

**HYDE PARK
SELECTBOARD & VILLAGE TRUSTEES**

**MEETING MINUTES
December 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: PO Box 581, Hyde Park, VT 05655; info@greenmountainaccess.tv or 802-851-1592*

Members Present: Selectboard: David Gagnier (DG), Chair; Brian Jones (BJ), Vice-Chair; Roland Boivin (RB); Pete Couture (PC) and Roger Audet (RA)
Village Trustees: John (Jack) Anderson, Chair, Charles (Charlie) Aronovici, Tim Yarrow, Peter Gallo, Frederika (Riki) French, Chair

Members Absent: Pete Couture (Selectboard); Roland Boivin (Selectboard)

Others Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Mark Woodard, State Rep.; Carroll Peters; Carol Robertson, Village General Manager; Green Mountain Access Television videotaped this meeting.

DG called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

1. Welcome and Public Comment – One modification to the agenda was allowed - acceptance of MPG15 grant award for \$8,000. Rep. Linda Martin was unable to attend due to weather-related poor road conditions.
2. State Representative Mark Woodard – Rep. Mark Woodard appeared and asked both boards about any town or village concerns they are facing. Tim Yarrow stated that school infrastructure funding is a large issue for the town. Regarding the current school funding debate, Rep. Woodard stated that \$50 - \$70 million in new funding is needed to make a difference on residential property taxes and in regard to state assistance for school capital projects, he offered that it may be part of the upcoming property tax reform discussions. Dave Gagnier stated that he was disappointed with the state's purchase of more land in Hyde Park which is resulting in less tax revenue and an increase to traffic. Rep. Woodard asked for a copy of the 2013 summer study report on state facilities and road maintenance costs serving those facilities. Brian Jones offered that the study used old traffic data since traffic to the Green River State Park in the summer is much more than 4% of all traffic.
3. HP Elementary School (*future, location and impact to Village*) – The Trustees inquired about the Selectboard's thoughts on the school renovation. Dave Gagnier stated that doing nothing is not the answer but neither was \$18 million. Roger stated that taking the existing school library out is not a good move. Roger wanted to see what the specific costs for demolition are and why removal of some existing areas, especially the new gym floor, needs to happen. Dave G suggested Greg Paus as possible new building committee member to assist the school board. Brian Jones stated that he objected to the comment from the school superintendent that the town should be ashamed for not having a new school. Brian explained that Hyde Park homeowners would pay for most of the \$18 million bond because we have less commercial properties to help reduce the tax rate. Tim Yarrow stated that encouraging commercial development would increase the tax base and help support public investments. Dave G stated that at one point the average home price being sold in Hyde Park was \$44,000, most likely homes in the senior mobile home park. Charlie A stated that the town does need more commercial space. Both Boards were supportive of new land use regulations that encourage redevelopment in the village and bring people to Main Street. Dave G. wanted to know if the village could encourage more food services or restaurants in the Village and Charlie A. stated that they have been and will continue to look for new businesses. Rep. Woodard asked if the Village had seen a drop in traffic since the October opening of the Morrisville Bypass to which no one could confirm a change at this early point. Ron reported that a September 2014 count on Depot Street found 2,900 AADT which was before the Morrisville Bypass opened in October.

4. Update on capital planning project; MPG14 Grant – Ron handed out a LCPC staff memo dated December 8, 2014 which was reviewed by both boards. The next step is to hire an engineering consultant to review the town and village capital assets and develop a needs assessment.
5. Sidewalks
 - i. Snow Removal – The Lanpher Memorial Library Trustees forwarded some concerns regarding inadequate sidewalk maintenance, especially on Saturdays and holidays. Dave wanted to know if there was a better option than having electric department lineman plow sidewalks at lineman wages. Dave suggested that the town and village could work together and get the sidewalk maintenance work done, possibly through a contractor. Jack agreed it should be looked into if it saves money.
 - ii. Request for prompt removal of the snow pile from the Nelle property, at the corner of Eden and Main Streets. Riki asked if the Town could remove the pile of snow that is placed there during sidewalk clearing and Dave will look into the options/timing for removal.
 - iii. Johnson St. Extension sidewalk – Riki explained that the engineer is preparing new estimates for the work.
 - iv. Plowing in Village (grass damage) – Charlie stated that he spoke about this matter with the Selectboard already, so no additional discussion is needed tonight.
 - v. Town's Sidewalk Funding – Riki handed out a memo on village sidewalk maintenance and investments since 2001. The Village has invested \$312,774 in new sidewalks over that time and is town taxpayer reimbursement of some of those costs. Dave said the town would need to review the memo and get back to the Trustees on the request.
6. Town's Revised Service Funding Policy – (*Does it impact the Village and if so, how?*) Ron explained that the policy was for non-profits that seek annual funding support from taxpayers and the Village government does not need to follow the policy.
7. Water Meter Installation at the Fire Station – Charlie explained that the new meter is installed at the fire station on Centerville Road to acquire accurate usage amounts. The fire department is one customer of 225 customers. Dave G. agreed that metering is a good idea. Roger A. reviewed some details on the 90 water connections on the Fire District #1 public water system.
8. Removal of small signs in public ROW's (quilts for sale, PH Edwards, Madadashcar) – Charlie reported that the new zoning includes updated sign regulations but he also expressed concern for the numerous small signs that appear inside road right-of-ways. Charlie stated that these small signs are not in keeping with the goals in the town plan. Carroll Peters confirmed that the State highway department will pick up signs in the state right-of-way from time to time. Rodjenski clarified that the two boards could agree to a policy rather than an ordinance to address the small signs. The zoning regulations will address signs outside road right-of-ways. Tim Yarrow offered that before small signs are removed from the roadway, the business or resident should be contacted. Both boards agreed that a policy should be drafted for removal of signs.
9. Update on the Trustees' plan to move their offices to the corner of Commonwealth Ave and Main Street. Riki reported that there are plans drafted for the renovation of the first floor for village offices and the plans are now available for review in the village offices. Greg Paus is assisting the Trustees. Dave asked about the financial feasibility of the project. Charlie explained that the building was donated and grants are being pursued for the renovation, with no immediate plans for using the second floor. Riki offered that they would provide plenty of notice when a move date is determined.
10. Zoning Process Review (hearings over the winter are anticipated). Ron reported that the planning commission is seeking comments on the preliminary draft through January 7th; comments should refer to the specific section with suggestions for revisions to that section, versus offering general concerns.

11. Update on McMahon Chevy – Ron reported that he spoke with Dan Keene today and Dan wanted to relay three updates to the boards: 1) his engineer is working on a septic system design, 2) the building plans have increased from 13,000 sf to 15,200 sf due to requirements from GM, and 3) Dan is still very interested in receiving consideration under the Tax Stabilization Program. Dan will schedule a meeting when his buildings final designs are almost complete and the number of employees is determined.
12. Any other topics for discussion not mentioned above – Dave G. asked about the Trustees' thoughts on the new line striper unit the town bought which are now being done by the town crew instead of Frank's Line Striping. The Trustees liked the idea of being able to do crosswalks more than once per year but noted that some lines looked wavy. Dave G asked if anyone could assist the highway crew in placing the three road centerline "pedestrian crossing" signs during the warmer months; no definite offers tonight.
13. Planning Grant - MPG15; Village Study (\$8,000) – The Selectboard is required to sign the grant agreement if a town and village have a joint planning commission and one development plan. Motion by BJ to sign the MPG15 Grant Agreement. Seconded by RA. Voting: 3 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
14. LVRT Update – Dave G stated that the town provided in-kind services for some upgrades but the trailhead on the VTrans ROW is not going to happen due to environmental liability concerns within the rail corridor.
15. Taxes – Dave noted that the preliminary town budget is likely to result in a town tax rate increase of a two to three pennies. The town and village boards are each having their own truck issues; delayed delivery for the new town plow and bucket truck repairs for the Village. The Courthouse project should start by May 2015.
16. Set next Annual Joint Meeting – December 2015 will be the goal; second Thursday.
17. Adjourn - Motion by RA to adjourn. Seconded by RB. So voted at 8:07 p.m.