting to discuss town boundaries and other issues.

9. Proposed Amendment to Town of Norwich Personnel Policies (Discussion/Action Item). Webster explained that this change is needed to allow prorated personal time for new employees. After a brief discussion, Childs **moved** (2nd Lupien) that the Norwich Selectboard amend the Town of Norwich Personnel Policies as presented. **Motion passed.**

10. Norwich Open Meeting Policy (Discussion/Action Item). Nunan said that McGrew had originated this policy with the hope of increasing transparency in Town government and also increasing interest in townspeople taking part in Town affairs. Dechert explained that he drafted the current policy and then shared it with Town boards, committees, etc. He received a fair amount of feedback which was generally positive and most were appreciative of the guidelines presented. All Town boards, committees, etc. are asked to communicate their meeting date, time and place to the Town Manager's Office via a liaison person selected by them. Draft minutes are to be sent to the Town Manager's Office within 10 days of the meeting.

Nunan suggested some language change to specify that the items sent to the Town Manager's Office would be sent out electronically. Nunan also suggested requiring notification of Informal Work Sessions. After considerable discussion, Dechert was thanked for his efforts and asked by consensus of the Board to bring a revised draft to the June 10th Selectboard meeting.

11. Correspondence (Please go to 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) Resident –

a) Email from Doug Hardy Re: Foley Point/River Park Proposal. Lupien **moved** (2nd Childs) to receive an email from Doug Hardy re: Foley Point/River Park proposal. **Motion passed.** Nunan summarized.

b) Nonresident –

a) TRORC Transportation Advisory Committee May 7, 2009 Minutes and TRORC April 29, 2009 Minutes. Childs **moved** (2nd Lupien) to receive TRORC Transportation Advisory Committee May 7, 2009 minutes and TRORC April 29, 2009 minutes. **Motion passed.** Nunan summarized.

12. Selectboard

a) Approval of the Minutes of the 5/6/09 and 5/13/09 Meetings. Lupien **moved** (2nd Racusin) to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2009 and May 13, 2009 Selectboard meetings. **Motion passed.**

Racusin **moved** (2nd Childs) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on June 10, 2009.

By Nancy Kramer
Assistant to the Town Manager

Sarah Nunan
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – June 10, 2009 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Vehicle Acquisition and Replacement Policy/NORCAP Report/Strategic Planning
- 2) Strategic Planning Committee Organization
- 3) Municipal Enforcement of the VT Fire Prevention and Building Code
- 4) Class 1 Road Designation
- 5) Town Report FY09
- 6) Listening Posts
- 7) Old Bandstand Roof
- 8) Lister Roundtable
- 9) Electronic Selectboard Packets on Website
- 10) Code of Conduct for Town Officials/Employees

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.