



Select Board

Town of Hinesburg
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Meeting Minutes - April 17, 2017

- Draft -

Attending the Meeting: Phil Pouech, Aaron Kimball, Tom Ayer, Andrea Morgante, Trevor Lashua, Renae Marshall, and attached list.

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.

There were no changes to the agenda or public comment.

Interview and Possible Appointments to Boards-Committees-Commissions

Karla Munson, who has served as the Town's regular representative to the regional transit authority in the past, is interested in serving again as an alternate representative.

Karla was previously a commissioner on the Board when it was known as CCTA. She stepped down due to health problems and is now able to volunteer again.

Andrea noted and Board members agreed we are lucky to have her back given her knowledge and passion for the bus service.

Andrea moved the Board make a motion to appoint Karla Munson as the Town of Hinesburg's alternate representative to the Green Mountain Transit board of directors. Second by Tom and approved with 5 yes votes.

There are four applicants for what are now two seats on the Conservation Commission, following the Commission chair's decision to step down from the Commission.

George LeClair said he is interested in keeping land available for fishing and hunting. He spoke about his work with the Walleye Association and youth in the area.

Aaron asked George about his experience on other boards. George said he is open-minded.

Tom said he feels George can be a conduit for how the CC views things to the hunters and fisherman.

Merrily asked how he feels about conserving land. George said it is a good thing if done right.

Kate Kelly feels her background in conservation and wildlife biology will be a good contribution to the Commission. She is interested in working with kids and getting them outdoors.

Aaron asked about the time commitment and Kate said now with her own children being a bit older she has more time to volunteer.

Merrily addressed the land use planning relating to protection of natural resources and looking at that from a different view point from Kate's knowledge and likes the fact she can bring that to the Commission.

Elliot Cluba is an herbalist, gardener, forager, health expert and primitive skills educator and feels he can contribute to the environmental goals of the Commission.

Aaron asked if he has any prior experience working with a board. Elliot said he does not have formal experience but works well remaining objective.

Andrea asked about his conflict resolution experience. Elliot said he has taken courses and uses it in his work through his business.

Peter Erb said he is strongly interested in preservation of natural systems. He feels both the DRB and Select Board need education on conservation impact of projects in Town.

In discussing making appointments Andrea suggested looking at the Commission as a whole and allowing people the opportunity to begin working in volunteerism.

Tom advocated for George to be appointed, as he would bring a different perspective that has not been included before.

Aaron agreed with Tom and feels the connection to other communities is important.

Merrily reminded all the Commission meetings are public meetings and if not appointed they are welcome to attend and contribute at meetings on areas they are interested in and encouraged all to stay connected.

Andrea made a motion the Board vote to appoint Kate Kelly to the Conservation Commission for a term expiring 1/01/20. Second by Aaron and approved with 5 yes votes.

Tom made a motion the Board vote to appoint George LeClair to the Conservation Commission for a term expiring 1/01/19. Second by Aaron and approved with 4 yes and Merrily voting no.

Discuss Uses of Compensation Funds from the Addison Natural Gas Pipeline/Geprags Agreement

Andrea opened by saying it is important to recognize these are potential funds the Town is receiving due to the Select Board agreeing not to challenge the environmental domain proceedings and we should consider the goals of the Geprag donation being recreation and education.

She noted the value of the Peck estate to the Town and supports that type of thinking and investing for the funds the Town might receive.

She likes the idea of funds going to two uses and suggests to use some of the funds to support recreation fields since the Town agreed not to have ball fields at Geprags due to the power lines.

Aaron agreed and said it has been a long time discussion to fund the ball fields and also does not want to spend the entire amount and likes the idea of investing for the future. He views the two “buckets” as the ball fields being an immediate need and investing as a future item.

Aaron also referred to the many good ideas submitted and wants to see the Board work to include those ideas into the budget.

Tom also agrees with the concept of two ideas with the field being the priority.

Merrily likes Gil’s suggestion of long-term investment, she said for her the question is how much is allocated to each. She feels the field is also an investment for the future.

Phil feels strongly about Gil’s suggestion and believes the recreation fields are also a good investment for the funds.

Tom moved the Board move to assign \$250,000 from the stipulated agreement with VGS toward the promotion of recreational and educational opportunities for the residents of Hinesburg, in honor of the Geprags Park covenant. Dollar amounts shall be assigned as follows:

\$60,000 shall be placed in a fund to be supervised and distributed by the Select Board through an application process to be determined.

The remaining \$190,000 shall be assigned to the completion of the critical elements of the Bissonette Fields project. Critical elements include the playing surfaces of multi-purpose field #2 and the little league baseball field, fencing, landscaping, and parking area.

No funds shall be applied until such time as the VT Supreme Court makes it's ruling on the case of the Intervenor vs VGS.

Second by Aaron.

Andrea addressed the budget to date for the fields with existing funds and the fact that there is no price for fencing she calculates \$147,013.03 needed to complete the two fields.

Andrea moved the Board vote to amend the motion to reduce the amount (rounding up) to \$150,000 to complete the two fields, not fencing and all the landscaping site plans conditions from the DRB. And the remaining \$100,000 to be placed in an investment account with the interest to be used for environmental stewardship of public lands with priority given to Geprag Park and the funds to be overseen by elected officials.

Second by Merrily.

Tom agreed to change to 190,000 for the fields with any unexpended returned to the investment fund. Merrily said she would like a split of 125,000 each for the fields and conservation investment.

Discussion on the amendment:

Andrew Dennison asked about the dollar aspect of the amendment. Andrea responded she is suggesting to include the remaining costs in the Town budget. Andrew asked why increase the tax rate when we have the funds now.

Andrea said it is important to recognize this as a community asset and pay taxes to support it.

Frank Twarog stated in his 15 years on the recreation commission and as a members of Peck Estate Board he is aware that the cost of the fields has far outpaced the interest of the Peck Estate. He said the 190,000 represents real costs.

Mary Beth Bowman feels the Park was sold for this sum of money and feels the need to be equitable as to what goes back to the land not just a ballpark.

Andrew Frost said Tom has given an amount and said they will spend up to it and any unused will be returned, why make the decision more difficult.

Tim Pudvar, President of Shelburne Little League and oversees Charlotte and Hinesburg, said Shelburne has four fields to use, Charlotte has two and Hinesburg has none. He said without a backstop, outfield fence and dugouts to keep kids safe included in the project it will put scheduling of games out at least three years.

Bill Baker read a message he just received from Keith Roberts regarding the need for the fields.

Bill said the Town has only one field, behind Town Hall, to use and can't believe we are fighting over \$40,000.

Stevie Spencer does not agree on voting on something we do not have numbers on. Regarding fundraising she noted the success of the Hannaford group as well as other groups in Town with a cause.

Stacy Riley said she feels it is a slap in the face to residents who have supported the fundraising and fears if cut by 40,000 we will not have the funds needed to complete. She is not in favor of putting in next year's budget and feels the full \$190,000 should be voted.

Meg Handler, Conservation Commission member, feels conservation issues always fall to the back of the line. She is in favor of putting more money towards saving for conservation and supports the amendment.

Chuck Reiss, Energy Committee, asked what is being done about the input on needs submitted by other committees.

Amendment voted and approved with Andrea, Merrily and Phil in favor. Tom and Aaron opposed.

Tom moved the Board vote to change the amounts in the original motion to \$189,999.99 for the fields and 60,000.01 to invest. There was no second.

Andrea followed by suggesting keeping the \$190,000 and agree on the use of the \$60,000.

Andrea proposed the remaining \$60,000 be put in an investment account with the interest to be used for environmental stewardship of public lands with priority given to Geprag Park and the fund is to be overseen by elected officials.

Tom moved the Board vote to reconsider the amendment. Second by Andrea. Tom, Aaron, Andrea and Phil in favor and Merrily opposed.

The Board then voted on the original amendment. Andrea, Tom, Aaron and Phil voted against the amendment and Merrily voted in favor of the amendment. The amendment failed.

The motion to be voted on now reads:

Tom moved the Board move to assign \$250,000 from the stipulated agreement with VGS toward the promotion of recreational and educational opportunities for the residents of Hinesburg, in honor of the Geprags Park covenant. Dollar amounts shall be assigned as follows: \$60,000 be put in an investment account with the interest to be used for environmental stewardship of public lands with priority given to Geprag Park and the fund is to be overseen by elected officials.

The remaining \$190,000 shall be assigned to the completion of the critical elements of the Bissonette Fields project. Critical elements include the playing surfaces of multi-purpose Field #2 and the Little League Baseball field, fencing, landscaping, and parking area.

No funds shall be applied until such time as the VT Supreme Court makes it's ruling on the case of the Intervenor vs VGS.

Second by Aaron.

Andrea added if the money does not come to the Town she feels all should support this with tax dollars.

Stacy Riley said she appreciates Meg Handler's comments and is glad the Town will have a fund for investments.

Michael Junga said he has coached baseball in Hinesburg and feels the current gift will not just be used to support the youth program today but will help support other towns who have supported Hinesburg for years.

Merrily said given what she has heard from many tax money should have been spent for years to get the fields. She still feels it should be an even split for the fields and Geprag Park.

The motion was voted and approved with 4 yes votes and Merrily voting no.

Ruth Ayer wanted to publicly thank the Bissonette family for the donation to make the fields possible.

Consider Changes to the Town Forest Management Plan

Pat Mainer reviewed the proposed changes to the management plans for both the Hinesburg Town Forest and the LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest.

Tom moved the Board vote to approve the changes to the Town Forest and LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest management plans as presented. Second by Aaron and approved with 5 yes votes.

Town Plan Review and Discussion – Land Use and Economic Development Chapters (#3 & #4)

Alex and the Board continued their review of the Town Plan making some minor housekeeping changes and clarifications.

Consider Authorizing Bond Anticipation Note for Solar Trackers

The National Bank of Middlebury is offering a bond anticipation note for purchase of the solar trackers with an interest rate of 1.48%. The note lets the Town close on the purchase of the 31 trackers, and will be paid off once the funds are received from the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank (end of July, early August).

Aaron moved the Board vote to authorize the Town Administrator to secure a bond anticipation note from the National Bank of Middlebury for the purchase of the solar trackers, and to close on the purchase as soon as practicable. Second by Merrily and approved with 5 yes votes.

Consider Appointing Select Board Representatives to the Water/Wastewater Allocation Committee

The proposed allocation committee membership includes a pair of Select Board members. The Planning Commission (Jeff French) and Development Review Board (Sarah Murphy) have each identified its respective members. Applications for the three at-large seats have been slower to materialize; two candidates have supplied emails expressing interest. Staff recommends a continuance of the advertising process with appointment to occur at the first meeting in May.

Aaron moved the Board vote to appoint Tom Ayer and Andrea Morgante as the Select Board's representatives to the Water/Wastewater Allocation Committee. Second by Merrily and approved with 5 yes votes.

Consider Approving 1st Class Liquor Licenses

Andrea moved the Board convene at the Board of Liquor Control, second by Tom and approved with 5 yes votes.

Tom moved the Board vote to approve first class liquor licenses for the period beginning May 1, 2017 and expiring April 30, 2018 for:

- Back to Basics Vermont, Inc., d/b/a Hinesburg Public House
- Two Buffoons, Inc., d/b/a Christo's Good Times Café

Second by Merrily and approved with 5 yes votes.

Tom moved the Board adjourn as Liquor Control Board, second by Aaron and approved with 5 yes votes.

Town Administrator's Report

- Vermont Gas Update** – The pipeline is, effectively, in operation and supplying gas to Middlebury. The services of the environmental inspector are no longer required; Tyler Billingsley performed admirably in the role. A decision by the Vermont Supreme Court related to the intervenor group's appeal of the Public Service Board's decision is not anticipated any time soon.
- Town Administrator Transition Discussion** – The "two and two" table shows a pair of discussions related to transition occurring in May. At some point we will collectively want to discuss how the transition can/will occur.
- Village North Sidewalk** – A proposed conservation easement is included. We should take a moment or two to discuss. The easement is a key piece of moving the project forward, as it (at least in part) addresses concerns related to wetlands mitigation on the Renewable NRG Systems property. The Board discussed the need for a project manager for the project.
- Shared Zoning Administrator with Richmond** – The process continues; the goal is to have an update for Monday night (given that the anticipated interview/hiring process will not be occurring as planned).
- Highway Garage Project** – The project team met this past week on stormwater issues, the solid waste drop-off site, and general project planning and timing. There are recommendations related to retaining the architectural firm from the scoping phase (yes) and hiring a project manager (no).
- FY16 Audit** – Audit books will be available at everyone's place on Monday evening.

<i>"Two-and-Two"</i>	
<i>05/01/17</i>	<i>05/15/17</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Decision on Gas/Geprags Compensation funds. ▪ Town Plan Review ▪ Appoint Remaining Allocation Committee members. ▪ Bond Reimbursement Resolution. ▪ Highway garage bond anticipation note. ▪ Discuss use of capital reserves, financing, for SCBA replacement (Fire Department). ▪ Animal Control ordinance. ▪ Town Administrator transition discussion – timeline, process, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Town Plan Review ▪ Selectboard retreat planning and preparation. ▪ Discuss adoption of formal purchasing policy. ▪ Continue Highway Garage project planning discussion. ▪ Animal Control Ordinance – on/off premises discussion, drafting. ▪ Transition discussion, continued.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Note: The dates listed show the first and third Mondays – those dates will likely change based on the adoption of the Board's "summer schedule." The Board discussed the merits of Tuesdays and Thursdays, but it isn't clear if one or the other was selected.</i> 	

Select Board Items

Meeting schedule set to change to Thursdays starting in June.

Andrea made note that the Public Information Meeting for Lake Iroquois is in May and the public comment period end April 21.

Minutes

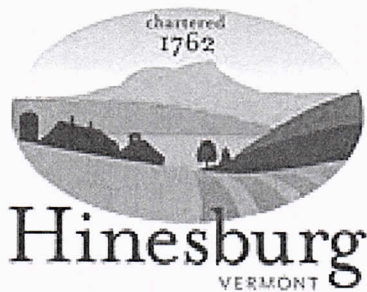
Aaron moved the Board vote to approve the minutes of 3/20/17 and 4/3/17 as corrected. Second by Andrea and approved with 5 yes votes.

Warrants

Aaron move the Board vote to approve the warrants, including payroll, as submitted by the Town Treasurer. Second by Tom and approved with 5 yes votes.

Tom moved to adjourn at 11:35 p.m., second by Aaron and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Spadaccini, clerk of the Board



Selectboard Meeting

Sign-in Sheet

April 17th, 2017

1. Karla Munson

2. Dorothy Pellett

3. Michael Bissonette

4. Katherine Kelly

5. Missy Cheney

6. Kevin Cheney

7. Leon Lestage

8. Bill Behr

9. George B. Leck

10. Jean Miner

11. Marie Ayer

12. Beth Ayer

13. Arthur Thompson

14. Mary Thompson

15. JAMIE CUDNEY

16. Bill Marks

17. Deborah Goudreau

18. Richard Howard

19. Sandra Collins

20. Ernie McCay

21. Nancy Baker

22. Jennifer McCain

23. Tim Spencer

24. Barbara Foreman

25. Bob [unclear]

26. Michael Jung

27. Dan Jacobs

28. Kyle Bostwick

29. Bob Hyams

30. Meg Handler

31. Andrew East

32. Lenore Budd

33. Andrew Jerrison

34. Frank Turner

35. Alex Weinlagen

36. TERRY HARRIS

37. Matt Sayre

38. Dustin Surgerson

39. Daniel Oprea

40. Pat Mainer

41. Theron Main

42. But Z^o (FRIEREN)

43. Beverly Bostnick

44. Stacy Riley

45. Henry Moreno

46. Tanya Jones

47. Tim Ayer

48. Adam Bunn

49. Seamus Patten