

Minutes
West Fairlee Selectboard Meeting
Monday October 7, 2013

Present: Beverly Ash, Cory Austin, Fred Cook, Delsie Hoyt

Visitors: Alice Adams, Gary Collins, Bonnie Cray, Marilyn Dresser, Jim McDade, Doug Sonsalla, Peggy Willey

The meeting was called to order at 6 pm.

Minutes: Bev Ash moved to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2013 regular meeting as presented; Cory Austin seconded; approved.

Visitors/ Reports of Town Officers and Committees:

Historical Society Restoration Committee: A group interested in further study of the restoration of Bean Hall presented a proposal of activities. Hoyt suggested that, for the time being, the group's activities be limited to reviewing previous work of the Community Development Committee including the Fire Marshall and engineering reports, contractor estimates for repairs, and insurance coverage. The Selectboard did not object to an updated review by the Fire Marshall. Hoyt noted there are additional structural issues which would need to be addressed in order to get an occupancy permit and insurance coverage. Cray emphasized that the group would look at volunteer-based options which would be of no cost to the taxpayer. Hoyt noted that visioning for the village center should involve the broader community and would be best undertaken through the municipal planning grant or a similar activity.

Delsie Hoyt moved to form a Bean Hall Study Committee to investigate the feasibility of restoring and maintaining Bean Hall, to consist of Bonnie Cray, Doug Sonsalla, Jim McDade, Marilyn Dresser, Alice Adams and Bev Ash (ex officio); Fred Cook seconded; approved.

Westshire Shelter: Gary Collins, Director of Operations from Rivendell School District, came to discuss use Westshire School as an emergency shelter under the Red Cross' Small Shelter Initiative. Both Rivendell Academy and Samuel Morey School are currently Red Cross shelters. Collins explained that the Red Cross will do a shelter survey with Gary, and perhaps tour the building. Collins noted that Rivendell provides the building, but the community must provide the staffing coverage and storage for cots and other supplies. Collins estimated that Westshire has space for about 145 on the short term, or for 72 with cots and food service.

Conservation Commission: Peggy Willey asked for approval to use conservation funds for two presentations sponsored jointly with Thetford Conservation Commission which were not in their earlier work plan. Naturalist Mary Holland will present on habitat at Thetford Academy and Squam Lake Science Center has a traveling program for children that includes live animals at the Westshire School. They estimate that expenses for both programs will be about \$450. Hoyt moved to approve use of conservation funds for these two educational programs; Austin seconded; approved. Willey also asked for the approval of \$50 from their funds to rejoin the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions. The membership had lapsed over the past

couple of years, but it's a valuable resource. Austin moved to reinstate the membership; Cook seconded; approved.

The other issue is the Veida property that has come up for sale, approximately 50 acres between the Brushwood Forest and Fairlee's town forest. It appears that there is a right of way to that property through the Brushwood Forest that could be problematic. More information is needed before a decision can be made, and the Town attorney consulted. The Conservation Commission will follow up on collecting the information the Selectboard needs.

Review Financial Statements: Budget figures appear to be on target.

Roads:

The beaver problem in Scrabble Hollow has been addressed. Paving on Wild Hill and Beanville has been finished; guardrails must be reinstalled before we can submit grant reimbursement from the State for these projects. Roadside mowing has started, and final grading will be underway soon. Stevens Road sign is gone; some other signs also need to be ordered. Potholes on the bridge on Cross Road need to be fixed. Hoyt asked BlakTop for a preliminary estimate for budget purposes for next year's paving, and will investigate whether a Structures Grant may be tapped for grinding the bridge deck before resurfacing.

Old Business

Update: The Community Building renovations are moving along. An estimate for the concrete work for entrance ramps was received, and a second contractor is expected to look at it. The Town Clerk's "elections grant" of \$5000 will help cover this expense. Thursday and Friday they are going to start taking up the floor, so Rhonda's office furniture will need to be moved. It won't happen until after October 15th, the last day for taxes.

Delinquent dogs – Cory will review the process for judicial tickets in the files.

New Business

Bev Ash made a motion to approve the transfer of \$28,131 from the Capital Expense Note to the General Fund to cover Porter's Invoice #7; Fred Cook seconded; approved.

Cory Austin moved to approve the pay-off of Tax Anticipation Note \$101,203.77; Bev Ash seconded; approved.

Response to James Hughes letter re: shrinkage of his property because of the revision of the tax maps. Delsie spoke with Bill Tobin from Property Valuation and Review; there is nothing in statute that specifically directs the listers use the tax maps; it is accepted procedure that unless there is a survey, the tax maps are the standard for determining acreage and frontage, and as information improves (i.e. new digital maps) they change from time to time. The listers use the best information they have available. He suggested that we address this strictly on the fact that he received the change of appraisal as everybody did along with notice of how and when to grieve, and he did not. Delsie will draft a reply and circulate it.

Options for recycling resident permits/stickers – Bev Ash got the information on where Thetford buys their stickers. The next recycling day includes a Greater Upper Valley tires and scrap metal event so people will be coming in from surrounding towns. Officer Austin is doing a great job running the recycling.

Cory Austin moved to approve the correction of the errors and omissions to the Grand List; Fred Cook seconded; approved.

Janet Austin provided information from Vermont Appraisal Company about a contract for support services from them; the point was made that we already have unlimited calling with Property Valuation and Review. This will be discussed at a future date, possibly in connection with budget discussions.

Other Business/Agenda Items (to be acted on at next regular meeting)

There are lights out over Viola's desk upstairs in library; she is also ready to have the storm windows put on.

Ash moved to sign the orders; Austin seconded; approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.