

Selectboard
March 7, 2022
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; Roland Boivin; Brian Shackett; Chasity Fagnant, Matt Morin
Members Virtual: None
Members Absent: None
Attendees Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator
Attendees Virtual: Town Clerk Kim Moulton; Asst. Town Clerk Krista Jones; GMATV did not record this meeting.

Susan opened the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

1. **Welcome.** No changes to the agenda and no public comment.
2. **Town Meeting Articles** – The Board reviewed the results of Town Meeting and agreed a purchase and sale agreement with Howard Manosh was the priority and Brian and Susan will meet with Howard to move that forward. The Board asked for a boring plan proposal to verify materials on the 25-acres and the remaining resources at the nearby town gravel pit. Susan stated that the next step should be a diverse group of residents to discuss the municipal options for the 25 acres.
3. **Organizational Meeting** – The Board agreed to remove the mask recommendation for in-person and leave it as optional, noting that hybrid meetings would continue to provide the best access for residents to participate in public meetings. The Board agreed to start meeting on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. with the 2nd Tuesday ideally reserved for policy and planning discussion with limited action items. The News & Citizen will remain the official paper for legal ads and the Board reaffirmed the 2019 Conflict of Interest Policy. Roland nominated Brian as Chair, no objection, so nominated. Roland nominated Chasity for Vice-Chair, no objection, so nominated. Liaisons to town departments:
 - Chasity – Admin with Brian, Gihon Valley Hall, and Library
 - Brian – Admin with Chasity, and Economic Development, Cemetery and Town Committees
 - Susan – Police and NEMC ambulance
 - Matt – Recreation, FAST Squad and Fire
 - Roland – Highway, including town rep. for projects like Net Zero and Sink Hole
4. **Michael Bartlett** – Ron reported that Michael has remained in the home, now owned by the Town following a tax sale, for two years and with April 1 approaching, the town should make a decision on a pending eviction process started last Fall or returning the property to his ownership. Ron noted that the Town has agreed to help landowners with housing in the past, such as the mortgage the Town holds on the Marilyn Zophar parcel on Battle Row Road. Susan suggested that \$14,000 would be a fair amount for a lien or mortgage on the parcel. The Board asked Ron to connect with Jessica Speer, who had started to assist Michael with social services available to him and to ask the town attorney to work on the lien or mortgage option. Roland wanted to make sure we included delinquent water payments to be recovered for the Hyde Park Fire District #1 if that was possible.
5. **Tree Warden** – An ad in Front Porch Forum resulted in a letter of interest from David Palumbo to fill the vacant position of town tree warden. The Board thanks David for his interest in volunteering. Motion by Chasity to appoint David Palumbo as Town Tree Warden. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
6. **Lamoille Valley Rail Trail** – Ron informed the Board that a \$10,000 grant was offered by the Vermont Arts Council to begin the fundraising for a \$60,000 art installation project, which is based on the Dan Gottsegen design approved by the Selectboard in 2021. Motion by Susan to accept the grant and authorize Ron to sign grant documents on behalf of the Town. Seconded by Chasity. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

- 1 7. **Fire Department Radio Grant** – Roland has reviewed the grant application that was submitted last
2 week for a new portable radio system and equipment for the fire department totaling \$99,500. Susan
3 noted that the application should have been completed and presented to the Selectboard before being
4 submitted. Roland noted that the award decision would be made in September 2022, and the chances
5 of approval appeared to be low. Brian offered to work on developing a radio coverage study for the
6 Town to see where ‘dead spots’ were for both highway and other emergency services.
- 7 8. **Sink Hole Project MM18 EH05** – The Board was updated on this stalled project caused by foreclosure
8 and easements not yet secured. Roland agreed to work with project engineer Doug Weber to secure
9 easements to allow the project to move forward.
- 10 9. **Minutes** – The Board has an extensive list of minutes needing approval that were provided online for
11 review. Motion by Susan to approve the minutes listed on the agenda: 09-20-2021; 10-06-2021, 10-
12 18-2021, 11-15-2019, 11-29-2021, 12-20-2021, 01-17-2022, 01-27-2022, 02-01-2022, 02-02-2022,
13 02-10-2022, 02-17-2022, 02-21-2022 and 02-28-2022 . Seconded by Chasity. Voting: 4 in favor, 0
14 against, 1 abstention (Matt as a new member), motion passed.
- 15 10. **Personnel Matter** – Motion by Chasity to move into executive session to discuss a town personnel
16 matter. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 17 11. **Adjourn** – Motion by Roland to adjourn, seconded by Chasity, so voted at 8:15 p.m.
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