

**HYDE PARK SELECTBOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
April 30, 2014**

*All minutes are draft until approved by the Selectboard; please check future minutes for approval of these minutes. Meetings may be video taped and such recordings are held by Green Mountain Access Television. Recording info: POB 581, Hyde Park, VT 05655; [info@greenmountainaccess.tv](mailto:info@greenmountainaccess.tv) or 802-851-1592*

**Members Present:** David Gagnier (DG), Chair; Roger Audet (RA); Pete Couture (PC) and Roland Boivin (RB)

**Members Absent:** Brian Jones (BJ), Vice-Chair;

**Others Present:** Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Kathy Hobart; David Williams (by phone); Tricia Harper, BGS Architect; Charlie Aronovici; Anne Conway; Ralph Larson; Mickey Smith – News and Citizen (site visit only); Green Mountain Access Television videotaped this meeting.

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**3:00 p.m. SITE VISIT – Commonwealth Ave; behind courthouse**

DG asked Tricia Harper to review the locations of the proposed courthouse expansion that would be inside the Commonwealth Avenue right-of-way. Tricia Harper had previously set stakes at the corners of the south building addition which extended into the public right-of-way by about 13 feet, with additional proposed uses of the right-of-way being new granite curbing, landscaping, two parallel parking spaces and a subsurface stormwater system.

**3:30 p.m. MEETING – Request for permission to use public right-of-way – 19 VSA 1111**

Tricia Harper reviewed the plans and drawings for the project, highlighting the items to be built within the public right-of-way (TH#68 – Commonwealth Ave), explaining that the number of proposed parking spaces on the parcel is increased by 2 spaces from the current amount and 28 geothermal wells are proposed to provide heating and cooling for the courthouse. Commonwealth Avenue is a Class 3 road (year-round town maintenance). Selectboard members expressed concern for the subsurface stormwater system and its risk to freezing since it is under the plowed road/parallel parking area. Ralph Larson stated that the possible sliver of land between the Larson parcel and the County parcel, which may be part of the Governor's Mansion parcel, should be dealt with now. Charlie Aronovici suggested that the road could be turned to one-way or discontinued if necessary. David Williams objected to discontinuance as it was a safety and access concern to the rear entrance of the courthouse and it was important to remain a public right-of-way. David Williams proposed that maintenance of a portion of Commonwealth Avenue could be taken over by the County or State if the Town was concerned about the new improvements impacting winter maintenance. Ron Rodjenski suggested that the use of a public right-of-way for structures was highly unusual but if the town did not want to discontinue the road, then the road could be reclassified to Class 4 from Main Street to the east side of the Larson barn. Ralph Larson suggested that a centerline survey be completed and recorded in order to ensure that the public right-of-way is not adjusted, or that information lost, in the future— regardless of its Class 3 or Class 4 standing. Charlie Aronovici stated that the Village Trustees are supportive of working on a solution so the project moves forward. Ralph Larson asked that the water runoff that now goes into a concrete ditch along the north side of the Larson barn be fixed during construction. The County was concerned about assuming additional costs for surveying and repairs but would continue those discussions if the proposed courthouse improvements could be approved in the right-of-way. The Selectboard agreed that those discussions could continue and they had no issues with the improvements in the right-of-way provided the road is reclassified to Class 4 (no winter maintenance) from Main Street to the Larson barn and the County provides the 19 VSA 111 application with any legal documents acceptable to all parties. The project will continue to be reviewed for zoning approval by the Hyde Park Development Review Board on May 6<sup>th</sup> now that the Selectboard is supportive of the use of the right-of-way.

Adjourn – Motion by RA to adjourn. Seconded by RB. So voted at 5:05 p.m.