

Greensboro Selectboard

April 13, 2016

Meeting Minutes

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Romans, Sean Thomson, Judy Carpenter, Ernie Machia

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Susan Wood

OTHERS PRESENT: Dan Tanner, Valdine Hall, Josh Karp, June Cook, Nancy Hill, Erika Karp, Harold Gray, Clive Gray, Rick Morrill, Andy Dales

CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 PM

MINUTES

Minutes from the March 23, 2016 meeting unanimously approved as written.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

Elizabeth Armstrong – GAAR Summer Parking. In a letter to the Board, Elizabeth expressed concern that roadside parking at GAAR's summer events on the Town Hall Green creates a dangerous situation. Discussion; no specific action was taken. Judy will discuss Armstrong's concerns with GAAR.

TOWN CLERK & TREASURER – Valdine Hall

1. The Board reviewed the FY 2016 budget, Y.T.D.
2. The Board signed the deed for the sale of the old firehouse. The buyer is Naomi Ranz; the sale price is \$35,000. The closing will be on April 14.

GREENSBORO CONSERVATION COMMISSION – Repairs to Barr Hill Rd.

GCC President Erika Karp presented a letter to the Board, detailing a plan to repair Barr Hill Rd. which has been in poor condition for a number of years. The \$16,000+ repair would be funded by the Greensboro Conservation Fund (\$2,000), The Nature Conservancy/VT's Barr Hill Endowment fund (\$3,000), and through fundraising by the Greensboro Land Trust (\$13,000).

The letter references an article adopted at Greensboro's 2006 town meeting:

"The Town will take responsibility for grading the road and supplying gravel for the road to the Barr Hill Nature Preserve parking lot (a continuation of T.H. #36) but will not truck the gravel."

The article was discussed; most of those present agreed that it was vaguely written and provides limited guidance to the Selectboard.

In the spirit of the article, Erika asked the town to donate up to 600 yd. of bank run gravel, loaded by road crew employees using the town loader. Hauling, grading, ditching, screened gravel, etc. would not be provided, or paid for, by the town.

Judy made the following motion:

The Board approves \$2,000 from the Greensboro Conservation Fund be used for repairs to Barr Hill Rd., as discussed.

Sean seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Judy made the following motion:

The Board approves the donation of up to 600 yd. of bank run gravel to The Nature Conservancy/VT for repairs to Barr Hill Rd., as discussed.

Peter seconded the motion.

Discussion. The Nature Conservancy/VT owns the Barr Hill Natural Area. Ernie expressed concern about giving away this much material to a private, non-profit organization. Other non-profits may ask for a similar favor, he said, and town loader use and town employee labor have real costs. Some of the approved \$2,000 from the Greensboro Conservation Fund could be used to reimburse the town for these costs.

Erika said that Barr Hill is visited by many people, including school groups and many summer visitors; an access road in good repair benefits everyone. Peter said that the road repair should be thought of as a beneficial public works project.

After further discussion, Ernie restated and amended Judy's earlier motion:

The Board approves the donation of up to 600 yd. of bank run gravel to The Nature Conservancy/VT for repairs to Barr Hill Rd., as discussed. The donation of this large quantity of gravel to repair Barr Hill Rd. is a one-time occurrence.

Judy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The project should begin in mid-May. Dan requested advance notice in order to schedule the loader and an operator.

POLICE

No police officer was present. The Board reviewed the March 2016 police report.

ROADS

- 1. Road Supervisor's Report.** The road crew has been grading and trying to improve the back roads. Paving bids have gone out; the excavator trailer was re-decked. New road crew member Andre Brosseau has started work, and has been working out well.
- 2. Stump Dump.** Dan told the Board that the stump dump is nearly full, and additional stumps may tumble into the adjacent brook. After discussion, Ernie made the following motion:

The town stump dump will be closed to public use.

Peter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Dan will obtain a sign.

- 3. Better Backroads Grant.** Dan reported that the application is complete and will be sent out soon. Up to \$20,000 may be received for ditching and other road maintenance, to prevent erosion and keep sediment out of streams and lakes. Valdine suggested that next year, the town get mapping help from NVDA; a map would help prioritize ditching and road improvement projects and would likely help the town obtain additional grants.

ONGOING BUSINESS

- 1. Temporary Signage Policy.** Sean read several pro- and con- emails commenting on the policy. Several groups (the library, historical society, farmers market) have asked to be exempted from the policy; Sean said that according to a recent supreme court decision, sign content can't be regulated: either you allow all signs, or no signs.

Discussion of the policy. It was created due to an over-abundance of signs on town property last year, with multiple complaints fielded by the town clerk's office.

Judy proposed that instead of this policy, the town provide large posting boards for signs at both the Village and Town Hall Greens, in the hopes that signs would be placed there instead of all over the Greens. Peter noted that you wouldn't be able to read these small signs from a car.

Some residents felt that the sign policy wasn't necessary and would create particular inconvenience for the historical society and library.

Sean made the following motion:

Further discussion on the Temporary Sign Policy is tabled until the May 11 Selectboard meeting.

Ernie seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- 2. Mirror Theater – Water Line Backfill.** Peter discussed questions about the quality of the backfill with project foreman Jeff Randall; Randall will investigate.
- 3. Old Fire Dept. Tanker Truck.** The truck has been paid for and removed from the new firehouse parking lot.
- 4. Donation to Town.** Last year, Gina Jenkins and Tom Anastasio gave \$300 to the town, to be used for a beautification project. The Board will decide on a project by early summer.
- 5. Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District – Charter Change.** The changes couldn't be voted on, since the District Board of Supervisors did not reach a quorum at their recent meeting. Greensboro's NEKWMD rep. Ken Johnston will be invited to next month's meeting to explain the situation.
- 6. Recreation Committee Appointment.** The Board appointed John Schweitzer to the Recreation Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 1. Beach Committee.** The current Caspian Lake Beach Committee members have all resigned; the Board accepted the resignations of Janet Long, Diane Irish, Marsha Gadoury, Aileen

Gebbie, and Bill Eisner, Jr. The Board thanked these residents for their many years of service to the town.

Bethany Warner, Tom Guare, and Ila Hunt are interested in serving on the Beach Committee; the Board appointed all three to the Committee.

Discussion of Hardwick's role on the Beach Committee. There used to be more involvement from the town of Hardwick (who owns the beach); H.P.D. Chief Aaron Cochran was on the Committee in the past but has not been active in recent years.

Discussion of the structure of the Beach Committee, which has its own checkbook and uses funds from both Greensboro and Hardwick, but has no oversight from either town. Valdine said that it's been this way for many years.

2. Caspian Challenge. Judy made the following motion:

The Board approves the Greensboro Association's fifth annual Caspian Challenge run on Sunday, July 24, 2016, as requested by Victoria Von Hessert.

Sean seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. A.W.A.R.E. AWARE's youth advocate and prevention educator Matt Renaud requested that the Board approve the placement of approx. 30 small flags and a small poster on the Village Green, to bring awareness to Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April). The Board unanimously approved the request.

4. Selectboard Training. There will be a Selectboard training session on Wednesday, May 25 at 6:30 PM, led by the VT League of Cities & Towns.

ADJOURNED: 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk