

1 **SELECTBOARD MEETING**

2 July 19, 2023

3 Attending in person; Merrily Lovell, Maggie Gordon, Mike Loner, Dennis Place, Paul Lamberson, Becky
4 Alford, John Little, Summer Stratton, Roberta MacDonald

5 Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. This meeting was in person only.

6 Agenda Additions or Deletions

7 none

8 Public Comment

9 none

10 Approve Minutes of 6/21 and 7/5

11 Maggie moved to approve the minutes of 6/21 as amended. Seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes
12 votes.

13 Maggie moved to approve the minutes of 7/5 as amended. Seconded by Mike and approved with 4 yes
14 votes and Dennis abstaining.

15 Selectboard Forum

16 Paul said Dawn Francis has completed the first draft of a charter. He noted the fantastic sidewalk
17 progress.

18 Paul addressed the email from VLCT noting a dog control and enforcement training on August 9th.
19 Merrily said she is interested in attending.

20 Merrily announced the Town has a new Road Forman, Rick Bushey. Also hired a new Full Time Fireman,
21 Connor Contois.

22 Howard Center Presentation – Scott LaValley

23 Scott was not present to give the presentation.

24 Planning Commission Interview – Becky Alford

25 Becky said her family moved to Hinesburg 6 years ago, she is interested in the Planning Commission
26 because of her long term commitment to Hinesburg.

27 Maggie asked what Becky thinks is going right in Hinesburg and what is not.

28 Becky said in regards to going right she likes that the Town Plan makes the downtown more vibrant. The
29 work that has been done to move density into the village and conserve land around it. Regarding what
30 could be improved is the fact that there is a large piece of Town that remains car dependent, she would
31 like more safe paths. Taking improvement further is to make the Town more diverse for all incomes.

32 Mike asked what her thoughts are on how the PC could help with affordability. Becky said through
33 conversations, she feels there are misunderstanding on what the development options are and how it
34 can be done responsibly.

35 Merrily asked Becky if she is familiar with the new proposed zoning changes. Becky said she has briefly
36 looked at them and understands the change to be shifting size of subdivision lots in certain areas of
37 Town to increase housing opportunities.

38 Dennis asked her if she thinks it is a good idea. Becky said she does not know the history of the decision
39 and so does not know about the need for the change. Dennis followed by asking what her views are on
40 families that have owned land outside the village for generations and want to develop it. Becky said it is
41 all about balance.

42 Merrily noted there is currently one open position on the PC and two applicants. By the next Board
43 meeting there will be another opening on the PC. The Board agreed to act on both vacancies at the next
44 meeting.

45 Planning Commission Interview – John Little

46 John said he has lived in Hinesburg for 5 years. His husband’s family subdivided land which allowed
47 them to move here and build so zoning and planning has directly influenced his life. He thinks the work
48 put into the proposed changes was good and feels bad that the State Housing Regulations just created
49 undercuts a lot of the PC work.

50 Maggie asked John what is going right in Hinesburg and what needs work.

51 John said what needs work is what he mentioned about the new State rules and incorporating those into
52 the work the PC has done. He noted seeing that the planning we have in place worked well with the
53 heavy rains not causing flooding.

54 Mike asked what would be a priority for John with the PC. John said to keep in mind the human habit we
55 have when considering zoning.

56 Conservation Commission Interview – Summer Stratton

57 Summer said she has lived in Hinesburg for 4 years and resides in the Village. She works as a nature-
58 based childhood educator. She has been involved in the amphibian road crossing project and that is how
59 she became familiar with the Conservation Commission.

60 Maggie asked Summer what is going right in Town and what needs improving.

61 Summer said she loves living here with all the trial networks the Town supports. She noted affordable
62 housing is a problem. She lived in her sister’s basement when she got a job here as she could not find
63 housing at that time.

64 Merrily asked if she had any ideas of how she would use her nature outreach and education to share
65 information on the Conservation Commissions goals. Summer said she likes working with kids and it
66 could be fun to do some outreach and events with them.

67 Merrily noted Kate Kelly sent an email highly recommending Summer.

68 Merrily moved to appoint Summer Stratton to the Hinesburg Conservation Commission for a term
69 ending April 2025. Seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

70 Affordable Housing Committee Interview – Roberta MacDonald

71 Roberta said she rents an apartment in a building near the elementary school which works well for her
72 as she has grandchildren attending the school. She served on the school board in a small town and
73 understands the need for affordable housing. She feels Hinesburg has done a great job distinguishing
74 itself and forming a vision of Hinesburg.

75 Mike asked if she had any thoughts on how to improve access to affordable housing. Roberta said
76 density. She does not know the demographics of the residents in Town and is interested in doing the
77 foot work and do interviewing to understand who is here and their needs.

78 Merrily said Carl Bohlen highly recommends Roberta.

79 Merrily moved to appoint Roberta MacDonald to the Affordable Housing Committee for a term ending
80 April 2026. Seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

81 Town Common Committee Interview – Lenore Budd

82 Lenore was not present to be interviewed.

83 Town Common Committee Interview – Maggie Gordon

84 Maggie said she believes community is the glue that holds people together and the connections we build
85 with community. She said she is really invested in having an open space where people can get together.
86 Maggie has been involved in this goal since 2019. There were 3 designs with basic ideas that has now
87 been incorporated into 1 design. The next step is engineering and tree planting.

88 Paul asked about the Wainer Playground as an outdoor meeting space. What will distinguish lot one
89 from what we have. Maggie said lot 1 is right on Rt 116 and has better visibility. It also is not subject to
90 school use.

91 Paul asked what Maggie feels Hinesburg is doing right and what we should work harder on.

92 Maggie said as shown with people coming to the meeting tonight to volunteer, there are many ways to
93 take part in the community. We will need to expand and offer more for seniors. The down side is not
94 enough money to do all we want to do.

95 Mike asked to keep everything in mind, to be sure all the green spaces work well together.

96 Merrily moved to appoint Maggie Gordon to the Town Common Committee for a term ending April
97 2026. Seconded by Mike and approved with 4 yes votes. Maggie recused herself from the vote.

98 Approve Warrants and Payroll

99 Mike moved to approve the warrants signed by himself, Maggie, Merrily and Paul. Including payroll, as
100 submitted by the Town Treasurer. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

101 Adjourn

- 102 Merrily moved to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.
- 103 Respectfully submitted,
- 104 Valerie Spadaccini, clerk of the Board