

Selectboard
February 21, 2022
Remote 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: None
Members Virtual: David Gagnier; Susan Bartlett, Chair; Roland Boivin; Brian Shackett; Chasity Fagnant
Members Absent: None
Attendees Present: None
Attendees Virtual: Town Clerk Kim Moulton; Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Matt Reed; Mary Walz; Elizabeth Fenn; Rich Pearson; Vicki Emerson; Leslie Rollins; Janet Mazzola; Brad Carriere; Suzanne; GMATV did record this meeting.

Susan opened the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

1. **Welcome.** Brad asked that the use of fire equipment reserve be added to the agenda. No public comment.
2. **Fire Equipment Reserve Fund** – Town Fire Chief Brad Carriere asked for board approval to replace two failed testing devices used when responding to calls, a thermal imager and a gas detector. Chief Carriere reported that both devices are past their useful life and the cost for the new detector is \$1,605 and imager is \$9,150. Motion by Brian to approve the use of up to \$11,000 from the town fire equipment reserve fund to replace both devices. Seconded by Roland. Discussion: Susan asked if funds were available in the reserve and Ron stated yes. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
3. **Planning Commission Vacancy** – Leslie Rollins attended a recent town planning commission meeting as requested by the Board and remains interested in serving. Motion by Roland to appoint Leslie Rollins to the remaining 2 years of a 4-year planning commission term ending March 2024. Seconded by David. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
4. **Knot in Hyde Park** – Mary Walz reported that the community volunteer group has continued to meet via Zoom over the winter and is planning its eradication and management plans for Japanese Knotweed. All residents are invited to attend and can connect with Mary or visit the town website for more information.
5. **COVID Precautions** – The Board will move back to hybrid meetings in March after meeting several times 100% remote. Susan noted that hybrid meetings will continue as an option for those not able to attend or preferring not to attend.
6. **Town Highway 59 (also called: Morey Road, Railroad Drive & Black Farm Road) and unnamed TH72** – Ron reported that the VT Agency of Transportation has been auditing road mileage in Hyde Park and their map history and mileage amounts in the historical documents are inconsistent. They recently completed their work and would like the Selectboard's approval to modify Class 3 and Class 4 mileages and locations, but only slightly to match more accurately what was observed on the ground. For example, TH72 would be relocated slightly to the west and TH59, TH62, TH64, mileages would be adjusted by less than a 1/10th of a mile. Ron provided the detailed highway information from VTrans to the board prior to the meeting. Motion by Brian to accept the proposed TH59 Remeasurement Changes 2022 as proposed by VTrans. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
7. **FY2023 Budget and Town Meeting Articles – Informational Meeting** – Ron reviewed the Town Report tax rate projection page showing major budget changes and a 4.97% tax rate increase above the current year. Elizabeth Fenn asked about the \$275,000 bond for purchase of the Manosh 25-acres on Garfield Road and Susan explained that the land could be used for a variety of municipal purposes and currently has an Act 250 permit restriction for agricultural use until 2035. Roland stated that other towns are hauling gravel long ways because they don't have a local source. Susan noted the land is good agricultural land now and Elisa Clancy stated the town should respect the agricultural land that is left in town. Chasity encouraged residents to contact Selectboard members directly with questions.

- 1 8. **Joint Economic Development Board** – Ron noted that the JEDB needed a new Selectboard member
2 to be appointed as well as a new Village Trustee, and Susan advised to place on agenda after Town
3 Meeting.
- 4 9. **Downtown Grant** – Ron reported that the Agency of Commerce and Community Development has a
5 new grant program for Village Center's that is due March 7th. The Board encouraged the application
6 to move forward to seek funding for the Church & Main stormwater and streetscape project, which is
7 now at 30% design with the recently completed Village Center Net Zero Showcase Study. Ron will
8 advise what is needed to complete the application.
- 9 10. **FEMA Mitigation Projects** – Ron reported that three damaged culvert sites from the November 1,
10 2019 flood are eligible to move forward with federal and state funding, with the next step being the
11 final design, permitting and then construction. FEMA is asked for a bid due date, but the Town needs
12 to continue its work with Watershed Consulting to prepare bid documents. Watershed provided a
13 Scope of Work to complete the hydraulics work, final design, bid process and construction oversight
14 for \$162,500 for all three sites. FEMA and State funding would reimburse the Town for 92.5% of eligible
15 costs. Motion Brian to approve the Watershed Consulting proposal for \$162,143. Seconded by Roland.
16 Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 17 11. **Town Orders** – The town orders were posted online for review. Motion by Chasity to approve the town
18 orders. Seconded by Dave. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 19 12. **Finance Update** – Ron reported that Debra Kobus has notified the Town she will not be completing
20 her probation as Finance Director but may continue in a lesser role., such as a member on the Town
21 finance Committee. She has prepared a draft of a new finance position that would focus on accounts
22 payable, payroll and the general ledger. Chasity agreed to review the draft and meet with Debra and
23 review how the 8 hours that was budgeted for administrative support can be used.
- 24 13. **Reschedule March Monthly** – Susan stated she will be away for the next monthly meeting and asked
25 if that meeting could be moved and the Board agreed that the post-town meeting annual board
26 organizational meeting would be held on March 7th as a hybrid meeting with in-person and remote
27 participation.
- 28 14. **Dave Gagnier** – Susan thanked Dave for serving on the Selectboard as he has decided to not run for
29 a new term this Town Meeting. Dave thanked everyone stating he would continue to participate but as
30 a taxpayer.
- 31 15. **Adjourn** – Motion by Roland to adjourn, seconded by Brian, so voted at 7:52 p.m.
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