

**Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of  
Friday, April 2, 2010 at 10 am at the Forest Center in Woodstock, VT**

Members present: Roger Blake, Chair; Ed Childs; Sharon Racusin; Uwe Bagnato; Pete Webster, Town Manager, Brian Walsh, Hanover Selectboard Chair, Julia Griffin, Hanover Town Manager (arrived at 10:20). Missing: Suzanne Lupien. There was one resident in the audience; Henry Scheier (arrived at 10:15, left at 11:45)

Blake opened the meeting at 10:10 am.

This special meeting of the Selectboard was a prior suggestion by one of the Board members, to be held as a retreat to go over procedural matters and discuss how the Board and the Town Manager could work better as a team. Walsh and Griffin had been enlisted to share their thoughts, how their board works, and to offer their insights as to what worked well for their team.

A general discussion ensued that touched upon a range of issues, including, but not limited to the following: how the Board and the Town Manager might communicate better, who speaks for the Board and the Town to the media, from whom the Town Manager takes his/her direction, how to better structure the bi-weekly Selectboard agendas, how the Town Manager can better inform and prepare the Selectboard members about key agenda items, issues surrounding the open meeting law, refining procedures for follow up items, permitting the Town Manager a more active role in the creation of agendas and the actual conduct of the Selectboard meetings.

Walsh and Griffin briefly described how they have come to work together over a 14 year period as a close-knit team, offering their thoughts on the varied duties of the Selectboard members and the Town Manager, and how that relationship has evolved into the smooth-running operation that currently exists. There was a boxed lunch that was brought in for a working lunch, and the discussion continued in the afternoon, with Walsh and Griffin leaving at 2:05. Discussions continued, touching on some of Steve Flanders' fine suggestions, and the proposed draft of a Code of Conduct that Ed Childs had modified from a similar code used in Sebago, Maine. It was decided to provide Ed with further refinements/additions/deletions to the proposed Code for a future Selectboard discussion.

It was agreed by the five remaining that this effort had been a resoundingly positive experience, that much had been gleaned from the input of Walsh and Griffin, and all pledged to work towards positive changes. The possibility of a follow-up retreat to be held at some future time was discussed, as possibly being beneficial as well.

Blake moved to adjourn at 3:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete Webster

Approved by the Selectboard on April 14, 2010.

Roger Blake  
Selectboard Chair