

**HYDE PARK SELECTBOARD
MEETING MINUTES
July 10, 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 or 802-851-1592

Members Present: David Gagnier (DG), Chair; Pete Couture (PC); Roger Audet (RA); and Roland Boivin (RB)
Members Absent: Brian Jones (BJ), Vice-Chair
Others Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Jared Nunery, Larry Smith, Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT); Chris Whitlock, LUHS; Jim Heath, Road Committee; Green Mountain Access Television videotaped this meeting.

DG called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

1. **Welcome and Public Comment** – Ron Rodjenski informed the board of a dog bite that occurred earlier this week at 66 Garfield Crossroad. The victim filed an oral complaint and asked that the Selectboard take some action under the town ordinance, which includes holding a hearing to determine if the dog, Hercules, meets the definition of a “vicious dog”. Motion by RB to hold a public hearing on July 17, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. and to have the dog impounded until the matter is resolved. Seconded by RA. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
2. **VLCT Employee Benefits** – Larry Smith was present to review the life insurance benefit they now offer through Lincoln Financial which will save the town about \$700 in annual premiums because it is provided as a large group policy under VLCT. The policy includes accidental death and dismemberment coverage. VLCT also is now offering short-term disability insurance with an 8-day elimination period and payments at 50% of the employee’s regular pay, up to \$500 per week for 12 weeks. The annual cost is \$1,140 for all 40-hour employees. The Board will discuss at a later time.
3. **Ash Borer Report** – Chris Whitlock, Lamoille Union High School Science Department and Hyde Park Tree Warden Jared Nunery reviewed the high school class project that studied the Emerald Ash Borer risks in Hyde Park. LUHS students conducted site visits to all town roads and counted Ash Trees in the right-of-way, noting locations on a paper map. Chris noted that there are about 600 Ash trees in Hyde Park public highways right of ways. Jared suggested starting to put money away now to help with tree removal because Ash trees will begin to die within 5 years of when the Emerald Ash Borer appears. There are about 400 trees being over 6” in diameter. 36 trees are over 19” in diameter. Jared suggested that Ash trees should be considered for removal on a preemptive basis as it is easier to cut a live tree than dead tree, possibly donating the wood for use as firewood for people in need. Jared estimated that the Ash Borer would be here in 5 to 10 years. A final report and set of maps will be provided to the Town in the near future.
4. **Highway**
 - a. Discuss June 23, 2014 memo from Hyde Park Road Committee; RE: **Private Roads**. Jim Heath relayed the Committee’s concern for liability for taxpayers if injuries on private roads occur that do not belong to the town. Jim stated that taking over more roads will cost too much. The roads are Sylvan, Crabapple, Richardson, Mason & Hemingway. Jim noted that this would be a good time to notify landowners that winter maintenance won’t be done this coming winter. Ron R to set up an August meeting with the private road owners and the Selectboard.
 - b. FY2015 Small Projects: A used 2013 hay **mulcher** would cost \$7,500 - tabled until August so the Board could review the proposal submitted tonight. RB will check with Vermont Corrections on the cost for their construction services to build a proposed open **bay** for the town road grader. Motion by RB to sign the zoning permit application for the construction of a cold storage bay at the town garage. Seconded by PC. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

- c. **Update on LVRT Town Donation** of \$1,000 cash, labor and materials. The Board noted that the total town donation value is about \$11,000 and the guardrail being installed by VAST is valued at about \$5,000. The Board expressed concern for long-term maintenance of the trail and until the Board receives more information on this issue, the town will not provide any more additional in-kind services or materials.
 - d. **Purchase Orders** – winter salt, diesel fuel, chloride, cutting edges. Motion by RB to authorize DG to sign the following with vendors to be determined at a later time: #PO0027 for \$25,000 for chloride dust control; #PO0028 for plow blades for \$7,000; #PO0029 for winter road salt for \$85,000; and #PO0030 for \$68,900 for winter and summer diesel fuel. Seconded by RA. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
5. **Town Listers Errors and Omissions** – DG read the July listers' report on errors. Motion by RA to approve the Listers Errors and Omissions. Seconded by RB. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
 6. Letter from Marion Clegg asking the town to start to use the **Australian ballot voting system**. Kim Moulton and Dave Gagnier have spoken to Marion. DG informed her that a petition could be provided asking that the town meeting be done by Australian ballot. Today, John Clegg provided DG with a copy of a petition, not yet signed, that sought Australian balloting. DG will discuss the wording with John or Marion as it seems to indicate all money questions needed to be voted by Australian ballot, meaning no floor voting on money questions. Ron handed out a July 9, 2014 memo from Town Clerk Kim Moulton in regard to her conversation with Marion on elections.
 7. **Monthly Reports:** Review 'Task List' and 'Grants Watch' report & LCSD Police Incident Report
 8. **Minutes:** Motion by RA to approve the June 12, June 27 and July 2, 2014 minutes as written. Seconded by RB. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
 9. **Review Town Orders** – Motion by RA to approve town orders and warrants. Seconded by RB. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 10. Other Business**
- a. **Fire Station Water Meter** - Roland Boivin reported that a water meter is being installed to monitor water usage at the Hyde Park Fire Station with no charge right now for the meter, but the Village will let us know.
 - b. **ROW Clearing** - RB mentioned the option of hiring a company now working in Morristown to help clear the town right-of-way on Garfield Road. No action taken. The Board discussed the option of starting a new annual plan to clear all town road right-of-ways with a contractor. PC wanted to check out some roadside clearing equipment for this potential work and will report back to the board at a later time.
 - c. **UVM Roads Study** – An email invitation was received today asking if Hyde Park was interested in participating in a highway maintenance costs study with graduate students. The Board would like to meet with UVM representatives and Ron will confirm a date.
 - d. **Trustees Annual Meeting** – A November date was pushed to December due to November deer hunting season.
 - e. **Courthouse War Memorial** - Clegg's Memorials provided a \$250 estimate to clean stones this year and recommends once every 5 or so years thereafter. The Hyde Park Village Improvement Association entered into an agreement with the County for maintenance of the 3 large stones on the northeast corner of the courthouse parcel, but if the Association dissolves, then the Town takes over the responsibility. Ron has asked the Court and Association for a copy so that it can be filed with the Town Clerk. Cleaning will be done after review of the maintenance agreement.
 - f. **North Hyde Park Stormwater and Streetscape Scoping Study.** The RFP is ready to be advertised with a deadline for responses September 1, 2014. Motion by RB to appoint Greg Paus, David Harvey, and RA as the selection committee. Seconded by PC. Voting: 3 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstention (RA), motion passed.
11. **Adjourn** – Motion by PC to adjourn. Seconded by RA. So voted at 8:09 p.m.