

1 **SELECTBOARD MEETING**

2 November 16, 2022

3 Attending the meeting; Merrily Lovell, Maggie Gordon, Mike Loner, Dennis Place, Phil Pouech, Joy Dubin  
4 Grossman, Thomas Broido, Pat Mainer, Ben Marks, Aaron Lavalley, Jonathan Grace.

5 Attending remotely: Todd Odit, Dave Nagel, Margaret McNurlan, Connor Scott, Enrique Peredo, Beth  
6 Whitlock, Dale Wernhoff, Kate Dawson Webster, Nisha Hickok, Miles Hickok, Carl Bohlen, Kasey Kathan,  
7 Andrea Morgante, Karen Tronsgard Scott, Rachel LaVallee.

8 Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. via zoom

9 Agenda Additions or Deletions

10 none

11 Public Comment

12 none

13 Selectboard Forum

14 Phil said GMT is scheduled to come to a Selectboard meeting and asked Board members to send him  
15 their questions ahead of time.

16 Merrily reviewed the Board meeting schedule; 11/30 budget session, 12/7 regularly scheduled meeting,  
17 12/14 discuss ARPA funds, 12/21 regularly scheduled meeting. All meetings will start at 6:00 p.m.

18 Approve Minutes of 11/2/22 & 11/9/22

19 Phil moved to approve the minutes of 11/2 with any agreed upon edits. Seconded by Maggie and  
20 approved with 5 yes votes.

21 Phil moved to approve the 11/9 minutes with any agreed upon edits. Seconded by Maggie and  
22 approved with 5 yes votes.

23 Consider Expanding Housing Committee to Nine Members

24 Merrily said this is an important committee as the Town wants to support Affordable Housing. It  
25 originally was set up to have nine members but they had a problem getting a quorum at meetings and  
26 asked to be reduced to a seven member committee. There is currently one open position and two  
27 people interested in being on the committee. Increasing to nine will allow both individuals to be  
28 appointed.

29 Phil agreed with Merrily that this is an important committee and asked Carl B about the request to  
30 increase the number. Carl said George Bedard stepped down creating the one vacancy. They have  
31 interest from two people and so are asking to go back to a nine member committee. With both  
32 candidates appointed the committee will have eight members. Carl does not feel there will be a  
33 problem to get a quorum at meetings.

34 Phil moved to increase the size of the Affordable Housing Committee from seven to nine members.  
35 Seconded by Mike.

36 Dale W agreed with Carl's statement and said with zoom meetings they have had regular attendance of  
37 all committee members as well as residents. He does not feel it will be a problem to get a quorum at  
38 meetings.

39 Motion voted and approved with 5 yes votes.

40 Consider Appointment to the Affordable Housing Committee – Beth Whitlock

41 Beth said she recently moved to Hinesburg from Williston. She works with the housing project at  
42 CVOEO and has learned a lot about housing needs. She wants to keep Hinesburg a place all can afford  
43 to live. Maggie asked Beth is she can commit to several years of serving on the committee. Beth said  
44 she can, she just bought a house in Town and plans to stay here.

45 Phil supports Beth and likes what she wrote about the need to have infrastructure supporting  
46 affordability including mass transportation.

47 Phil moved to appoint Beth Whitlock to the Affordable Housing Committee for a term to expire April 1,  
48 2025. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

49 Consider Appointment to the Affordable Housing Committee – David Nagel

50 David said they have owned their house since 12/98 and he has been a full time resident of Hinesburg  
51 for about 5 years He has been attending the committee meetings on zoom. He said he has been  
52 involved in buying and selling houses and said affordable housing takes on a different tone when you  
53 have people who work in the community but can't afford to live there. Or people who are looking to  
54 downsize and can't find anything affordable. Maggie asked David about committing to a three year  
55 term. David said he can do that.

56 Maggie moved to appoint David Nagel to the Affordable Housing Committee for a term to expire April 1,  
57 2025. Seconded by Dennis and approved with 5 yes votes.

58 Carl noted there is still one opening on the committee if anyone is interested.

59 Consider Appointment to the Town Forest Committee – Thomas Broido

60 Tom said he has been living in Hinesburg for 36 years and has had a long career in environmental health  
61 and safety consulting as well as a recreationalist. He has a lot of experience on volunteer boards.

62 Maggie moved to appoint Thomas Broido to the Town Forest Committee for a term ending April 1, 2025.  
63 Seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

64 Consider Appointment to the Economic Development Committee – Steve Gladstone

65 Phil moved to appoint Steve Gladstone to the Economic Development Committee which he has been on  
66 for quite a while and helped champion a number of issues including some COVID issues, for a term that  
67 will expire April 1, 2025. Seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

68 Consider Adoption of Declaration of Inclusion

69 Mike said along with Joy they have been working with a group of Hinesburg residents, and he was happy  
70 to see the group being there, via zoom, to support this. Mike said he feels this is the next step for  
71 Hinesburg to take as we dedicate toward becoming a more welcoming community. He and Joy are part  
72 of the Ethical Performance Improvement Campaign representing Hinesburg which is one of eight towns  
73 training on DEI and justice issues. Mike read the declaration; copy included in tonight's meeting packet.

74 Todd added that the Town is also participating the States Inclusion Diversity Equity Action and  
75 Leadership program. Approving this shows action and leadership.

76 Phil said this is more than just a statement. It is something we can use to say this is what we are  
77 committing to.

78 Karen, member of the group working on this, said she is looking forward to using the declaration as a  
79 springboard for other work.

80 Mike moved to adopt the Declaration of Inclusion as read at the meeting. Seconded by Maggie and  
81 approved with 5 yes votes.

82 Discussion with Aegis Renewable Energy re: Hinesburg Solar Project – Aaron LaValle

83 Ben Marks, president of Acorn Renewal Energy Co-op, Aaron LaValle representing Aegis, and Jonathan  
84 Grace consulting engineer were present to discuss the solar project on the landfill.

85 Ben said in 2020 Acorn signed an option agreement with the town which is about to expire, they are  
86 requesting an extension to the agreement. They have been working with the Town Energy Committee  
87 to make investment in the project available to residents.

88 Aaron said the post closure permit is the next step that needs to happen in the process. This will include  
89 the engineering done on the landfill to be sure there will be no damage to the cap.

90 Jonathan said they need to amend the post closure certification to incorporate the solar project. He said  
91 the calculations indicate no impact on the cap from the solar project.

92 Kasey Kathan, member of the solid waste management program at Vermont DEC, said she does post  
93 closure certifications for landfills. She reviewed the process of needing an amendment to our post  
94 closure certification. They will be looking for no negative impact on the cap. There will be a change to a  
95 quarterly inspection to be sure the actual construction process and any equipment that was used did  
96 not cause long term damage on the cap and vegetation is established.

97 Dennis asked what happens years from now if there is a problem and the State requires the cap needs  
98 work and they have to remove their solar equipment. Would Acorn bear the cost for that? Ben said he  
99 would have to look at the lease.

100 Phil said he has been involved with this from the start. The Town was anxious to take advantage of the  
101 State's incentives. They felt this was a great spot to do this, it is the VEC territory portion of Town so it  
102 all sounded very good. Then we discovered problems with the cap. The Town is doing whatever needs  
103 to be done to get this correct. Anything Acorn does is under the amendment we get from the State and  
104 says everything they have done is correct. He noted the contaminated wells and concern that years  
105 from now more wells are contaminated and the State requires the whole cap to be redone. If that  
106 happens who is responsible for the cost to remove the panels. Ben said they considered that when they

107 drafted lease which states the landlord may cause Acorn to temporarily remove and relocate portions of  
108 the solar panels to maintain or repair the cap. The Town would need to make space to store the panels  
109 during repair. The lease states the Town will not have any financial obligation for any decrease or  
110 interruption in solar production.

111 Kasey said it is very rare that full removal of a cap and replacement is needed. They have approved a  
112 number of solar arrays on closed landfills, the most common issues are getting vegetation re-established  
113 and that is why they require quarterly inspecting. There have also been two stormwater runoff change  
114 requests.

115 Phil said if we don't move forward the Town has annual inspections and we do basic annual  
116 maintenance. When the panels are up, will it increase the cost of maintenance. Ben said it would  
117 decrease the Town cost as they have an agreement to mow the array.

118 Phil asked about stormwater. Todd said tonight they are looking for the Selectboard approval to submit  
119 the amendment to the post closure certification. After that they will need to address stormwater.  
120 Stormwater is the lowest priority at this point, they need the extension of the lease option before 12/11.  
121 Phil asked about Town council review. Todd said that will need to be done. Todd said the Town would  
122 need any proposed amendments to the lease from Acorn even if just the dates.

123 Ben said the other topic for discussion tonight is once the Town is satisfied with the post closure  
124 amendment, they would like to take on the amendment Jonathan spoke about at the cost of Acorn to  
125 make sure they don't have to install a separate stormwater management system.

126 Phil asked Kasey if within a week when the Town sends in the pictures of completion of the additional  
127 work that was required, would she be able to say the cap is in compliance. Kasey said she would  
128 respond likely within a week.

#### 129 Consider Approval of Public Safety Strategic Plan Proposal

130 Todd said they received six responses to the RFP with prices from \$17,465.00 to \$80,000.00. They were  
131 all ranked with the two top ranked firms being MRI (who did the previous strategic plan for Hinesburg)  
132 and CGR.

133 The top ranked firm, MRI, did not address the equity and inclusion piece as much as CGR did.

134 Interviews with both firms will be set up to have further discussion on their proposals.

135 Board members agreed to further interview the firms and clarify the scope of work.

136 Andrea M said she agrees with the Board's comments. MRI is very data driven and internally focused in  
137 terms of functioning and operations within the Town. CGR seems to be very community and people  
138 focused. It is sometimes easier to make decisions based on data. She feels it is important to recognize  
139 the broader community support.

#### 140 Consider Approval of Transportation Alternatives Grant Application

141 Phil moved to approve applying for a Transportation Alternatives Grant in the amount of \$124,925.00  
142 for the Rt 116/ Lantman's crossing. Seconded by Dennis.

143 Andrea asked if this is just for the crosswalk or does it include change in signalization intersection  
144 improvements. Todd said the signalization was not funded by this grant. The RPC said the Town needs  
145 to do this realignment change first then we can apply to the RPC for signalization study to be done. This  
146 would be to have the light green from Charlotte Rd at the same time as the exit from Lantman's as well  
147 as adjustments to time the signals along Rt 116 through Town.

148 Motion voted and approved with 5 yes votes.

149 Town Manager Report

- 150 • Todd touched on his concern of lack of revenue in the budget due in part to sources we no  
151 longer have. What we need to raise in total taxes will be a higher percentage increase than the  
152 actual expenditure percentage increase.
- 153 • ww treatment upgrade – will have someone with a lot of experience operating these plants go  
154 over the plans and give final thoughts before the plans are final
- 155 • at the Town Hall / Fire Station meeting they looked at 4 different potential layouts for Town Hall  
156 and 2 options for the Fire Station. They have narrowed down to 2 options for Town Hall and 2  
157 for the Fire Station to get cost estimates on.

158 Consider Approval of Warrants and Payroll

159 Merrily moved to approve the warrants signed by herself and Maggie, including payroll, as submitted by  
160 the Town Treasurer. Seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

161 Adjourn

162 Mike moved to adjourn at 8:03 p.m., seconded by Phil and approved with 5 yes votes.

163 Respectfully submitted,

164 Valerie Spadaccini, clerk of the Board