

TOWN OF WAITSFIELD, VERMONT
Selectboard Meeting Minutes of
February 22, 2010

I. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Waitsfield Town Office. Present were Selectboard members Kate Williams (Chairperson), Charlie Hosford (Vice-Chairman), Paul Hartshorn, and Sal Spinosa; Town Administrator Valerie Capels, Darryl Forrest, Stuart Grandfield, Charlie Goodman, and Tony Italiano (MRVTV Channel 44/45).

II. **Public Forum.** No one was present for the Public Forum.

III. **Regular Business.**

1. **Waitsfield Road Department summer work program.** Mr. Goodman noted that all items on last year's summer work program were completed with the exception of a couple culverts due to weather. There is a small amount of gravel left from what was crushed, and that it has been working very well for road repair. Items for this year's summer work program include placing gravel on the roads and brush cutting. Two projects involving a culvert going in on North Road and one on Airport Road will be done by subcontractors. It was noted that work on the Brook Road culvert would need to be started very soon and is expected to be paid, in part, through grant funds.

Provisions of the Scenic Road Maintenance Plan were reviewed, including the provision that states one week each summer the Road Department schedule will be dedicated to work identified by the Scenic Road Committee for special projects to enhance the scenic road sides. Mr. Goodman noted that there is some flexibility in the summer work program to accommodate this type of work. The membership of the Scenic Road Committee was reviewed, which is lacking two citizen-at-large members. There was agreement that if this type of additional work is going to be added to the summer work program, it should be identified as soon as possible. Mr. Goodman said the best time for the Committee to research work to be done on scenic roads would be early May. Selectman Hartshorn pointed out that the scenic road maintenance agreement states only three inches of gravel can be placed on the roads. Mr. Grandfield said six inches is the normal amount of gravel used. There was agreement that the document should be reviewed and updated. Selectwoman Williams asked Ms. Capels to contact Scenic Road Committee members by early April to begin the process.

Mr. Goodman asked Ms. Capels to continue communicating any Road Department issues that may have been discussed at any Selectboard meeting as soon as possible.

2. **VLT-Hartshorn Conservation Project: follow-up on easement.** Selectwoman Williams reported that she and Ms. Capels met with Liza Walker and Kris Hammer of the Vermont Land Trust to follow-up on the Selectboard's earlier discussion with regard to the protection of the scenic qualities of this project. She referenced the draft letter to VLT, that proposes to state the Town affirms the primary purpose of productive agricultural soils and uses, and also affirms that there are scenic values associated with that. Selectman Spinosa stated that these types of agreements can leave the Selectboard without any control or authority over future uses for these properties. He feels that the Town's relationship with VLT is strong and that

speaking with them regarding any concerns of this type would be welcome. Selectwoman Williams noted that Ms. Walker and Ms. Hammer researched this area and the reason for drafting the letter is to make it clear that the Town understands the purpose of the easement they are participating in. She also noted that VLT has changed their easements to make their purposes more clear. MOTION: Selectman Hosford moved to approve the draft letter as presented. Selectman Spinosa seconded the motion. The motion passed with three in favor and one abstention (Selectman Hartshorn).

3. **Consider endorsement of grant application for district heat feasibility study.** Selectman Hosford explained that, if awarded, the Town could hire a consultant to consider the feasibility of biomass heat production for the Town. The 10% matching funds would come from remaining funds from the Button Up workshop stipend. MOTION: Selectman Spinosa moved to approve endorsement of the grant application. Selectman Hosford seconded the motion. All were in favor.
4. **Continued discussion of budget and Budget Committee process.** Selectwoman Williams noted that Selectman Parker is not present and suggested discussion wait until after Town Meeting so he can be present. She also recommended that Selectboard members look over the updated draft so a quick and informed discussion can be had. Selectman Hosford suggested that the Budget Committee's role and involvement in the Town Meeting should also be a topic of discussion. No specific Budget Committee presentation is planned.
5. **Review of calendar.** Ms. Capels presented a calendar outline of prospective agenda topics and the Selectboard's 2010 meeting schedule. Selectwoman Williams suggested it be reviewed before each meeting for possible updates, additions, or changes. Selectman Hosford asked that the Selectboard consider inviting some of the community based non-profit groups to meetings for familiarize the Selectboard with their work. Selectman Spinosa suggested that the three town board meeting be placed on the calendar as the last one was five or six years ago. He also suggested that Steve Stitzel or someone from the VLCT be invited to provide a refresher workshop on various procedures.
6. **Minutes of January 11, and January 18, January 25, and February 8, 2010, if available.** Selectman Hartshorn moved to accept the January 11, January 18, and January 25, 2010 minutes with the following correction noted by Selectman Spinosa: in the 2nd motion on page 2 of the January 11, 2010 minutes, Selectman Hosford was designated to act on the Selectboard's behalf, not Selectman Hartshorn. Selectman Hosford seconded the motion. All were in favor.
7. **Bills payable & Treasurer's warrants** were signed.
8. **Selectboard roundtable. Grant Applications.** Selectman Hosford noted that Wednesday, February 23, is the deadline for the Energy Retrofit Grant. He also noted that the Municipal Orchard Grant was submitted last week.

Water Project ERU Status. Selectman Hartshorn asked Mr. Forrest about the ERU progress. Mr. Forrest noted that the ERUs are still at 192. He also noted there are four easements remaining. Ms. Capels noted that Rural Development granted the Town an extension until the project has gone to bid. She reported that an appeal on the Act 250 decision has been received.

Town Pond Planting Plan. Selectman Hartshorn suggested planting blueberry bushes around the Town Pond in addition to the orchard planned for the Flemer Field under the Municipal Orchard Grant. Selectman Hosford noted that the orchards being considered for Flemer Field also include several fruit bushes. Selectman Hosford noted that this would not necessarily need to be part of the Municipal Orchard Grant, but a separate project. Ms. Capels suggested that perhaps they can be included in the planting plan the Selectboard gave permission to the Friends of the Mad River to develop.

Town Meeting Preparations. Selectwoman Williams encouraged Selectboard members to contact Ms. Capels with any questions or concerns needed to be addressed at the March 1 meeting with regard to preparation for Town Meeting

9. **Town Administrator's report.** Ms. Capels referenced her comment in the Town Administrator's report that action should be taken to sign the zoning map. It was agreed she would find out whether the Town Clerk needed to be present in order to attest to them.
- IV. **Executive Session re. pending litigation (Kalichstein and Beattie).** MOTION: A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation. The Selectboard met in executive session from 8:05 p.m. to 8:35 p.m. Upon returning to open session, the following action was taken: MOTION: A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to follow the recommendations of the Town Attorney.
- V. **Other Business.** Mr. Forrest reported that he spoke with Mr. Sharkey, who asked if the Selectboard has or would consider sending a letter to the area athletes recognizing their participation in the 2010 Winter Olympics. Concern was expressed that sending out a letter to one person could inadvertently cause the Selectboard to overlook others. Selectman Hartshorn suggested generically acknowledging Valley participants in the 2010 Winter Olympics could be done at Town Meeting.
- VI. **Adjourn.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Myrto
Minutes Taker

and reviewed by

Valerie Capels
Town Administrator