

**TOWN OF WILLISTON
SELECTBOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
November 5, 2012**

DRAFT

MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Macaig (Chairman); Jeff Fehrs, Jay Michaud, Debbie Ingram. (Chris Roy was absent.)

ADMINISTRATION: Rick McGuire, Town Manager; Jessica Andreoletti, Assistant Planner; Dick Ransom, Assistant to Assessor.

OTHERS PRESENT: Susan Hayes, Brian Meisenzahl, Scott Moody (CCTV-Ch. 17), Luke Baynes (Williston Observer).

1. Call to Order

Chairman Terry Macaig called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

2. Minutes

October 22, 2012

MOTION by Debbie Ingram, SECOND by Jeff Fehrs, to approve the minutes of October 22, 2012 with the following correction(s)/clarification(s):

Page 3, Item #10, Unified Code Amendments – add a statement saying “There was considerable discussion on possible uses in the Industrial Zoning District East.”

VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Committee Application Interviews/Appointments

Susan Hayes was interviewed for a position on the Social Organizations Committee and Brian Meisenzahl was interviewed for a position on the Cemetery Committee. There was discussion of the applicants for a position on the Historic and Architectural Advisory Committee.

MOTION by Debbie Ingram, SECOND by Jay Michaud, to appoint Susan Hayes to the Social Organizations Committee for an indefinite term.

DISCUSSION: Jeff Fehrs asked if the vote should be postponed until the applicant is asked about potential conflict of interest. There was agreement the potential for conflict of interest is minimal given the function of the committee.

VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

MOTION by Debbie Ingram, SECOND by Jeff Fehrs, to appoint Karen Fragnoli-Munn to the Historic and Architectural Advisory Committee for a term ending June 30, 2014.

DISCUSSION: The strengths of the candidates for the position were discussed.

VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

MOTION by Debbie Ingram, SECOND by Jay Michaud, to appoint Brian Meisenzahl to the Cemetery Committee for a term ending June 30, 2014. VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

5. Errors and Omissions

Dick Ransom, explained the recommended adjustments to the 2012 grand list.

MOTION by Debbie Ingram, SECOND by Jay Michaud, to approve the corrections to the 2012 grand list as proposed by the Listers. VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

6. Lease Agreement

Jessica Andreoletti, Assistant Planner, reported the Conant Family is in agreement with the Conservation Commission with regard to the watershed buffer on the town land presently being farmed by the Conant family. The Conants feel the farming operation will not be impacted by the buffer. There was discussion of whether the proposed 50' buffer is adequate. Ms. Andreoletti noted the buffer is fluid and may be smaller or larger in areas. There was mention of reviewing the regulations to consider items that should be addressed, such as unmapped tributaries.

MOTION by Debbie Ingram, SECOND by Terry Macaig, to authorize the Town Manager to sign the lease agreement with Conant Riverside Farms, LLC for use of town land. VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

7. Policy on Use of Environmental Reserve Fund (ERF)

There was discussion of the language in the Environmental Reserve Fund policy. Jeff Fehrs suggested wording on Page 3, item (a), relative to the use of the ERF be restated to say a majority vote of the Selectboard is needed following recommendation from the Conservation Commission. Rick McGuire mentioned the Johnson property and Lyons property as examples where the Selectboard may have wanted to override the Conservation Commission. Jeff Fehrs asked about land rights and property acquired for conservation converting to recreation. Rick McGuire stated the town policy can be stricter than state statute. Staff will further research the matter and modify the draft policy for consideration by the Board.

8. Environmental Reserve Fund Request

Jessica Andreoletti explained the request to use ERF funds to cover half the cost of a land appraisal for a farm easement on 158 acres off Oak Hill Road on the Bruce Farm. Vermont Land Trust is interested in purchasing the property to eventually sell the farm at agricultural cost and match a farmer to the land to keep the property as a working landscape. There is a significant view corridor and other natural features on the land including the Allen Brook head waters, primitive trail system, Mud Pond, and Class 2 wetlands.

MOTION by Debbie Ingram, SECOND by Jay Michaud, to authorize payment up to \$2,250 from the Environmental Reserve Fund as recommended by the Conservation Commission to pay half the cost of a Restricted Use Report for a farm easement appraisal for the Bruce Farm in Williston. VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

9. Line Item Transfers (FY2013)

Rick McGuire explained funds are held in a reserve account until the cost of living increase for employees is negotiated then the funds are transferred for disbursement.

MOTION by Debbie Ingram, SECOND by Jeff Fehrs, to adopt the proposed line item transfers as outlined in the spreadsheet, dated October 29, 2012. VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

10. Health Insurance Renewal

Rick McGuire reported the rate for health insurance coverage will increase by 3% for next calendar year based on proposals received by the Town's agent.

MOTION by Debbie Ingram, SECOND by Jay Michaud, to renew the town's health insurance program with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Vermont for calendar year 2013. VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

11. Town Manager's Report

Rick McGuire reported on the following:

- The parent company (Lord Corporation) that recently acquired ownership of MicroStrain in Williston pledges to keep the jobs in Williston.
- GBIC is requesting a letter of concurrence from the town on the foreign trade zone at the airport. Rick McGuire will draft the letter.
- Effort continues to try to identify a suitable site for the public works facility on the six acre parcel provided by CSWD. There have been discussions of the town buying an additional three acres adjacent to the six acre parcel in order to find an appropriate and feasible building site.

12. Other Business

Special Event Permit

MOTION by Debbie Ingram, SECOND by Jay Michaud, to approve a Special Event Permit for an indoor cider tasting event in a 4'x 6' area at Natural Provisions on November 20, 2012 from Noon to 6 PM. VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

Posting Documents on Town Website

Jeff Fehrs spoke in support of posting the town's quarterly financial reports on the town webpage. Rick McGuire confirmed the information is already on the website.

Openings on Town Boards/Committees

The Affordable Housing Task Force presently has three applicants for vacancies on the committee. More applicants are needed.

13. Adjournment and/or Executive Session

There was no further business before the Selectboard and the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.

RScty: M.E.Riordan