

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, June 10, 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 23 people in the audience.

Also participating: Liz Blum, Ames Byrd, Margaret Cheney, Phil Dechert, Alma Gray, Linda Gray, Jamie Hess, Nancy Hoggson, Dennis Kaufman, Cheryl Lindberg, Alison May, Don McCabe, Robert Mitchell, Sue Pitiger, Miriam Richards, Chief Robinson, Liz Russell, Demo Sofronas, Gerry Tolman.

Nunan opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

1. **6:30 pm** – Public Hearing on Amendments to the Norwich Zoning Regulations (Discussion/Action Item). Nunan opened the public hearing to receive public comment on proposed Amendments Norwich Zoning Regulations – April 16, 2009 Version. Dechert went over the status of the process stating that the Amendments, if adopted, will become effective July 1, 2009. There were no public comments. Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Racusin) to close the public hearing. **Motion passed.**

Lupien **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs) to adopt the April 16, 2009 Draft of two amendments to the Norwich Zoning Regulations: **Amendment A** - proposed boundary change of Village Residential I Zoning District and **Amendment B** - add "Adaptive Re-use" as a conditional use in the Primary Protection Area of the Aquifer Protection Overlay District. **Motion passed.**

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

3. Follow Up from Last Meeting (Discussion/Action Item). None.

4. Public Comments (Discussion). Hoggson spoke about the Historical Society's weekend events saying she felt it was a positive community effort. McCabe congratulated Hoggson and the Historical Society on their successful celebration. McCabe talked about fresh ideas and Foley Park. After some discussion, The Board asked that a further discussion of Foley Park ideas be put on the June 24<sup>th</sup> Selectboard agenda. Childs reminded people that the 61<sup>st</sup> annual Norwich Fair on the green is July 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. Olde Home Day and the proposed combining with a Norwich Family day were discussed. Webster said that Linda Cook, the Norwich Business Council and the Montshire Museum are all on board with this concept. Also discussed was the possibility of changing the Grange breakfast to that day. Lupien will follow up on this with the Grange.

5. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). Webster did an interview with the Norwich Times. Webster had meetings with Henry Scheier regarding the educational tax overpayment, CATV, Mascoma Bank regarding Norwich mortgage customers, Childs to go over Norwich Fair issues and members of the Energy Committee and Cheney to discuss the H.446 bill. The bandstand is substantially completed. The handicap ramp will not be installed until after the paving/sidewalk project. There is a preconstruction conference for the project scheduled for June 24<sup>th</sup> at 10 am in Wilder. Webster is still waiting for the final construction numbers on the bandstand from Porter. The Paul Sample painting in the Town Clerk's Office is going to be reappraised. By consensus, the Selectboard agreed to appeal the Church Street speed limit decision by the State.

Nunan reminded people, the Town Manager and Board of a transportation discussion by Barbara McIlroy on June 29<sup>th</sup> at the Bugbee Center.

Kaufman spoke briefly about the Town's CLA appeal being denied saying he would probably have more information for the Selectboard's next meeting.

At this point there ensued a fairly lengthy discussion about uncontrolled dogs at Huntley urinating and defecating on public property and owners not using the supplied mutt mitts. Alma Gray said there were problems at the cemetery also. Chief Robinson discussed the Norwich Animal Control Ordinance and the message he put out on the Town Email List and Norwich Digest reminding people of the fines associated with noncompliance.

6. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). After discussion of one item, Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Blake) to approve Check Warrant Report #09-25 for the period from 5/28/2009 to 6/10/2009 in the amount of \$153,682.80; of which \$153,430.86 is General Fund, \$30.49 is Police Station Fund and \$221.45 is Bandstand Fund. **Motion passed.**

7. Town of Norwich Open Position Interview/Appointment (Discussion/Action Item). Mitchell spoke about his background and willingness to serve and was thanked by the Board for his offer. Lupien **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Racusin) to appoint Robert Mitchell to the Finance Committee for a three-year term ending in March, 2012. **Motion passed.**

8. Norwich Open Meeting Policy (Discussion/Action Item). Dechert said it is the same document the Selectboard had before except for two changes on page 3. Dechert provided an Option A with stricter language for Informal Work Sessions and a section of “responsibilities of the Town Manager’s Office”. Racusin discussed putting the last sentence of original paragraph on work sessions into Option A and rewriting the document in an outline format. Linda Gray spoke about some groups not taking formal minutes. A discussion was started about having a draft version of the minutes sent to the Town Manager’s Office within 10 days.

After the receipt of correspondence discussion continued. After considerable discussion regarding the 10 day time frame, Nunan polled the Board on having Lynn’s Law in quotes at the beginning of the document, 5 “business” days for minutes and which option the Board preferred for informal work sessions. By consensus, the Selectboard approved the Lynn’s Law language, 5 business days and the original Informal Work Session language. Childs asked that the Selectboard revisit the success of the 5 business days rule after a few months of it being in effect. Dechert was thanked for his efforts and reformatting will be done by Racusin for the next meeting.

9. Appointment with Margaret Cheney Re: Renewable Energy Bill H.446 (Discussion). Cheney briefly went over the bill saying it basically breaks down to four parts: promotes small scale local renewable energy projects by establishing the first statewide standard offer rates, enables towns to create clean energy assessment districts, expands the Vermont Clean Energy Development Fund and PILOT programs. Hess thanked Cheney and then discussed what the Energy Committee is proposing to do. They are talking about creating a solar electric system at no cost to the Town that will produce a profit. They wish to use a standard offer for a 300 kW project. The CREB allows the Town to float a zero percent coupon bond. The goal is to sell a large portion to local residents who will get tax credits. The first step is to apply for the authority to issue a bond. This application is due August 4<sup>th</sup>. A system design needs to be submitted with the application. The Energy Committee is proposing using the already awarded grant money to develop the design. The revenue rate will be fixed for 25 years and will be set by September 15<sup>th</sup> by the Public Service Board.

Childs said “it sounds too good to be true”. The Selectboard discussed the basics which are: the system has to be tied into the grid, it will be a Town-owned system and a new revenue stream that could possibly be used to reduce property tax rates. The identified site as most promising is the Highway Garage area. It will take up approximately an acre of land. The Board asked for a flowchart of dates and steps to review at their next meeting. The Energy Committee was asked to have this information available to the Town Manager’s Office by noon Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.

10. Town Report FY09 Process (Discussion/Action Item). There was discussion regarding the steps and timing involved and the difficulties of getting the reports turned in. It was agreed that Jean Lawe is an intricate part of the process. Webster offered the Town Manager’s Office as a “clearing house”. The Town Manager was asked to put together a sketch of how it works for the next Board meeting.

11. 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) Resident –

- a) Letter from Jill Kearney Re: Foley Park. Lupien **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Blake) to receive a letter from Jill Kearney re: Foley Park. **Motion passed.** Racusin summarized.
- b) Email from Chris Rimmer Re: River Park. Lupien **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Blake) to receive an email from Chris Rimmer Re: River Park. **Motion passed.** Racusin summarized.
- c) Email from Eugene & Valentina Demidenko Re: River Park. Lupien **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Blake) to receive an email from Eugene & Valentina Demidenko re: River Park. **Motion passed.** Racusin summarized.
- d) Email from Brian Livingston Re: Norwich Police Uniforms. Lupien **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Blake) to receive an email from Brian Livingston re: Norwich Police uniforms. **Motion passed.** Racusin summarized.
- e) Email from Don McCabe Re: Renewable Energy Legislation. Lupien **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Blake) to receive an email from Don McCabe re: renewable energy legislation. **Motion passed.** Racusin summarized.

b) Nonresident –

- a) Memo from TRORC Re: Demographics of Transportation Study of TRO Region. Lupien **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Blake) to receive a memo from TRORC re: demographics of Transportation Study of TRO region. **Motion passed.** Racusin summarized.

12. Selectboard

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the 5/27/09 Meeting. Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Lupien) to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2009 Selectboard meeting. **Motion passed.**
- b) Set Date for Policy/Ordinance Roundtable. After some discussion, Racusin was asked to work on developing a list of ordinances which would include their name and date last revised. The Roundtable date was set for July 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.
- c) Personnel (Executive Session may be Required). Pursuant to Title 1 VSA § 313(a)(3), Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Racusin) to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and to invite the Town Manager to join the session. **Motion passed.** The Selectboard moved into Executive Session at 9:28 pm.

Blake **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs) to move into public session. No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

Blake **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Racusin) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 10:15 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on June 24, 2009.

By Nancy Kramer  
Assistant to the Town Manager

Sarah Nunan  
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – June 24, 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) Lister Roundtable
- 8) Electronic Selectboard Packets on Website
- 9) Code of Conduct for Town Officials/Employees
- 10)Foley Park (6/24/09)
- 11)"Aging in Place"

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.