

1 **HYDE PARK SELECTBOARD**
2 **MEETING MINUTES**
3 **February 12, 2018**

4 *All minutes are draft until approved by the Selectboard; please check future minutes for approval of these minutes.*
5 *Meetings may be videotaped; recordings are held by Green Mountain Access Television. GMATV info: PO Box 581,*
6 *Hyde Park, 05655; info@greenmountainaccess.tv or 802-851-1592*

7 Members Present: David Gagnier, Co-Chair; Roland Boivin; Roger Audet;
8 Members Absent: Lucy Hankinson, Co-Chair; Susan Bartlett
9 Others Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Robert Stevens; Susan Hayes; John R. Clark;
10 Teresa Farquharson; Ally Judkins; Dan Young; Richard Page; Francine Page; Marilyn
11 Zophar; Sigh Searles, Judy Clark; GMAVT videotaped this meeting.

12 Dave opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

- 13 1) **Welcome, Public Comment & Agenda Changes** – No agenda changes. Bob asked about
14 whether a comprehensive speed and safety study on **Center Road** has been done and Dave
15 stated just a study to determine average speed. Bob would like to see safety issues reviewed,
16 including safety for walkers and bikers, with an evaluation to determine the proper speed limit.
17 Dave mentioned that the regional planning speed study showed the average speed being close
18 to the existing 50-mph limit. Bob asked that the Board pursue a safety study on Center Road
19 and then decide on whether the 50-mph limit should remain. A letter from **Helen Walker** was
20 submitted and reviewed by the Board. Helen reported in her letter that she had difficulty driving
21 on local roads on Sunday, February 4th and into the early mornings of February 5th. Dave
22 explained that the town highway crew plowing schedule may have changed since Ken Alexander
23 retired. Ally Judkins, a resident on Garfield Road, expressed a similar concern as Helen but it
24 was during the mid-morning of Monday the 5th. Dave explained that the town is looking into
25 adopting a **winter maintenance plan**. Roland noted that this has been an unusual winter, noting
26 that the crew must rest, and crews sometimes need to stop after 10 p.m. and until the early
27 morning to start again. Roland noted that he plows for the Town of Morristown and it has been
28 an unusual winter and difficult to keep all roads in good conditions at all times, noting his
29 challenges in Morristown have been like situations in Stowe. Bob Stevens noted that Center
30 Road has been in good shape this winter, except for one spot new Tomlin's due to snow drifts.
31 Dave thanked everyone for their comments, stating that the Board will review the current
32 maintenance practices with the highway department.
- 33 2) **Hyde Park Community Circle** – Marilyn Zophar provided an overview of the group's efforts to
34 benefit the community, noting the Circle has about a 20-year history in Hyde Park. Susan Hayes
35 asked those present for feedback on the four current annual events and any suggestions on
36 how the group could better achieve its mission of community collaboration and community
37 building. A recent survey by HPCCC resulted in 58 responses with strong support for the annual
38 events and hearing that events in warmer months (ice cream social and home day) are more
39 popular than winter events (puppets & plants and the tree-lighting ceremony). The Community
40 Circle would like to consider new events such as film nights and rail trail activities. Dave
41 suggested updating the lighting ceremony to include singing carols and kid events in addition
42 to the memorial lighting ceremony. Ron suggested a welcome basket concept that is available
43 to new residents, including an open invitation for a Community Circle member to visit them and
44 introduce them to the community over a coffee or casserole. Sigh expressed support for the idea
45 and asked to be visited with a hot casserole, even though he's not a new resident. Marilyn
46 thanked the town for the annual taxpayer contribution which helps fund community activities.
47 Susan asked that the Town reach out to the Circle to assist in planning for community projects,
48 such as the recent Better Connections grant opportunity. Marilyn mentioned that the North Hyde
49 Park area was also an area that needed to be included in the planning of future events. The
50 Board thanked the members for their service to the community.

1 **3) Highway Department**

2 a) **Better Connections** Grant Application Update – Ron stated that the grant application was
3 submitted on January 31, noting that while it is a highly competitive program, Hyde Park may
4 be the only town that applied from Lamoille County. A grant award decision is due just prior
5 to Town Meeting.

6 b) **Plowing private drives under special conditions for high-risk community members** –
7 Dave advised that he can think of a good reason to plow private drives, in an emergency,
8 but many more reasons not to, for example, are public plows approved for private use.
9 Roland agreed that in special emergency situations he can see going to help some one out.
10 Roland stated that if life & death, then the town should help, and Dave agreed, that is done
11 now, but it is different than getting out to a doctor’s appointment. Dave suggested that the
12 private plow companies could be asked to see if they would volunteer on an emergency
13 contact list to provide plowing services in non-emergency situations. Dave stated that starting
14 a regular practice of plowing on private drives could lead to more town liability. Roland
15 thought that the town’s small truck could help from time to time, and Dave asked about costs,
16 especially if property is damaged, noting town taxpayers should not be put in that situation.
17 Ally Judkins asked if it costs less for a town plow versus a contractor. Dave said probably
18 less expensive, until property damage occurs, which may not be covered by town insurance.
19 The previously discussed draft Winter Operations Plan could address this issue.

20 c) **Garfield Road Speed** Reduction Petition (to 35 MPH) – Ally Judkins agreed with Sigh
21 Searles, that a 35-mph speed limit is appropriate, with guardrails on the outside corner just
22 east of Green River Dam Road. Sigh explained that the default speed of 50 mph is not
23 appropriate any more due to increased traffic volumes. Sigh relayed the concerns for
24 snowmobiles speeding near Bornemann Road. Dave suggested some sections could be
25 posted at 35-mph, but signs won’t help with some people. Bob Stevens agreed that signs
26 won’t slow all drivers but at least it does provide for enforcement. Roland stated that there is
27 more traffic in this area of town than in the past and this issue is recurring in more towns in
28 the county. Dave reminded everyone that safety is about corners, intersections and width,
29 speed changes can’t be for bikes and walkers as roads are for vehicles. Ron noted that only
30 the roads within the Village of Hyde Park are in the current traffic ordinance and are posted
31 at 25 mph. Roland suggested having a survey at town meeting to see what posted speeds
32 residents would like to see on town roads. Bob asked that the Board could take steps toward
33 a safer community, including speed limits and use of temporary improvements to see how
34 they work, then revisiting over time to see if the community likes the changes. Dave agreed
35 an informal town meeting survey would be good to check on 35 mph zones on all gravel
36 roads. Ally asked about enforcement and Ron noted that directed patrols can be requested
37 now, directly to the sheriff, and providing specific hours and days for enforcement helps the
38 sheriff in scheduling the patrols. Ally asked for a Zack Woods Road sign as summer travels
39 often ask her for help finding the state lands and Dave noted one should be installed.

40 d) **Town Garage Estimate** – The Board reviewed the quote from Stone Brothers Inc. for a one-
41 bay addition to the garage costing \$100,000 (a rough estimate) and the Board discussed
42 ways to work within the \$40,000 budget that is being presented to voters at Town Meeting.
43 Dave suggested using just the westerly bay of the current structure for an equipment work
44 bay and renovating an existing shed on the property for the grader and cold storage space.
45 Ron noted that meeting with the highway crew to confirm their operational needs would be a
46 good next step.

47

1 e) **Annual Certificate of Highway Mileage** – No mileage changes from 2017. The annual
2 certificate lets the State know what mileage they need to use for the town’s annual state
3 highway aid calculations. Current state and town maintained highway mileage:

4 Class 2 --- 13.83 miles;

5 Class 3 --- 50.06 miles; and

6 State Highways --- 9.602 miles; totaling 73.492 miles.

7 The Certificate also reports unmaintained Class 4 town highways of 8.14 miles and Legal
8 Trails totaling 1.96 miles. Motion by Roland to accept and sign the annual certificate with no
9 changes. Seconded by Roger. Voting: 3 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

10 4) **Town Conflict of Interest Policy** – State law requires a local conflict of interest policy to be
11 adopted by July 1, 2019 and the Board will discuss further when all members are present. A
12 draft policy is available for review and is intended to apply to all employees, town volunteers,
13 elected officials and committees.

14 5) **Review for Town Meeting Day** – The Board agreed a quick budget overview would be done
15 by Dave, with a summary of the major changes, and then board members will respond to
16 questions if directed to a town department that they are serve as liaison.

17 6) **Certificate of No Appeal or Suit Pending** – Motion by Roger to sign the certificate of no appeal
18 or suit pending. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 3 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

19 7) **Review Monthly Reports** – The Board reviewed the Task List; Grants Watch; and LCSD
20 monthly report.

21 8) **Review minutes.** Motion by Roger to approve the 01/08/2018, 01/17/2017 and 01/29/2018
22 minutes, as written. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 3 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

23 9) **Review Town Orders** – Motion by Roland to approve the town orders. Seconded by Roger.
24 Voting: 3 in favor, motion passed.

25 **10)Other Business & Notices**

26 a) Selectboard Institute – Lake Morey – Saturday, March 24th

27 b) Center Cemetery Zoning Permit Issued 02-7-2018 – Needs quit claim deed to combine the
28 two one-acre lots and complete the process; making the Center Cemetery a 2-acre parcel.

29 c) Village of Hyde Park – Hydrants to be painted black in response to a state inspection showing
30 insufficient capacity for connecting pumper truck. Village staff has recently reviewed the
31 reasoning with Fire Chief Ed Webster.

32 d) Service Agency Policy – Revised policy to update for changes in state law. Action deferred
33 for a future discussion.

34 e) Snow and Ice Control Plan – Draft handed out detailing plowing methods, scheduling and
35 priorities. Dave noted that a company provides “ECCO” backup warning signals which can
36 run at 87 decibels until something is close to the equipment when it increases the decibels.
37 This equipment could reduce the negative impact on village residents during early morning
38 snow pile removal operations. Roland explained that he received some complaints about
39 sidewalk plowing and timing compared to road plowing. Ron suggested a town and village
40 crew meeting could improve operations.

41 **11)Adjourn** – Motion by Roger to adjourn. Seconded by Roland. So adjourned at 8:10 p.m.