

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of  
Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 6:30 pm

Members present: John Pepper, Chair; Claudette Brochu; Linda Cook; Mary Layton; John Langhus; Phil Dechert, Acting Town Manager; Miranda Bergmeier, Assistant to the Town Manager.

There were about 30 people in the audience.

Also participating: John Farrell, Stuart Richards, Cheryl Lindberg, Linda Gray, Jack Cushman, Ernie Ciccotelli, Thad Goodwin, Charlotte Metcalf, Jill Kearney Niles, Christy Pearce, Sarah Martin, Omer Trajman, Norm Levy, Aaron Lamperti, Linda Gray, Robert Gere, Nancy Osgood, Kris Clement, Dennis Kaufman, and Marcia Calloway.

John Pepper opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

1. Liquor Licenses (Discussion/Action Item). Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Langhus) to convene as the Norwich Liquor Commission. **Motion passed unanimously.** Pepper **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Layton) to approve liquor license applications for Fraser General Store (d/b/a Dan & Whit's) – 1 license, Green Visions (d/b/a Norwich Inn) – 3 licenses, and L'Elephant Vert (d/b/a Carpenter & Main) – 2 licenses. **Motion passed unanimously.** Pepper **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Layton) to close the Norwich Liquor Commission session and reconvene as the Selectboard meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**
2. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). The Selectboard (SB) agreed to remove item #10 (Finance Committee Project Update) and address the topic during the next Selectboard meeting.
3. Approval of Minutes (Action Item). Langhus **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Layton) to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2018 and March 14, 2018 Selectboard meetings as amended by the comments in the Selectboard meeting packet. **Motion passed unanimously.**
4. Correspondence (Discussion/Action Item). Langhus **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Layton) to receive correspondence from John Farrell regarding Norwich Farm Creamery; Tony and Liz Gemignani regarding Norwich Farm Creamery; John Langhus and Charlotte Metcalf regarding the VT Climate Pledge Coalition resolution; Jennifer Shepherd regarding Norwich Farm Creamery; from Elissa Bradley regarding Norwich Farm Creamery; from Bruce and Stephanie Andrus regarding Norwich Farm Creamery; from Andrew Scherer regarding Norwich Farm Creamery; from John Saroyan regarding Norwich Farm Creamery; from Betty Barba regarding Norwich Farm Creamery; from Fiona Garrett regarding Norwich Farm Creamery; from Alexander Fuld and Shoshana Hort regarding Norwich Farm Creamery; from Bill Scavone and Miriam Horowitz regarding Norwich Farm Creamery; from Jeff Goodrich regarding the Planning Commission; and from Linda Gray regarding Norwich Fire District solar site. **Motion passed unanimously.**
5. Public Comments (Discussion Item). John Farrell quoted excerpts from various letters about the Norwich Farm and spoke about when the Swifts left the property and the sequence of events leading up to the current situation. Stuart Richards invited the public to a meeting about affordable housing on Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00-9:00 pm in Tracy Hall. Richards urged the Selectboard to put the issue of reinstating the Affordable Housing Fund up for a town vote. Richards asked if the Selectboard has a timeline for the Town Plan revision and Cook replied that the Selectboard will be talking about that. Cheryl Lindberg asked the Selectboard members to talk about what they learned at their recent training. Brochu said that the Open Meeting Law (OML) information was very interesting, especially who is covered and what are the requirements. Layton said she learned a great deal about road maintenance, and found that Norwich is in very good shape with an excellent

road crew and department. Cook said she went to the HR learning session and found it informative. Pepper said that Norwich is in very good shape for its processes and departments. Linda Gray asked if/when the Selectboard will address the “preferred site” issue for a proposed solar energy site. Langhus said he will suggest the issue be on the Selectboard’s 4/11/2018 agenda. Jack Cushman said he supports the Energy Committee and the efforts of solar entrepreneurs, and wants the Selectboard to move quickly on the solar power issue. Ernie Ciccotelli said he is enthusiastic about solar power, and spoke about the issue of the retirement of energy credits.

6. Applicants for Open Positions (Discussion/Action Item). Thad Goodwin said that he has been the town’s Tree Warden for four years. Goodwin said he hears about tree issues from the public and then he talks to the town DPW about getting those issues resolved. Pepper **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Cook) to appoint Thad Goodwin to the position of Tree Warden for a one-year term ending in March 2019. **Motion passed unanimously.** Jill Kearney Niles, Recreation Director, thanked Chris Clapp and John Girard for their work on the Recreation Council, and said she is excited to support Christy Pearce and Sarah Martin as candidates for the Recreation Council. Christy Pearce said she greatly enjoys working with youth in sports. Pepper **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Langhus) to appoint Christy Pearce to the Recreation Council for a three-year term ending in March 2021. **Motion passed unanimously.** Sarah Martin said that she has kids who are athletes and she is very invested in working with youth. Langhus **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Layton) to appoint Sarah Martin to the Recreation Council for a three-year term ending in March 2021. **Motion passed unanimously.** Omer Trajman said that he has been learning about Town taxes and finances, and would like to help by serving on the Finance Committee. Langhus **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Layton) to appoint Omer Trajman to the Finance Committee for a two-year term ending in March 2020. **Motion passed unanimously.** Norm Levy said that he wants to continue working on extending solar energy to low and moderate income people. Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Pepper) to appoint Norman Levy to the Energy Committee for a three-year term ending in March 2021. **Motion passed unanimously.** Aaron Lamperti said he lives in an off-the-grid hay bale house and wants to join the Energy Committee to continue working on energy issues. Langhus **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Cook) to appoint Aaron Lamperti to the Energy Committee for a three-year term ending in March 2021. **Motion passed unanimously.** Linda Gray said she wants to continue campaigns to solarize and weatherize, and start working on transportation issues. Langhus said that Gray has led the Energy Committee ably and Norwich is a leader in renewables. Cook said the Energy Committee has been very active and asked Gray if she has any conflicts of interest; Gray said that no, she doesn’t. Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Langhus) to appoint Linda Gray to the Energy Committee for a three-year term ending in March 2021. **Motion passed unanimously.** Robert Gere said that he wants to serve on the Energy Committee because he wants to work harder on energy issues. Gere has been impressed by the committee members’ attention to the financial costs of energy infrastructure. Langhus **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Layton) to appoint Robert Gere to the Energy Committee for a three-year term ending in March 2021. Nancy Osgood asked about being reappointed to the Historical Preservation Commission, and said that she would like to continue to serve. Osgood said she does research in the land records to support the Commission’s work. Selectboard members agreed to vote on her reappointment during an April Selectboard meeting, closer to the time Osgood’s current appointment term is ending.

7. Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Discussion/Action Item). Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Langhus) to approve check warrant #18-21 for General Admin Fund in the amount of \$699.00; for Highway Garage Fund in the amount of \$206.00; for Public Safety Facility Fund in the amount of \$52,381.75; and for General Fund in the amount of \$1,135,871.75. **Motion passed unanimously.**

7a. Request for Expenditure from Tracy Hall Designated Fund. Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Pepper) to authorize the expenditure of up to \$7,947.12 from the Tracy Hall Designated Fund for a new fire alarm system and emergency lighting at Tracy Hall. **Motion passed unanimously.**

8. Board of Listers RFP for Appraisal Services (Discussion Item). Cheryl Lindberg said the Board of Listers (BOL) has been working on an RFP for assessor services; the draft was included in the Selectboard meeting packet. BOL has not set a timeline for the RFP yet, and is seeking Selectboard feedback on their draft. Langhus offered some comments on the indemnity provision in the RFP, and suggested striking some of the draft language. Cook asked if the RFP covers the things the BOL want out of the contract relationship. Lindberg and Kris Clement said that yes, it will. Langhus said he thought the RFP was well-drafted. Selectboard members and BOL members agreed that the BOL will take the Selectboard edits and comments into account to edit the RFP and put it out for bids.

9. Selectboard Goals (Discussion/Action Item). Selectboard members discussed the merits of Brochu's proposal for a method of identifying goals. They agreed to try it, and set a special meeting for that purpose on Thursday, April 5, 2018 4:00-6:00 pm in the Tracy Hall multipurpose room.

10. (Moved to future meeting)

11. Town Manager Report w/Financial Report (Discussion Item). Phil Dechert, Acting Town Manager, said that Herb Durfee, Town Manager, was continuing to recover and will return to the office next Monday, April 2, 2018. Selectboard members discussed how to proceed with getting written financial reports, and agreed to discuss this further with Durfee when he returns. Dechert said the new Administrative Clerk started on March 29, 2018 and that is going well. The Fire Chief hiring review panel has convened and identified two candidates for interview next weekend. The process is going well so far. The town budget spending is overall in good shape relative to budgeted amounts. The road work spending is far higher, due to the July 2017 storm, and there are some building project cost overruns due to unforeseen issues. Brochu asked about issuing an announcement about the police station's new location. Chief Robinson said that he will post on the listserv.

12. Treasurer Quarterly Report (Discussion Item). This matter was not discussed, as the Treasurer was not in attendance at this time.

13. Selectboard Calendar of Meetings (Discussion/Action Item). Selectboard members agreed to remove the July 25, 2018 meeting from the calendar. Langhus **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Brochu) to approve the Norwich Selectboard meeting calendar as amended by eliminating the 7/25/2018 meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

14. Review of Next Agendas (Discussion/Action Item). The Selectboard agreed to include in their April 11, 2018 agenda the following items:

- Finance Committee - Dissolution of Current Finance Committee
- Audit Committee
- New Finance Committee Charge
- Energy Committee - Preferred Site Issue
- Review of Committee Charge
- Update from Committee

Town Plan Update  
Committee Communication & Accountability  
Open Meeting Law Discussion/Summary  
Conflict of Interest  
Selectboard Goals

At 9:35 pm, Langhus **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Layton) to adjourn. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

By Miranda Bergmeier

Approved by the Selectboard on April 11, 2018

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John Pepper  
Selectboard Chair

Next Meetings – April 5, 2018 – Special Meeting for setting Selectboard goals at 4:00 PM  
April 11, 2018 - (regular) Meeting at 6:30 PM

PLEASE NOTE THAT CATV RECORDS ALL REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE NORWICH  
SELECTBOARD.