

1 **Selectboard**
2 February 11, 2019
3 MONTHLY MEETING

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

7 Members Present: Susan Bartlett, Chair; Roger Barry, Roger Audet, Roland Boivin and David
8 Gagnier
9 Members Absent: None
10 Others Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Deanna Judkins; Town Clerk Kim Moulton;
11 Gary Anderson; Norm Andrews; State Rep. Matt Hill; V.A.S.A. / Green Mountain
12 ATV Riders Club Members – Shannon Friedrich, Morgan Kilburn and Daniel
13 Bradley; GMATV did videotape this meeting.

14 Susan opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

- 15 1. **Welcome**, changes to the agenda, and public comment. Rep. Matt Hill appeared and was
16 welcomed by the Board. Rep. Hill stated that some of the changes in Act 250 this year, the
17 50th anniversary is 2019, are being considered and he does see the major changes will be
18 fast-tracked, but he does see a lot of interest in the topic from some groups to improve Act
19 250. Rep. Hill noted that the recent Act 250 report does make some steps toward guiding
20 where development should occur, but it is early in the review of the report. Other issues are
21 high-speed internet & rural industrial park legislation which he will continue to monitor.
22 Susan stated that if a community has good local planning and it addresses the areas of
23 interest to Act 250 then the local review should carry some weight with an expedited state
24 review. Susan suggested that legislative changes should support and encourage good local
25 planning. Dave asked about taxing the campers at the state park and Susan wondered if
26 private campgrounds paid rooms & meals tax; Rep. Hill agreed to investigate.
- 27 2. **Town Investments Committee** – Town Treasurer Kim Moulton, Gary Anderson and Norm
28 Andrews were present to review the recommendations of the committee and presented a
29 set of draft amendments to the town investment policy, all with the intent to get the best
30 bang for town bucks. Kim noted that Union Bank has set up a sweep account for town funds
31 which invests money automatically each night to earn a rate of 1.0% interest compared to
32 the current 0.15% in the checking. Kim stated that the reserve fund accounts are now
33 earning 0.35%, per a change by Union Bank, where previously they earned between 0.05%
34 and 0.30%. On page 2 of the policy, under pooling of accounts, the committee felt that the
35 “shall” should be a “may” to allow for separate accounts versus implying there is need to
36 have only one account. The future investment in CDs or money markets should be done in
37 concert with town staff and information on capital project planning to maximum the time
38 funds can be invested before needing to be liquid. Kim noted that a meeting with Ron would
39 likely be a next step. Susan stated it looked like the committee is off to a good start. Kim
40 noted that Union Bank has waived an ACH access monthly fee of \$35.00, retroactive to
41 November 2018 – the ACH access is used to transfer funds to and from the town account
42 from Union Bank. Motion by Roger B. to adopt the amendments to the Investments Policy
43 as presented by the committee, effectively immediately. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 5 in
44 favor, 0 against, motion passed. Kim suggested that the committee be considered as a
45 potential finance committee that included the town administrator and possibly others to
46 expand the areas to be reviewed by the committee prior to making recommendations to the
47 Selectboard. Susan thanked the committee for their work.

- 1 **3. ATV Ordinance Amendment** – Three members of the Green Mountain ATV Riders Club
2 – Vermont ATV Sportsman’s Association (VASA); Shannon Friedrich, Morgan Kilburn and
3 Daniel Bradley were present to review the town roads proposed to be opened for ATV use,
4 along with the other currently open town roads. Green Mountain ATV Riders has been
5 working on the existing ATV trail network in northern Vermont and with the additional roads
6 approved, ATV trails can be connected to points east & west through Hyde Park. David
7 noted that Craftsbury & Eden is proposing to open all their roads, and Johnson has opened
8 their paved roads to ATVs. Club members stated that using all off-road trails would be ideal
9 but short sections of paved roads allow the Club to connect existing trails and expand the
10 network. The Selectboard agreed that if the town has legal trails to follow on and off road,
11 then users are not as likely to operate where they are not welcome. Deanne also agreed it
12 was better to have trails marked for ATV use to discourage the crossing of private land
13 without permission. It was noted that as VASA identifies through-routes in Vermont, it will
14 likely increase the number of users doing business in area towns. There are 3,100 ATV
15 operators registered with VASA out of 25,000 ATVs in Vermont. Dave stated that increased
16 enforcement was needed, and Deanna agreed that ATV traffic is high in the Garfield area
17 and not everyone is involved with VASA and familiar with road use rules. Susan suggested
18 that the Club make a presentation to voters at Town Meeting and then the Selectboard
19 would consider acting on the ordinance amendments to create an east-west route across
20 Hyde Park. Opening Grimes Road is important to access Longmore Hill Road and Jones
21 Road as the Club continues to work with VTrans to establish a VT100 crossing at Grimes
22 Road. Roland stated he was supportive of the amendments but would like to hear from
23 town residents. Susan asked that the proposed ordinance and map to be noticed on Front
24 Porch Forum. The Club members agreed to be present at Town Meeting.
- 25 **4. North Hyde Park Grange Hall Project** – Ron provided an update of the legal issues
26 needed to clear the property title so the Town would own the Grange Hall property. Once
27 the legal work is completed, the planning work for reuse of the property and submission of
28 grant applications would continue. Dave asked about the viability of the reuse of the building
29 with limited parking. Ron stated that the town attorney estimated the cost to clear up the
30 deed to the property is \$7,500. Susan stated that the \$50,000 being asked for this Town
31 Meeting should be the total budget to start this work, including the roof and legal work, and
32 the committee can use those funds to leverage grants and community support. Roland
33 stated that parking is a big concern. Susan stated that a town investment in North Hyde
34 Park which is supported by a group of residents from North Hyde Park, who will present
35 information at Town Meeting, will show us what can happen in North Hyde Park.
- 36 **5. FY2020 Budget & Warning Review** – Ron asked the Board if they had any questions on
37 the budget and warning for Town Meeting. No one had questions but will send those along
38 if any come up.
- 39 **6. Discuss Winter Operations Plan** – Ron reviewed the history of winter road maintenance
40 without a policy and how a policy could allow the road crew to feel its ok to not plow during
41 a rest time. The Selectboard would set priorities for clearing roads and other winter tasks.
42 Susan noted that having this type of discussion by the Board is helpful and would relay the
43 Board’s expectations to town residents and the road crew. Susan noted that even things
44 like early morning snow pile removal in the village can be in a policy for public outreach
45 purposes. Susan suggested one discussion is whether the town should take over
46 maintenance of sidewalks to improve maintenance of both town roads and the sidewalks.
47 Ron noted that as of last week, the budgeted amount of overtime for the fiscal year was
48 spent. Dave advised against the Town taking over Route 15 as a Class 1 Town Highway

- 1 and Ron offered that Dubois-King is currently studying the proposal and will report on the
2 pros and cons with related costs under the Better Connections grant work.
- 3 7. **Fiber Committee Appointments:** Susan stated that economic development is facilitated
4 with high-speed internet. Ron stated that the recent Front Porch Forum posting requested
5 after the last Selectboard meeting produced five town residents that were interested in
6 joining the committee. A formal appointment is needed and then the committee will begin
7 to meet. Motion by Roland to appoint Carol Fano, Christine Hallquist, Jack Wilson, Anne
8 Geiersbach, Michael Rooney to the Hyde Park Fiber Committee. Seconded by Roger A.
9 Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 10 8. **Review minutes;** Susan asked about the Gary Smith road maintenance issue on Marcoux
11 Road that was discussed at a recent Selectboard meeting and Roger B. stated it has been
12 resolved. Motion by Dave to approve the 01/14/2019 and 01/29/2019 Selectboard minutes,
13 as written. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 14 9. **Review Town Orders;** Motion by Roger A. to approve the town orders as presented by the
15 Town Treasurer. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 16 10. **Other Business & Notices:** Selectboard policy worksession is set for Feb 14th at 9:00 a.m.
17 at Town Office.
- 18 11. **Executive Session:** Motion by Roger A. to move into executive session to discuss town
19 personnel matters and real estate purchase or lease options under 1 VSA 313, a, 2-3.
20 Seconded by David. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed at 7:45 p.m.
- 21 12. **Adjourn** – Motion by Dave to adjourn, seconded by Roger A., so voted at 8:17 p.m.