

## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

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Tuesday, April 5, 2016, 5:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common

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Present: Selectboard members Laurie Colgan, Chris Martin and Andy Perchlik; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Road Foreman Dan Tetreault; Visitors Shauna Clifford (VTrans), James Arisman, Susan Arisman, Diana Batzel, David Warshow, Jenny Warshow, Bruce Westcott, Peggy Bresee, Ellen Halperin, Allen Banbury

At 5:30 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Andy Perchlik

**Changes or additions to the agenda:** Beaver Meadow Road, Recreation Committee request for a tether ball, Cemetery update

**Public Comment/Unscheduled Appearances (limited to 15 minutes TOTAL):** none

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** Bruce Westcott expressed disappointment that the minutes of March 15<sup>th</sup> include comments about Ellie Blachly when she wasn't at the meeting. He felt that it is discourteous to allow unsubstantiated accusations in a public meeting. He felt that the subject was not properly warned. He suggested that the Board should have terminated the discussion and postponed it until Ellie was invited to the meeting. The Board deferred approval of the minutes until the next meeting. The Board approved the minutes of Town Meeting with one small change, and the minutes of the February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Agency of Transportation:** Shauna Clifford introduced herself. She is the district project manager for District 7. The Town was recently moved from District 6 to District 7. The Town has applied for a grant to repave Creamery Street and is considering a future grant application for the School Street bridge; the deck was repaired approximately 10 years ago but it is already cracking again. She offered to meet with Dan to look at the bridge. She explained that the highway grants are spread equitably among towns according to the miles of roads. Right now Marshfield's grant per mile is in line with the average, so it is possible that we will be successful this year. Dan explained that there is another project to consider, a box culvert on Holt Road. That project may be appropriate for a grant from the Better Roads program or a Town Highway Structures grant. Shauna also discussed Act 64, the municipal roads general permit. The permit will have standards that towns will have to follow for areas that are adjacent to waterways or at a high risk for erosion. If we apply for a Better Roads grant next year, we can use the money to field-verify the map. Bobbi asked what the weight limit should be on the Cassady Road bridge. She indicated that the statutory limit for a timber-frame deck is

16,000 pounds. She explained the purpose of the annual financial plan for highways. Bobbi and Shauna will complete the financial plan.

**Beaver Meadow Road:** The Town received a complaint that a resident was removing gravel from the town road to resurface his driveway. There were several witnesses. The Vermont State Police were called and they spoke with the resident. The Town Attorney was also consulted. James Arisman suggested having the witness do an affidavit. The Board authorized Chris or Bobbi to talk with the Town Attorney and have him send a letter to the homeowner to cease.

**Old Schoolhouse Common:** Bruce Westcott came to address the questions about use of the gym. He suggested that the tenants get together and review the rules and suggest improvements. He agrees that it's good that we have recreation but there should be a recreation planner or better systems in place to manage the space. There are possible changes that could be made to the facility to make it quieter. There will be a meeting of the tenants and interested people to come up with suggestions.

**Stranahan Town Forest:** Susan Arisman summarized a letter that she has emailed to the Selectboard. She objects to the idea of dissolving the current Stranahan Committee even if they are allowed to reapply. She feels that much expertise will be lost, and it is hurtful and heavy-handed and would be as if the volunteers were being "fired" or thrown out. Peggy Bresee echoed what Susan said. Andy explained that he thought the Stranahan Committee had done a great job over the last five years getting the Stranahan Forest to be the great community resource it is but that creating a new committee structure was the best course of action. He did not think they were "firing" the current volunteers, but just creating an equal opportunity for existing members, as well as others, to decide if they want to be on the new Committee.

Regarding the management plan, Bobbi mentioned that she suggested including a reference to the Open Meeting Law and the Town's open meeting policy instead of getting bogged down in the details of the law. A draft open meeting policy and procedure will be discussed later in the meeting. Laurie moved to accept the changes to the management plan. Chris seconded – all in favor.

Regarding the job description, it also refers to the Open Meeting Law and town policy. David Warshow suggested that when recommendations are brought to the Selectboard, the Selectboard's decision should be communicated in writing. The Board made that change. The list of responsibilities was modified to indicate that the Committee will not

have to perform the maintenance themselves, but will have oversight of the activities. The job description was further modified to refer to the town policy (Marshfield Rules of Procedure for Town Boards). Laurie moved to accept the job description with the edits made, and move it into the management plan. Chris seconded – all in favor.

Andy noted that some people feel that the Board should keep members of the committee that meet the new criteria and leave it to those who don't meet the criteria to know that they are not on the new committee, but he feels that the best way forward is to create a new committee from a clean slate, open to all of the current members and anybody else in town who is interested. He said he appreciates the work that has been done and does not mean it as a criticism of the current committee members' work. He feels that there are other people in the community who would like to have a newly-crafted committee.

Susan Arisman feels that two people are no longer qualified to serve under the new guidelines, but she feels that the other three members should not be made to reapply because it is disrespectful and not the way to treat volunteers. She also feels that getting rid of the current members would be unwise because the Town would lose their knowledge. She feels that there will always be disagreement, as long as there are people who have different opinions.

In response to a question as to what the Board's reasons for creating a new committee are, Chris indicated that the Board is trying to be politically correct. The Board has heard many complaints that the Stranahan Committee and the public have not heard. Peggy Bresee is troubled that the Selectboard is making decisions based on opinions that have not been expressed in a public meeting. Andy attempted to explain some of the complaints that the Board has heard. He sees a clean slate as the best way forward.

Laurie feels that the new job description and revisions will set clear expectations. She stated that the Board is not negating the work of the present committee – she feels that they have done a wonderful job. The revisions are meant to support the great work of the committee. She feels that it would be inappropriate to hand-pick some members of the committee to remain on the committee without opening it up to everyone. Chris agreed that starting with a clean slate is the way to proceed.

Ellen Halperin asked who would want to be on the committee if they don't have a vested interest. She feels that if someone has a complaint about a committee, they should be

encouraged to talk to the committee or come to a Selectboard meeting to talk about things in the open.

Several of those present thanked the Selectboard for their work and the thoughtfulness they have put into the process.

Andy moved to dissolve the current Stranahan Stewardship Committee and put out an announcement asking for new members as described in the amended management plan. Laurie seconded – all in favor.

The Board will ask for letters of interest by May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Board will discuss the applications at the meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and do interviews at a later meeting.

**Dog Complaint:** The Board discussed the complaints that they have received regarding Vivian Davis's dogs, and ways to enforce the dog ordinance through the Municipal Ordinance Bureau.

**Policy review and adoption:** The Board adopted the grant policy after discussion and minor revisions. The Conflict of Interest and Open Meeting policies were tabled.

**Appointments to town committees:** The Board reviewed applications for the Planning Commission, Conservation Commission, and Fence Viewer positions. They made the following appointments:

**Cemetery Sexton:** Joe Mangan

**Conservation Commission Member:** Sarah Norton and Jessica Rubin

**Development Review Board Member:** Michael Schumacher and Les Snow

**Dog Officer:** Jo Guertin

**Energy Committee Member:** Wes Cate, Dan Chodorkoff, Michael Horowitz, Anne Miller, John Morris, Nick Seifert, and Joel Trupin

**Fence Viewer:** Chris Bellamy, Dennis Ducharme, and Richard Phillips

**Fire Chief:** Tim Maclay

**Health Officer:** James Arisman

**Inspector of Lumber, Shingles and Wood:** Dennis Ducharme

**Planning Commission Member:** Michael Schumacher and Faeterri Silver

**Recreation Committee Member:** Lincoln Earle-Centers, Drew McNaughton, and Penni Ann Stearns

**Service Officer:** Elizabeth Stern

**Tree Warden:** Ron Smith

**Weigher of Coal:** Albert St. Cyr

**Zoning Administrator:** Robert Light

**Recreation Committee:** The Board approved the request for a tether ball, as long as the Recreation Committee checks with the Town's insurance company regarding proper placement.

**Town Clerk's Report:** Bobbi has checked with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and it is their opinion that appointments to town committees and boards should be treated in the same manner as hiring an employee; interviews should be conducted in executive session.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bobbi explained that the Department of Public Safety is doing a routine desk audit of the Town's FEMA reimbursement for the December 2014 ice storm, and they have requested that the Town have a written grant management policy with conflict of interest provisions to comply with federal statutes. The policy that the Board adopted earlier in the meeting should meet the requirements.

Bobbi presented the Board with the Financial Management questionnaire that is required to be reviewed annually.

**Pellets for the Old Schoolhouse:** Andy suggested that the Town should put the purchase of pellets out to bid. He will draft bid documents.

**Martin Covered Bridge:** The Board approved the request from the Friends of the Winooski to plant trees upstream of the bridge.

**Grants:** The Board executed an amendment to extend the Park & Ride grant.

**Expenses, Permits & Payroll:** Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll. They approved a liquor license for the Marshfield Village Store.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

A True Record. Attest, \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

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