

**HYDE PARK SELECTBOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 12, 2015**

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Members Present: Brian Jones, Vice-Chair; Roland Boivin; Pete Couture and Roger Audet  
Members Absent: David Gagnier, Chair  
Others Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Amy O'Toole; Thomas O'Toole; Peter Gallo; Dan Young; Carol Young; David Polow; Andrew Martin, Riki French; Kevin Audet; Tim Yarrow; Gary Anderson; Fire Chief Ed Webster; Sigh Searles; Fran Aronovici; John Savage; Scott Audet; Deanna Judkins; Nancy Tingle; Julie Rohleder; John Rohleder; Brad Carriere; Scott Griswold; Ryan Nolan; Jim Fontaine; NHP/Eden Fire Chief Eric Aither; Rob Moore from LCPC; GMATV videotaped this meeting.

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Brian Jones called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. **Welcome**, changes to the agenda, if any, & public comment: No changes to the agenda.
2. **Hyde Park Connectivity Project** – Andrea Day, PE – Andrea presented, for public review, the comments received to date and the preliminary alternatives developed. A draft purpose and needs statement was reviewed and will be finalized. Constraints on the various alternatives are being identified and the scoping process. The alternatives development process is required due to the federal funding which supports future VTrans Bike-Ped Grant Program grant applications. Andrea noted that the comments from the local concerns meeting and the recent public outreach survey through the electric billing have now been tabulated. A proposed crossing of Route 15 at Black Farm Road was identified as a priority, including Church St, Johnson St Extension and West Main St improvements. The preliminary alternatives list includes cost estimates and options for road crossings of Route 15; including a pedestrian bridge or a tunnel at Black Farm Road. Challenges exist in this area from wetlands, steep banks and high costs. Costs range as high as \$1.2 million. The Johnson St Extension at-grade crossing and improvements along Route 15 with a separate paved path to the high school is over \$700,000. Nancy Tingle asked why the connection is a Hyde Park project not a state or school project, noting that a crossing of Route 15 is too dangerous. Nancy asked who is paying for it and Andrea stated that it would be state and federal funds with a town match. Andrea explained that the point of this meeting is to attain public comment and all alternatives are being discussed. Andrea reviewed Church St options which include a sidewalk proposed on the east side, typical cross-sections and including on-street parking spaces. Church St challenges include structures close to the road, steep slopes and not much room for bicycle routes to get to the roundabout. Church St costs are under \$600,000 for one sidewalk extension with sidewalks on both sides for \$920,000. Amy O'Toole suggested one-lane vehicular traffic going out of the village which allows for much improved pedestrian and bicycles. Riki French asked what the process was for comment and Andrea noted that was the reason for this public meeting. East Main St options were reviewed with a route on the north side with crosswalks to the school. East Main challenges include the Centerville Brook, and steep slopes with benefits to connect the east side of the village to Main St. Andrea noted that the recommended width of a shared use path is 8-feet. The cost of East Main St is about \$750,000 for a route adjacent to the road. West Main Street was looked at with the need for sidewalk repairs along West Main and possibly adding a wider gravel shoulder which is the lowest cost option of under \$450,000. Archeological sensitive areas exist with all alternatives. Signage improvements can be added where bicycles share vehicle lanes. Riki French expressed concern for the lack of the Trustees' involvement in the process and the low turnout from residents. Riki asked about the costs and where the funding would come from over this long-term project. David Polow stated that bridge is important as at-grade crossing would be dangerous and tunnels are hazardous, noting that the Morrisville LVRT pedestrian bridge is a good example of a crossing. Tim Yarrow asked why the Trustees have not been involved suggesting that the recent survey was not so good. Tim

asked how do we know if any of this information is useful? Tim explained that the trustees must be involved, and he feels that after numerous requests have been made, the trustees have not been allowed to participate. Tim stated that he has not been advised how to participate in this village-centric project. Tim noted that the Trustees signed a resolution seeking involvement and the Trustees are bound to represent the village residents. Tim asked if the project can be delayed. Nancy Tingle asked about the sidewalk reserve funds and if the funds available for projects including the 10% match for this project. Nancy suggested using the funds on existing sidewalks that residents will use and not for creating a crossing of Route 15. Amy O'Toole stated she uses Johnson St Extension and then crosses Route 15 to get to the high school. Andrea advised that residents are encouraged to submit comments on the alternatives through the Dufresne Group website – [www.dufresnengroup.com](http://www.dufresnengroup.com). The Board thanked everyone for their comments.

3. **FY2017 Budget** – Library Department Budget – Lanpher Memorial Library Trustees; Sigh Searles, Fran Aronovici and Julie Rohleder, were present. Sigh explained that the growth in the use of the library is requiring a 3.89% budget increase and increases for adult & children materials, noting that unexpected expenses have been covered through other library funds. For example, fundraisers help fund the operations and enabled an increase from \$10,000 to \$12,000 for the contribution to help reduce the cost to taxpayers. The Board thanked the trustees for attending.
4. **FY2017 Budget** – Fire Department – Chief Aither provided an overview of the North Hyde Park/Eden Fire Department budget which has a 6.2% increase or \$3,500. Chief Webster presented a budget of 2.5% increase or an increase of \$1,500. Chief Webster advised that the floor drains at the fire station need to be closed or treated according to a recent letter from the State. Roland advised that he felt the June 2016 deadline would go away but any new facilities will need to implement stricter controls on wastewater from garage repair bays. Chief Webster noted that the furnace at the fire station is about 20 years old and might need replacement soon based on past emergency calls over the last couple of years. Chief suggested using the capital reserve or maybe a one-year line item to replace the furnace and any new furnace should be two-zones; one for the meeting room and one for bays. The Board thanked everyone for attending.
5. **FY2017 Budget** – Northern Emergency Medical Service (NEMS) – Mike Paradis, President Newport Ambulance and Scott Griswold, NEMS representative requested a 3.2% increase overall with a per capita increase for Hyde Park of about \$2,400 or about 3.1% compared to FY2016. This is about \$26.67 per capita compared to \$25.85 for the current year. Scott noted that the capital reserves are being re-funded and a new note is coming due in FY2017. Scott advised that Morrisville should not continue to rely on NEMS for coverage, especially when no one is placed on call for Morrisville Rescue. Mike Paradis noted that the new crew in Morrisville is trying hard but there are still issues with coverage. Mike noted that NEMS has about 10 full-time staff with shared admin in Newport providing 24-7 coverage. Scott suggested coordinating a meeting with the Morrisville Selectboard and inviting the Town of Johnson. Brad Carriere noted that Hyde Park had no coverage for a recent seizure incident due to the NEMS ambulance going to Burlington on a transport while Morrisville had no crew. Mike noted that he checks to see if a transport request is from a resident in the 5 member towns of NEMS before sending the ambulance to Burlington. Roland noted that Morrystown leaves on transports but has left no coverage for their town, requiring NEMS to cover Morrisville. Mike noted that Medicaid rates are declining which hurts revenues. The Board will seek a meeting with the Town of Morrisville to review this concern of NEMS covering Morrisville more than should be expected for regular mutual aid coverage.
6. **Green Mountain Byway** – Letter of Support to Designate VT100. A draft letter will be brought to the December Selectboard meeting.
7. **Hyde Park Town Listers** – Grandlist Errors & Omissions, Nov 2015 – Motion by Pete to approve the E&O report and accept the changes to the 2015 Grandlist. Seconded by Roger. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. Town-Wide Reappraisal Funding Request (with work in 2016 & 2017) – Town Lister Julie Rohleder reported that at an October Board of Listers' meeting, the Board voted to move forward with a town-wide reappraisal to level the playing field for all taxpayers. Julie noted that there is \$128,091 in the reappraisal reserve which is available and about \$14,000 more anticipated from the State. Julie estimated that the projected costs would be under this amount. Motion by Roger

to release the reserve funds to the Listers for the town-wide reappraisal. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. The listers advised that the next step would be to seek bids on the project.

8. **Certified Local Government** – Recommendation from Planning Commission – Ron reported that this topic is deferred to next year to give the Planning Commission more time to review the details of designation as a CLG town.
9. **Tyler Maynard** – Seek reimbursement for town repair to Diggins Rd – Ron reported that the road repairs to the north side of Diggins road were not completed as ordered by the Selectboard so the highway crew completed the repair work. Motion by Pete to authorize Brian Jones to sign a letter advising Tyler Maynard to work with the town before the December Selectboard meeting to work out reimbursement for the town's road repair costs. Seconded by Roger. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
10. **Ag Land Lease** – McFarlane Road Ballfields – Motion by Roland to enter a 5-year contract with the Ring family to mow the ballfields at \$45/acre/year. Seconded by Roger. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. Ron will work out a new lease with the Rings for signature at the December meeting.
11. **Road Committee Recommendations** – Continue review on “Needs More Work” list – Brian stated that the road list is in the October minutes; including Diggins Road and Sylvan Road, noting that those are the road with legal issues. Carol Young stated that she has not been told what the next step is and Brian stated that the board is just starting to develop a needs list. Carol asked about the safety of Sylvan Road and Ron reported that Kenny has visited the site and is planning on preparing the road for winter plowing. Pete mentioned that a new road along the south side of the cemetery could be an option. Carol noted that road would need to cross the Tingle property and Ron stated that Nancy Tingle has objected to that option. Carol asked for a written opinion that Sylvan Road is safe for fire equipment access and Pete Couture stated he is not an engineer to give that opinion. Dan Young reported that some gravel was recently added to the slumping side of Sylvan Road but it is not going to last. Dan Young noted that Sylvan Road is continuing to deteriorate and needs attention and it should not be the landowners' responsibility to upgrade the road. Brian stated that he would not be recommending that the town return the road to the landowners. The Board will ask a couple of local contractors to estimate the cost of stabilizing Sylvan Road. Jim Fontaine asked if any discussion has come up for minimum road standards and Pete stated 18-foot with 0-shoulders seem to be where it is headed. Jim asked about existing roads that do not comply and if developers be required to increase the width. The Board agreed to continue to work on a policy on road standards in December.
12. **Review minutes:** Motion by Roger to approve the minutes of October 15, 2015 with a change on page 3 to add "which" after "Richardson Road" and to approve the minutes of October 8, 2015, as written. Seconded by Pete. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
13. **Review Town Orders** – Motion by Roger to approve the town orders. Seconded by Pete. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
14. **Other Business**
  - i. **New Members on the Hyde Park Community Circle** – The Community Circle recently agreed to the have Theresa Farquharson to 2017 & Deborah Henderson to 2018 fill two vacancies – Motion by Roger to approve the appointments of Farquharson and Henderson as requested by the Community Circle. Seconded by Pete. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
  - ii. **Barnes Road** – Intersection concerns at Whitcomb Island and suggestions from LCPC. Rob Moore from Lamoille County Planning Commission stated that he could reach out to the State Agency of Transportation for suggestions on safety and signage on Barnes Road between Battle Row Road and the Whitcomb Island bridge. Rob noted that to work through the state sign grant program, it could take over 3 years to actually install signs. Ron advised that if the state can prepare a sign plan following the federal MUTCD guidelines, the highway crew could add the sign installation costs to the annual highway budget. Ron noted that Bill Ashline

and Fred Prevost have expressed concern for Gihon River erosion occurring on the east side of their properties, south of the Whitcomb Island Bridge. Rob noted that both VTrans and ANR are trying to be more open up to creative and quicker solutions to local issues and he will reach out to them for suggestions on the signs and erosion issues.

- iii. **Town Reports** – Annual publication costs have increased due to increased distribution requirements in state law so those costs will need to be covered in this current budget year and budgeted adequately for in next year’s budget. Ron will bring the administration budget, including the town report costs, with highway’s budget, to the December meeting. Ron mentioned that the highway department structure should be discussed soon, especially if Ken is retiring in the spring. Roland agreed that the department should be reviewed and considered for increase from 4 to 5 year-round crew members. Ron will prepare a highway budget example showing the difference between five full-time members and the current 4.5-person budget at the Selectboard’s December meeting. Ron advised that the current budget would also need to increase for benefit costs.
- iv. **Traffic Ordinance** – Brian noted that the Village Traffic Ordinance is in effect as of Nov 10<sup>th</sup> but the Village does not have authority to adopt one as it is a town highway. Ron advised that the 2015 Village Traffic Ordinance has moved forward over the objection by the town and the town attorney could write a letter clarifying the Village’s authority within the town highway right-of-way. Roland noted that the need to update the village streets ordinance started last winter regarding winter parking. Brian agreed noting that the Trustees went forward with an ordinance addressing much more than winter parking. Roland advised that the Town should update its 2004 ordinance in a simple matter, just to address winter parking. The Board asked that winter parking be on the Selectboard’s December agenda. The Board asked that the town attorney send a letter to the Village advising them of the highway right-of-way authority and the Selectboard’s plan to work on a new village streets ordinance at their next meeting.
- v. **Connectivity Project** – From earlier in this meeting, Riki French, on behalf of the Village trustees, asked that the Connectivity project be delayed so the Trustees could have more time to provide comment. Brian noted that it is only a planning project and the trustees and all Hyde Park residents have had the chance to participate. Ron noted that the entire process has been public and the trustees have received the same notices as residents and could participate in that process. The Board discussed the upcoming process of completing the scoping study and then deciding if anything moves forward to construction. Ron noted that scoping studies are needed before future grant applications are pursued for construction, noting that costs to repair and improve existing sidewalks can also be done through the sidewalk reserve fund. No new meetings on this project were discussed and a final report is expected in December.

15. **Adjourn** – Motion by Roger to adjourn. Seconded by Pete. So voted at 8:40 p.m.