

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, October 14, 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 68 people in the audience.

Also participating: Jean Astley, Liz Blum, Judy Butler, Ames Byrd, Linda Cook, Phil Dechert, Jeff Doyle, Ted Emerson, Mario Dupigny-Giroux, George Fraser, Jim Gold, Melinda Goodwin, Alma Gray, Linda Gray, Kelly Griggs, John Hanchet, Andy Hodgdon, Nancy Hoggson, Harland Hoisington, Nelson Kasfir, Dennis Kaufman, Donald Kreis, Nancy LaRowe, Cheryl Lindberg, Brian Livingstone, Norm Miller, Dan Newhall, Matt Osborne, Stuart Richards, Harry Roberts, Chief Robinson, Arline Rotman, Allen Rowell, Josh Schultz, Ann Seibert, Dean Seibert, Demo Sofronas, Tristan Vaughn, Dan Weintraub.

Nunan opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

1. Selectboard Reorganization (Discussion/Action Item). Nunan discussed the "ground rules" asking that people remain civil. Childs **moved** to make Suzanne Lupien Chair of the Norwich Selectboard. Blake said he was supposed to second the motion but has reconsidered in light of public response. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

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

3. Follow Up from Last Meeting. Webster said that his office has only received eight town reports so far. Reminders have been done by Kramer and she is also working on updating the Town Report mailing list.

4. Public Comments (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Griggs mentioned that his understanding was that the Code of Conduct was supposed to be for the Selectboard not Town employees. Richards spoke about the continued importance of affordable housing. Miller talked about the lack of trust in the Town Manager and making a fresh start. Fraser said that voters wanted change and thanked Nunan for a job well done. Several townspeople commented on the number of executive sessions held by the Board since March. Kreis suggested that the Selectboard should let the Town Manager do his job. Childs read part of his prepared statement which was about communication issues between the Board and Webster. Racusin said Nunan is looking for accountability. Lupien pointed out that the Selectboard and Webster have not quarreled. Weintraub briefly spoke about the economy. Lindberg reminded townspeople that the Fall Nearly New Sale is this weekend. Goodwin, who earlier had spoke against the bike lane, said she is happy with the end result and wanted the Board to know. Racusin, on behalf of the Selectboard, thanked the Corridor and Transportation Committees for all they did to bring the improvements to fruition.

5. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). Webster gave a brief update on the paving project saying it is mostly complete. Webster has been meeting with Department Heads to discuss their budgets and is on track to have the first draft of the budget to the Board by October 28th. The Solar Project has been awarded a somewhat unexpected grant of \$150,000 from the VT CEDF. Webster, along with Michaelides, met one more time with Gamble during the morning school rush hour to discuss extending the 25 mph zone on Church Street. Work has started on the Huntley Field sidewalk extension.

6. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). After discussion of two items, Lupien **moved** (2nd Racusin) to approve Check Warrant Report #10-07 for the period from 9/24/2009 to 10/14/2009 in the amount of \$175,419.42; of which \$166,505.88 is General Fund, \$4,175 is Solar Projects Fund, \$4,068.54 is Police Cruiser Fund, \$150 is Corridor Grant Fund and \$520 is Bandstand Fund. **Motion passed.**

7. Appointment of Demo Sofronas to White River Council on Aging Board (Discussion/Action Item). Sofronas spoke about once again his being happy to serve the Town in this capacity. After a brief discussion, Blake **moved** (2nd Childs) to recommend Demo Sofronas as a board member from the community of Norwich to the White River Council on Aging for a three-year term. **Motion passed.**

8. **7:30 pm** - Route 132 and Union Village Island (Discussion). Schultz went over the basics of the High Risk Rural Roads grant program saying their improvements are based on crash data and that their goal is to improve safety. The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission picks the sites. Traffic data came from Chuck Wise of TRORC. Several townspeople spoke of their concerns with the island, signage, guardrails and making turns. The consensus of those present was that some modifications need to occur. Schultz spoke about the traffic island controlling traffic and making it predictable. Schultz has heard the concerns, has some ideas for improving the intersection and will bring these before VTrans. Schultz will also get traffic data from Wise.

9. **8:15 pm** – Certified Local Government (CLG) and Draft Ordinance for Historic Preservation Commission (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Dechert said the Planning Commission unanimously supports the adoption of the Ordinance with one change to section 2.G.(4). Dechert also spoke about his administrative concerns regarding no funds in the budget for grant matching etc. Other towns, such as Shelburne, Harford and Stowe, budget funds. Staff time is also currently an issue and Dechert would prefer putting off any new projects until well into next year. Also discussed was that the Commission would not be involved with any Development Review Board reviews at this time. The Commission's responsibility would be to create and maintain a system for the survey and inventory of historic properties within the Town of Norwich.

After some discussion regarding the ordinance process, pursuant to Title 24 VSA § 1971, Childs **moved** (2nd Blake) for the Selectboard to adopt the Ordinance for Historic Preservation Commission as amended. **Motion passed.** Lupien abstained.

10. **8:30 pm** – Solar Project Update and Standard Offer Contract (Discussion/Action Item). Webster said that this is the next step in the Solar Project and will enable the Project to get into the queue at the beginning which is October 19th. Gray explained that there is a \$200 nonrefundable fee and a \$2,370 fee calculated at \$10 per kilowatt that is refundable if the project is commissioned within three years or if the project is withdrawn from the queue within the first year.

After some discussion regarding the funding, Childs **moved** (2nd Racusin) to authorize the Town Manager to sign the Standard Offer Contract and to approve the use of \$2,570 of designated funds to cover the nonrefundable \$200 fee and the \$2,370 refundable deposit. **Motion passed.**

Ted Emerson of South Face was present and answered some technical questions regarding the solar hot water supply for the Town Garage. This item will be further discussed at the October 28th 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 –

1) #11 a), b) and c). Letter from Folger Tuggle Re: Increased Risk, Guardrail on Union Village Road at “Helena Johnson” Hill, Letter from Susan McGrew Re: “Lynn’s Law”, Email from Nancy Dean Re: Historic Preservation. Lupien **moved** (2nd Childs) to receive a letter from Folger Tuggle re: increased risk, guardrail on Union Village Road at “Helena Johnson” Hill, a letter from Susan McGrew re: “Lynn’s Law” and an email from Nancy Dean re: Historic Preservation. **Motion passed.** Lupien read McGrew’s letter. Nunan summarized the other two.

b) Nonresident –

1) #11 d). Letter of Thanks from SEVCA. Lupien **moved** (2nd Racusin) to receive a letter of thanks from SEVCA. **Motion passed.** Nunan summarized.

12. Selectboard

a) Approval of the Minutes of the 9/23/09 Meeting. Blake **moved** (2nd Childs) to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2009 Selectboard meeting. **Motion passed.**

- b) Authorize the Town Manager to be Case Manager for Mascoma vs. Town of Norwich. After a brief discussion, Lupien **moved** (2nd Childs) to authorize the Town Manager to be the Case Manager for Mascoma vs. Town of Norwich. **Motion passed.**
- c) Central Vermont Public Service Corporation (CVPS) Notification to Install 7 Utility Poles Within the Right of Way of Campbell Flats Road. Webster said that this is just a straight forward housekeeping issue. Lupien **moved** (2nd Blake) to authorize the Town Manager to sign the CVPS Notification to Install 7 Utility Poles Within the Right of Way of Campbell Flats Road. **Motion passed.**
- d) Review Follow-Up Items. Nunan will work on letter to Hardy. Webster will make sure Hodgdon forwards all correspondence regarding the Route 132 and Union Village Island to the State engineers. Webster will coordinate with Roberta Robinson regarding the checks for the Standard Offer Contract.

Lupien **moved** (2nd Blake) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on October 28, 2009.

By Nancy Kramer
Assistant to the Town Manager

Sarah Nunan
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – October 28, 2009 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Town Report FY09
- 2) Vehicle Acquisition and Replacement Policy/NORCAP Report/Strategic Planning
- 3) Municipal Enforcement of the VT Fire Prevention and Building Code
- 4) Code of Conduct for Town Officials/Employees
- 5) Listening Posts/ Bulletin Board at Transfer Station for Outreach
- 6) "Aging in Place" (10/28/09)
- 7) Class 1 Road Designation (10/28/09)
- 8) Town Boundaries
- 9) Lister Roundtable
- 10) Ownership of Foley Park
- 11) Solar Hot Water Supply for Town Highway Garage (10/28/09)

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