

1 **Selectboard**  
2 **May 18, 2020**  
3 **Special & Monthly “Virtual” Meeting**

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, Hyde*  
6 *Park, 05655; [info@greenmountainaccess.tv](mailto:info@greenmountainaccess.tv) or 802-851-1592*

7 **Members Present:** Susan Bartlett, Chair; Roger Audet; Roland Boivin; Brian Shackett. (All by phone)  
8 **Members Absent:** Vacancy  
9 **Others Present:** Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Michel Rooney, Liz Courtney, Brad Carriere,  
10 Ed Webster, Paul Nesky, Kim Moulton, GMATV Michael Reis; (all by phone)

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11 Susan opened the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

- 12 1) **Welcome** – No additions to the **special meeting** agenda or public comment comments.
- 13 2) **Executive Session** – Motion by Roland to move into executive session to talk about union negotiations.  
14 Seconded by Roger. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. The Board came out of executive session.
- 15 3) **Monthly meeting Agenda 6:00 p.m.** – Additions to agenda: Update on Bartlett tax sale; re-opening public  
16 meetings and 1111 permit process discussion. The Board agreed that committees and boards could meet if  
17 following protocols and less than 10 inside the meeting room while requiring online/phone conference for  
18 the public.
- 19 4) **Appointment to Selectboard** – term through Town Meeting 2021 – Susan advised that a phone call with each  
20 candidate will help allow the Board to decide. A phone call with the Selectboard will be set up. Next Monday  
21 May 25<sup>th</sup>, Memorial Day, will be tried beginning at 6:00 pm if candidates are available.
- 22 5) **Appoint Vice-Chair of Selectboard** – Motion by Roland to nominate Brain Shackett as Vice-chair, Seconded by  
23 Roger. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, so nominated.
- 24 6) **Proposal for Fire Department Annual Stipends for Officers** – Ron reviewed the pending request and Ed  
25 Webster stated he was available for questions. Chief Webster explained that fire officers are responsible  
26 increasing amounts of paperwork, including filing reports with the state, equipment maintenance and  
27 training responsibilities. Chief Webster noted that with these responsibilities comes increased volunteer time  
28 because they are only paid for fire response time not administrative or training time, and he has seen less  
29 volunteerism as an outcome which stipends would help address. Chief Webster noted that Cambridge Fire  
30 uses a similar system of stipends for their officers. Susan suggested looking at this again to get it done soon.  
31 Roland asked about Air-Pak bottles and Chief Webster confirmed that they are now due to be recalibrated  
32 (a 5-year requirement) for 28 bottles. The required hydro-testing cost is \$924.00 (about \$30/bottle). Roland  
33 suggested that it come out of the fire equipment reserve fund. Motion by Brian to approve up to \$1,000 from  
34 the fire equipment reserve fund for hydro-testing. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion  
35 passed.
- 36 7) **VT Arts Council Grant** – Need Infrastructure Design Committee & Authorized Agent – Ron reported that the  
37 recent grant award for \$5,000 will require a citizens’ committee to be formed in June and the first task being  
38 preparing the advertisement for local artists to be interviewed then selection by the Committee. Motion by  
39 Brian to authorize Ron Rodjenski to be the authorized town agent to process required VAC grant paperwork.  
40 Seconded by Roland. Voting 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 41 8) **Fireworks Policy** – The Board discussed large commercial public displays that occur close to sensitive areas  
42 like farms. Motion by Brian to prohibit public displays in Hyde Park but to continue to issue fireworks permits  
43 for consumer displays. Seconded by Roger. Discussion: The Board asked that this policy change be mailed to  
44 recent fireworks display applicants to notify them of this change. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

- 1 9) **Town Highway Summer Work Plan Update** – Roadside brush clearing & debris removed from ROW. Roland  
2 asked if a second crew could follow the operating roadside tractor to clear the limbs on the ground, clear  
3 hanging limbs and keep brush cleared from ditch lines and culvert inlets. Ron will pull together a cost  
4 estimate for the next monthly meeting to show the costs.
- 5 10) **P3 Sterling View Mobile Home Park Stormwater Project Update** – Ron reported that possible state grants  
6 are being researched that would provide 30% stormwater designs at no cost to the Park or Town. However,  
7 for implementation and final design, there would be cost-sharing with the Park, Town, and state grants. It  
8 was noted that if Hyde Park was selected for one of the 10 statewide projects, these P3 designs will provide  
9 a higher-weighted construction grant application. Project selection by the State will hopefully be made in the  
10 next month or so.
- 11 11) **Annual town employee evaluations due in June** – The review document should be simple and useful to  
12 departments and include some merit basis or bonus opportunity. Kim Moulton stated merit increases should  
13 be available. Susan confirmed if the July 1 amount was a forgone conclusion, as has been the case in the past,  
14 then why have reviews. The Board agreed a form should be provided to all departments, with reviews due  
15 in June this year, and the Selectboard would consider allocating funds for bonuses into future budgets.
- 16 12) **State Amendments to Municipal Property Tax Collections & Penalties** – The Board discussed the new  
17 options being provided to Selectboards to provide relief to taxpayers during the pandemic. Kim reported that  
18 the May 15 tax deadline passed with \$134,000 unpaid compared to up to \$190,000 in prior years. The Board  
19 discussed the options provided. Susan suggested leaving things the way things are now and if a lot of issues  
20 come up from taxpayers, then the Board can discuss at that time. The Board agreed. These options are  
21 available to 01/01/2021.
- 22 13) **IBEW Local Negotiations on 2020 Highway Contract** – The Selectboard continues to work on a response to  
23 the highway union proposals with the current contract expiring on June 30, 2020.
- 24 14) **Broadband Efforts in County** – Should Hyde Park join a Communications Union District (“CUD”). Ron provided  
25 a quick overview and Michael Rooney stated that the CUD provides control of the investments by the service  
26 users and provides competition amongst other providers of broadband services. The Selectboard expressed  
27 support for Hyde Park joining a CUD and advised that the Fiber Committee should come to the next  
28 Selectboard meeting with a formal recommendation.
- 29 15) **Approval of “Hyde Park Approved Vendor List”** – Ron stated the town finance director updates this list and  
30 presents to the Board annually, providing an opportunity to see all vendors and supplies that work with the  
31 Town. If a member objected to a company or had questions about the town’s relationship with the vendor,  
32 the vendor could be temporarily pulled from the list while the issues were resolved. Motion by Roger to  
33 approve the 2020 Vendor List as presented. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 34 16) **Review minutes** – Motion by Roger to approve the minutes of 04/20/2020, 05/08/2020 and 05/11/2020,  
35 with one correction: remove the word “large” from Line 6 in the May 8, 2020 minutes. Seconded by Roland.  
36 Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 37 17) **Review Town Orders** – Motion by Roger to approve the town orders, Seconded by Brian. Voting: 4 in favor,  
38 0 against, motion passed.
- 39 18) **Other Business & Notices**
- 40 a) **Bartlett Tax Sale** – A letter is being delivered to Mr. Bartlett with a Purchase and Sale Agreement that  
41 needs to be signed and returned to the Town by June 15, 2020 and August 1, 2020 is the deadline for full  
42 payment of past taxes and expenses totaling about \$5,000 or presenting the Town with a loan  
43 commitment from a bank.
- 44

- 1 b) **1111 Permits** – Brian stated that a permit was needed at 188 Webster Road and while they applied, the  
2 landowner never received the permit before the installation of a buried cable crossing Webster Road.  
3 Brian stated that the next steps is to decide on any action by the Town and Roland suggested that a  
4 letter be sent notifying the installer and landowner of the town procedures and potential penalties,  
5 however, since it was only a Comcast cable, not electric line, the Town could allow it to remain rather  
6 than have it removed, if it was installed properly. Brian noted that the cable ends are evident at both  
7 road shoulders, which was installed with a ditch-witch. It is not certain what depth the cable is and if not  
8 installed properly, then frost could work the cable to the surface over the years. Susan agreed that the  
9 letter should go to the landowner, noting that the Town could remove it if it becomes a problem for town  
10 highway maintenance or reconstruction.
- 11 c) **Gihon Valley Hall Committee** – Liz reviewed the area rental rates for venues at GVH and proposed that  
12 rates be \$30/hr. for the first floor and discounted to \$25/hr. for community members and non-profit  
13 groups. Roger noted that parking should be available before renting and Liz agreed that for now, only  
14 small club meetings would be allowed. Brian suggested watching the Stay Home order as it is amended,  
15 and crowd size is increased for public spaces and Liz agreed. The Board agreed that the rates were  
16 acceptable to be implemented by the Committee.
- 17 d) **Bottle Drive** – Reminder that the “Big Change Roundup” fundraiser is Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> in park & ride lot  
18 from 8AM to 2PM.
- 19 e) **Hyde Park Resident Face Mask Program** – 110 delivered to date.
- 20 f) **Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)** – Updating this summer; current plan expires Dec 2020. Ron will  
21 work with the local emergency responders and regional planning staff and keep the Board informed as  
22 to the progress. Selectboard adoption could be later this calendar year.
- 23 g) **Possible Executive Session:** None.
- 24 19) **Adjourn** – Motion by Roger to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. Seconded by Brian. So voted.