

Selectboard
June 7, 2021
Hybrid Meeting Minutes

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

Members Present: Susan Bartlett, Chair; Chasity Fagnant; Roland Boivin; Brian Shackett

Members Virtual: Dave Gagnier

Members Absent: None

Attendees Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Mary Walz

Attendees Virtual: Town Clerk Kim Moulton; Liz Courtney, Gihon Valley Hall Committee; Lisa Ryan, Preservation Trust of Vermont; Elisa Clancy; Ryan Nolan; Christine Hallquist; James Gingue, Anderson Equipment; Lynnette Claudon, State of Vermont; Matthew Shoen, State of Vermont; Celia Riechel, State of Vermont; GMATV did record this meeting.

Susan opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

1. **Welcome**, changes to agenda, if any and public comment (10 minutes)
2. **Liquor License** – Fork & Gavel 3rd Class – Spirits – Motion by Roland to approve the 3rd Class liquor license for Fork and Gavel. Seconded by Chasity. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
3. **Preservation Trust of VT**, Lisa Ryan – Discussion on historic easement & future building renovations that might not be allowed under the proposed easement. Liz stated that the Gihon Valley Hall Committee does have a five-year plan for improvements. Lisa explained that the easement results in PTV being a partner with the Town and the easement language can be prepared to match the town's future building needs. Ron noted that the deed to the property has a community-use-only restriction. Lisa will speak with the PTV easement coordinator to answer the questions on future work and restrictions under the easement. Lisa noted that the grant needs to be spent in three years and they can take some time to answer all the town's questions.
4. **Class 2 Paving Grant** – Accept \$175,000 grant for Center Road paving overlay. Dave stated that the culvert north of Cleveland Corners needs to be addressed as it continues to sink. Motion by Brian to accept the \$175,000 grant and authorize Susan to sign necessary paperwork. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
5. **Law Enforcement Study Group** – Susan reported that Wolcott wants to look at their alternatives and the study group will continue to research options for the three towns. Susan noted that it appears everyone wants police services but at the lowest cost, so a review of all services is important. A significant issue for sustainability of the Sheriff's service is their retirement program which requires 30 years of service versus most police services programs at 20 years. Susan reported that the group is continuing to work on understanding the options and will come back to the Board at a future meeting.
6. **Excavator Quotes** – Brian stated that quotes were submitted based on his specification sheet which the Board gave him direction on at the last meeting. Ron asked where the Board would like to go next with the quotes, such as a matrix to help compare used or new and warranty costs, etc. Brian stated that he will check to see if CAT was asked along with the other four manufacturers. Dave noted that a plan needs to be developed for specific tasks that need to be done and what is the right machine to purchase. Dave stated that he wanted to make sure that the town had more than one person that was proficient at operating the new equipment. Susan explained that training time is hard with a small crew, and they often end up with limited opinions except to have one proficient operator per piece of large equipment. James Gingue, Anderson Equipment stated that the used 2018 Komatsu sold today, so only the new one is available as of today, noting that his company will do training. The manufacturer warranty is 3 years for Komatsu. A summary of the quotes will be presented at the June 21st with financing options.
7. **Personnel Policy** – Review areas to be presented in a strike version, if any. No new areas were presented and Ron and Chasity will continue to work on the amendments.

- 1 8. **Mowing, Meadows and Pollinators on Town Properties** – Elisa Clancy stated that she has been
2 meeting with local landscapers regarding the “Raise the Blade” program recently approved by the
3 Selectboard which asks that operators set the mower blade at 3”, noting the outreach has been going
4 well. Brian reported that a resident called to complain about the town office not mowing the lawn and
5 Brian stated that he was not willing to do it like last year. King Plante mowed the town office lawn and
6 resident Jeff Holmes paid for the work. Elisa noted that the wildflower hillside in the back of the town
7 office should not be mowed which Brian confirmed it wasn’t. Susan noted that a long-term plan for the
8 front of the building should be looked at, maybe some hostas under the trees, as that area doesn’t grow
9 grass well. Susan noted that there is a knotweed patch along the town parking area. Elisa noted the
10 mow electric program is moving forward with committee research and the State is now moving toward
11 electric mowers. Brian noted that State Buildings and Grounds Services would buy electric if it is
12 comparable to gas-powered units. Brian stated that setting the springtime blade elevation works well
13 at 2” and shorter grass contributes less to thatch layer, which prevents rainwater penetration into the
14 soil. Brian stated that he needs more offenders to make the state crew work. Robert Laird has offered
15 to mow the lawn at the State DOC crew cost. Kim stated that mice have not been seen recently due to
16 the exterminator contract but if there is meadow nearby again in the future, it could attract more mice.
17 Ron will check in with Robert Laird about his offer.
- 18 9. **Knot in Hyde Park” Program** – Mary Walz stated that she has learned a lot about knotweed and her
19 interest comes from not wanting to see Hyde Park get covered by the invasive plant. She has started
20 to identify sites and over 20 residents have been contacted about the program. Test removal sites are
21 started, and drying stacks will be monitored every three weeks. Mary stated that by starting with small
22 sites, it is easier for more community members to participate. Mary stated that there are some
23 complicated sites requiring more time to study, such as Garfield Road at Green River being the most
24 complicated. A public event at the end of June will gather volunteers to clear a site along the Rail Trail
25 and the town office parking lot site, noting the town garage storage yard has a high need for knotweed
26 removal. Roland suggested burning as an option for disposal of cuttings. Mary stated that it is a decades
27 long effort that needs persistence from the community to achieve success. Susan agreed that it is a
28 community effort much like Green Up Day.
- 29 10. **Swimming Pools** – Ron stated that VLCT has advised not to pursue this because of insurance / liability
30 concerns and Chasity Fagnant objected noting that a simple waiver could be signed. No action taken
31 to reverse the current prohibition on filling private swimming pools.
- 32 11. **NHP Infrastructure Planning Advance for water/sewer study** – Seth Jensen, Lamoille County
33 Planning Commission reported that community planning continues in North Hyde Park, focused on the
34 grange hall and village area, with the lack of wastewater being identified as a limiting factor to
35 revitalization. Seth noted that a state planning advance could be pursued to evaluate both the village
36 water system condition assessment and complete a sewer infrastructure initial feasibility study with no
37 payback required unless there is construction, when the costs are rolled into that project’s construction
38 costs. Celia Riechel stated that the funding from the State would include alternatives analysis and
39 preliminary engineering with loans for the water system at 0% and a long payback period. Brian asked
40 if interest is charged, and Celia stated that interest ranges from 0% to 2% based on median income –
41 not to exceed 1% of income to pay the new water debt. Celia noted that forgiveness of the principal
42 can be offered if the 1% is still being exceeded. Seth explained that the funding streams are separate
43 for water and wastewater. Seth noted that the current planning work for North Hyde Park is under a
44 state municipal planning grant and preliminary engineering for sewer feasibility would confirm available
45 soils for on-site wastewater treatment. Seth stated that the water system would need to be looked at
46 separately with Hyde Park Fire District #1. Celia stated that the State’s current funding plan is to provide
47 up to 100% principal forgiveness for water system assessment study up to \$100,000, with 50% for
48 other types of water system planning. Celia advised that a coordinated effort with the Town and Fire
49 District #1 would include establishing how to coordinate costs and responsibilities. LCPC can assist
50 with coordination of the project with both municipalities. Ron will follow up with Roger Audet at the Fire
51 District and Lynette Claudon will be the point of contact if they want to move forward. Motion by Brian
52 to send a letter to the State seeking funding for a sewer feasibility study for North Hyde Park. Seconded
53 by Chasity. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

- 1 12. **Sterling View Community Cooperative/Ken Harvey** – Susan suggested that the Town send a
2 congratulation letter to the Coop and Ken on the sale/purchase of mobile home park. The Board agreed.
- 3 13. **Other Business** – Union negotiations – A meeting is needed to review the pay scale examples sent
4 by the Union – the Selectboard set a special meeting for Monday, June 14 at 5:00 p.m. to review the
5 pay scales.
- 6 14. **Adjourn** – Motion by Brian to adjourn at 8:47 p.m. Seconded by Roland. So voted.