

1 **Selectboard**  
2 March 15, 2021  
3 Virtual Meeting Minutes

4 *All minutes are draft until approved by the Selectboard; please check future minutes for approval of these*  
5 *minutes. Meetings may be videotaped and posted on YouTube; GMATV info: PO Box 581, Hyde Park*  
6 *[info@greenmountainaccess.tv](mailto:info@greenmountainaccess.tv) or 851-1592*

7 Members Virtual: Susan Bartlett, Chair; Dave Gagnier; Chasity Fagnant, Roland Boivin; Brian Shackett  
8 Members Absent: None  
9 Virtual Attendees: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Al Spitzer; Liz Courtney; Elisabeth Fenn; Alli  
10 Cusson, Town Finance Director; Dirk Schmidt; GMATV did record this meeting.

11 Susan opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Site was held at 8:00 AM

- 12 1. **Welcome**, changes to agenda and public comment – Add discussion on Michel Renaud  
13 compensation to the agenda.
- 14 2. **Annual Organizational Meeting**: Susan noted that the Selectboard will need to appoint a school  
15 board member as no one was elected for a 3-year term on Town Meeting. The Board reviewed the  
16 proposed Slate of Officers, filling names in of appointees where available, with Susan renewing as  
17 Chair, Brian as Vice-Chair and Ron as Board Clerk. The Board discussed the role of the liaison to  
18 town departments, keeping the same roles as last year and Chasity taking over Roger Audet's liaison  
19 roles for Police and Ambulance. Susan noted that from the town garage visit this morning, the Board  
20 feels it is important for the department staff to internally talk about concerns, then relay those to the  
21 department head to then be discussed with the department liaison. Motion by David to accept the  
22 slate of officers. Seconded by Brian. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. Susan reviewed  
23 the town's 2019 Conflict-of-Interest Policy providing some examples of potential issues with  
24 Chasity's brother, Ryan Nolan, being on both the highway and fire departments. Susan stated that  
25 it would be OK for Chasity to participate in discussions on strategy and overall operations, but not  
26 highway union negotiations. Chasity stated that she would not participate on topics directly impacting  
27 her brother and she ran for Selectboard to work for all town taxpayers, and she will listen to other  
28 members if they perceive an issue. The Board noted that advertising for a CPA firm for audits  
29 FY2021, FY2022 and FY2023 is needed.
- 30 3. **Review & approve minutes**: Motion to approve the minutes of 1/18/2021, 1/26/2021, 2/15/2021,  
31 2/22/2021 & 3/01/2021, as written. Seconded by Dave. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstention  
32 (Chasity as a new member tonight), motion passed.
- 33 4. **Paul Bruhn Preservation Trust of Vermont – Grant Acceptance** – Liz reviewed the recently  
34 awarded \$50,000 grant for new windows at the Gihon Valley Hall and advised that PTV is asking for  
35 a town decision on acceptance. Dave expressed concern for the grant conditions which could  
36 increase costs for building repairs that exceed the grant funds. Susan noted that the costs of  
37 renovating to put life in the building is a long-term plan and these types of grants are intended to  
38 reduce the costs to the town. Al stated that the renovations are not going to make it a palace and  
39 the goal is to have first floor events soon. Al noted that storm windows for each of the 33 windows  
40 will help with energy conservation. Liz offered that Preservation Trust of Vermont offered to talk with  
41 the Selectboard to go over terms of the easement. Chasity agreed to be the liaison to the GVH  
42 Committee for the Selectboard. Dave asked, for example, if grant conditions would require lathe and  
43 plaster only in the renovations. Dave suggested board members send Chasity questions for PTV.  
44 Motion by Dave to accept the \$50,000 grant if the answers to the Board questions are acceptable.  
45 Seconded by Brian. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. Chasity will report back on her  
46 discussions.
- 47 5. **Gihon Valley Hall Committee** – The Board discussed whether the Committee could make non-  
48 structural changes on their own to the hall (ex. adding a Little Free Library to the front porch). Motion  
49 by Dave to allow the GVH Committee to make non-structural changes to the hall without coming to  
50 the Selectboard. Seconded by Brian. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

- 1 6. **Class 2 Paving** - Confirm grant application for \$175,000 for paving of Center Road and RFP. Motion  
2 by Brian to submit the \$175,000 grant and send the RFP for Center Road. Seconded by Chasity.  
3 Discussion: Ron stated that Hyde Park was in a good position to receive these grant funds based  
4 on the high ranking applied to Hyde Park by VTrans District 8. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion  
5 passed.
- 6 7. **Contract for Services** – J Hutchins Paving 2021 Amendment Village Streets – Elizabeth Fenn was  
7 present to discuss the plan to discuss Prospect St. Brian and Ron will work on the next steps to  
8 finalize a plan with Watershed Consulting & Summit Engineering. Trees in the middle of the loop at  
9 the end of the road are not ideal but a planted stormwater basin could work. Motion by Roland to  
10 approve the J. Hutchins 2021 contract amendment including Fitch Hill Road and other village streets.  
11 Seconded by Brian. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 12 8. **Approve 3-4-50 Mini-Grant** \$500 for purchase of a “drum aerator” to improve turf at the ballfields  
13 on McFarlane Road. Ron reported that this annual grant is being pursued by the youth sports  
14 subcommittee. Motion by Dave to support the grant 3-4-50 grant application. Seconded by Brian.  
15 Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 16 9. **Board of Listers** – Susan explained that the Town needs to have a Board of Listers with a quorum,  
17 now there is only one of three members, Matt Reed. One possible option with no one running for the  
18 position is to hold a town vote on the elimination of the Board of Listers and to move to a Town  
19 Assessor. Ron explained that the lister duties are important and need to meet statutory deadlines.  
20 Susan spoke with Jeff Beattie and he suggested advertising for a person in the range of \$35/hr. for  
21 a day a week job. Town Clerk Kim Moulton is now looking to hire an Assistant Town Clerk. The  
22 Selectboard needs to look at the budget and back out some of the funds from the Assistant Town  
23 Clerk to help with town assessor/town lister assistant options coming up. Dave suggested looking to  
24 a neighboring town for a lister that could take up a day in Hyde Park. The Board agreed that starting  
25 with an ad at \$20/hr., and adjusted based on experience, is a good place to start. Ron will advertise  
26 on VLCT and FPF and sending the ad to neighbors. The Board agreed that the assistant town clerk  
27 salary budget would be reset to \$39,000/yr. to provide \$7,000 to support town lister options.
- 28 10. **Highway Access Permit #2021-09** – Lot 2A Schmidt – The road foreman asked that the  
29 Selectboard consider combining Lot 2A with the existing driveway to 1326 North Hyde Park Road.  
30 Dirk Schmidt spoke with the Board and stated that combining drives results in multiple negative  
31 impacts, including tree removal, a sharp right then sharp left to get to Lot 2A, possible devaluation  
32 of 1326 house value and the change could hurt the pending sale of Lot 2A, noting combining Lot 2A  
33 and 1326 could also be a safety issue. Dirk asked for consideration to allow the proposed single-  
34 drive onto North Hyde Park Road. Brian said the combining of Lot 2A would reduce costs to the town  
35 with less curb cuts and there is a policy recommending combining drives. Dave stated that the policy  
36 should be followed, and the driveways combined. Dirk mentioned the additional cost of tree removal  
37 after a pre-sale price has been agreed upon. Ron noted that the Lot 2A driveway does not require a  
38 culvert which results in low town maintenance costs, except for a small chance of a damaged  
39 mailbox. Ron stated that policy to combine is an encouragement not a mandated requirement,  
40 requiring the discussion tonight. Susan suggested that if the driveway would add a culvert to the  
41 town ROW, then combining would be required. Motion by Brian to accept the Lot 2A as proposed  
42 with an individual driveway. Seconded by Dave. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 43 11. **Highway Pickup Truck Replacement/Michel Renaud** – Brian said he would work with Mark to  
44 pursue the purchase of a new pickup truck/plow and make the repairs now to the 2013 Chevy to  
45 increase the trade value. The Board discussed Michel Renaud being provided one additional holiday.  
46 Dave noted the letter of hire set only five holidays, not six. Ron asked the Board if Mark French could  
47 submit for mileage at the IRS rate for travel in Hyde Park due to the town pickup being out of service  
48 and the Board agreed but not to reimburse for driving from home to Hyde Park. Brian suggested  
49 keeping to Renaud’s letter of hire. Roland suggested awarding the additional 8-hour holiday. Dave  
50 asked why have policies if the Board continues to make exceptions. Motion by Roland to approve  
51 the 8-hour Town Meeting Day holiday at straight rate and not to count as hours worked. Seconded  
52 by Chasity. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 53

- 1 12. **Contract for Services** – The Board discussed how a contracted person could help perform  
2 highway inspection services, so those tasks do not take away from Mark French’s time. A pilot  
3 season is proposed for 2021 to see how it works. Susan suggested a fifth person will take the place  
4 of the three seasonal employees if costs can be covered. Roland stated that the highway crew  
5 supports the 5<sup>th</sup> full-time person. Roland stated that there were a couple of candidates in the last job  
6 search for road grader operator Jasson Wells that may still be available. Brian will talk with Mark and  
7 Roland about the funding of the fifth person, needing approximately \$30,000 from the highway  
8 budget, and then report back to the Board.
- 9 13. **Policy** – Deferred to a future worksession: Protocol for work at home and working with  
10 vaccinations, re-opening the Community Meeting Room with infrequent use by 10 or less w/masks  
11 & spacing.
- 12 14. **Town orders** – Dave noted that Alli Cusson is doing a good job putting the town orders on the  
13 town website for review prior to meetings. Dave reminded the Board that the 5<sup>th</sup> person change  
14 required first identifying a source for the \$30,000. Motion by Brian to approve the town orders as  
15 written. Seconded by Roland, Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 16 15. **Contract for Services** – Motion by Roland to move into executive session on the proposed  
17 “Contract for Highway Construction Management Inspection Services”. Seconded by Brian. Voting:  
18 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. Susan stated that Brian and Roland will work with Mark French  
19 on a fifth person with seasonal people being merged into one full-time position with costs funded by  
20 the existing budget. For the pilot project’s contracted highway inspection services project, and due  
21 to the costs of moving to a 5<sup>th</sup> person that will push the budget, the Town will advertise for this  
22 position to see if costs can be reduced for the pilot project, trying to stretch the money as far as  
23 possible. Ron will work with Brian to get an advertisement out before the April 5<sup>th</sup> worksession for  
24 the contracted services position. On April 5<sup>th</sup>, the Board set a special worksession at 6:00 p.m. to  
25 review fire department bylaws with Brad Carriere, the funding of the proposed 5<sup>th</sup> person in highway,  
26 and Town Emergency Management Director position with Brad first speaking with Carol Fano.
- 27 16. **Adjourn** – Motion by Brian to adjourn, seconded by Roland. So, voted at 9:35 p.m.