

# Greensboro Selectboard

September 10, 2014

## Meeting Minutes

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bridget Collier, Marsha Gadoury, Peter Romans, Warren Hill, Jr., Susan Wood

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Chief Erwin Salls, Jr., Naomi Ranz-Schleifer, Linda Ely, June Cook, Dan Tanner, Josh Karp, Janet Long, Cathy Unser, Kim Greaves, Nancy Reige, Ed O’Leary, Maggie Altman, David Altman, John Hasen, Bob Montgomery, Ann Harbison

**CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00 PM**

### MINUTES

1. Minutes from August 13, 2014 approved as amended.
2. Minutes from August 25, 2014 approved as written (joint meeting with Greensboro Planning Commission on Village Center designation).

### PUBLIC CONCERNS

There were no public concerns this evening.

### POLICE

No representative from the Hardwick Police Dept. was present this evening, and no police reports were available for review.

### ROADS

1. **Road Supervisors Report – Dan Tanner.** The road crew has been grading and working on equipment. Discussion of purchasing a small chipper for use by the road crew; Dan found a used one for \$6k. Warren wondered if a chipper could be owned and shared amongst a few towns, like the hydroseeder is.
2. **Tree Trimming.** Trees need to be trimmed along the edge of the town-owned parking lot in the center of town; Dan has discussed this with neighboring landowners. The Hardwick Electric Dept. will likely trim the cedars at the stump dump that are growing up into the utility lines. Dan solicited bids from two contractors for the trimming at the town park and a few other areas; one estimate was received for \$2875, which the Board approved.
3. **Sidewalk Grant.** Peter attended a training for the ‘Transportation Alternatives’ sidewalk grant program, which provides federal funds for studying/constructing projects that

create/improve biking and walking paths. Construction projects can cost between \$50k-\$300k, with a 20% town match; initial scoping studies, often required, require a 50% town match. Funds are available annually; this year's application deadline is October 16.

Peter and Naomi Ranz-Schleifer reported that replacement of existing Breezy Ave. sidewalks would be straightforward and a study may not be required; discussion of applying this fall for grant funding for their replacement. Extending the sidewalk up to the four corners would require a scoping study, which could be pursued next year. It was noted that a Village Center designation (if received in the meantime) might make a grant application more competitive. It was noted that submitting an application does not obligate the town to actually do a project, i.e. carries no financial risk to the town.

Warren observed that the town has promised to improve sidewalks in Greensboro Bend and hasn't done much. It was agreed that the Bend would be included in an overall sidewalk upgrade plan.

Peter made the following motion:

*The Selectboard creates a sidewalk committee. The committee will fill out a grant application for replacing sidewalks on Breezy Ave., and bring it to the next Board meeting for review.*

Warren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Initial members of the committee will be Naomi and Peter; others are welcome. Someone from Greensboro Bend will be solicited.

## **GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT.**

### **1. Old Firehouse.**

- Russ Hislop patched the roof leak at a cost of \$120.
- Anne Harbison asked the Board why the town won't sell the old firehouse; Sue told Anne that the recommendation of the fire house committee was to wait a year before making a decision about selling the building. Bridget, Sue and Anne all agreed that the firehouse, in its current state of disrepair, is an eyesore.

### **2. New Fire Station Open House.** Chief Erwin Salls, Jr. reported that the fire department will host another open house at the new fire station on Sunday, Oct. 19, with neighboring (mutual aid) fire departments invited. Time is T.B.A.

## **TOWN CLERK – Valdine Hall**

### **1. Hill Farmstead Event Permit:** Marsha made the following motion:

*The Board approves Hill Farmstead Brewery's application to hold a festival on Sept. 20.*

Peter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **2. Catering Requests.** After discussion, Bridget made the following motion:

*The town clerk may approve catering requests; any given request may be brought before the Selectboard at the town clerk's discretion.*

Marsha seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**3. VLCT Annual Meeting Delegate.** Valdine will attend the VLCT annual meeting as the town's delegate.

**4. Penalties for Late Filers and Nonfilers of Homestead Status.** According to the state:

*A) If a property declared as a homestead is not a homestead and the homestead rate is **higher** than the nonresidential rate, the penalty may be set at a rate **up to 3%** of the education tax on the property.*

*B) If a property declared as a homestead is not a homestead and the homestead rate is **lower** than the nonresidential rate, the penalty may be set at a rate **up to 8%** of the education tax on the property.*

After discussion, Bridget made the following motion:

*For situation 'A', the Board sets the penalty at 3%. For situation 'B', the Board sets the penalty at 4%.*

Sue seconded the motion, which carried (P.R., S.W., M.G., B.C. in favor; W.H. abstaining)

**5. Set Municipal Tax Rate.** Bridget made the following motion:

*The Board approves setting the municipal tax rate at \$.5399 .*

Peter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Property taxes are due Thursday, Oct. 16, at 4 PM in town clerk's office.

## **ONGOING BUSINESS**

**1. Grange Appeal.** The appeal to the state environmental court has been dropped; the Grange Committee has submitted a revised plan to the town's Development Review Board.

**2. Willey Beach.** Ed O'Leary is administrator of the state's Land & Water Conservation Fund, which provided funds to assist the town with the purchase of the Willey Beach (W.B.) property in 1972. He told the Board that the proposed W.B. parking lot is for recreational users of the property and is not a general use public parking lot. It is up to the town to decide how many parking spaces are appropriate. One of the parking spaces should be A.D.A. compliant. Any development of the parcel should be accessible to disabled persons, when reasonably possible.

An informational sign is required on the W.B. property. This doesn't need to be near the main road, but may be placed at the beginning of the trail system.

It is the responsibility of the town to take care of the property and deal with any problems that arise from its use.

Peter presented research he did on how gravel ended up being placed at the entrance to the W.B. parcel; Valdine added her recollections. By either a communication or a miscommunication, Munson took gravel from the stump dump and placed it there. It was agreed that if Munson or the Fire District had asked the town for permission to use the W.B. entrance as a staging area, permission would not have been granted.

Warren suggested the Board take another month to consider its options for the W.B. parking area.

Peter made the following motion:

*Last month's Selectboard motion which carried, pertaining to the development of the Willey Beach parking area, is rescinded.*

*The Willey Beach property will be left as it is for now, with the exception of the parking area. One row of parking will be created with four or five spaces, designed so backing out into the street is not necessary. Once the parking area is delineated and constructed using existing gravel on site, topsoil will be brought in and the remaining graveled area covered and seeded. Landscaping will be installed as necessary to delineate town from private property.*

Sue seconded the motion, which carried (P.R., S.W., M.G. in favor; B.C. opposed; W.H. abstained).

### **3. Town Hall Maintenance.**

- *Furnace Replacement.* Three bids were received, from Rod Kerr, Jack Kaufman, and Fred's. After bids were reviewed, Warren made the following motion:

*The Board accepts Rod Kerr's bid for replacement of the town hall furnace.*

Marsha seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- *Painting.* Marsha will solicit bids for exterior painting of one side of the town hall.
- *Town Hall Custodian.* The custodian has resigned; Valdine has placed an ad. Marsha will help with interviews.
- *Entryway Roof Repairs.* Two bids were solicited; one was submitted by Russ Hislop for \$585. After discussion, the Board unanimously agreed to leave the roof as is.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**1. Event at the Bend Community Park.** Pastor Matt Preston told the Board that the Touch of Grace church youth group wants to do something nice for the neighborhood, and host a free picnic with games on Tuesday Sept. 23, from 5-7 PM. If a rain date is needed, Pastor Preston will contact Warren. The Board unanimously approved the request.

**2. Greensboro Bend Official Posting Location** will be the Post Office, not Smith's Store.

**3. Library Trustee.** Bridget made the following motion:

*The Board appoints Harold Gray as library trustee, filling out Ed Stehle's term until next town meeting.*

Warren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**4. D.R.B. Members.** Bridget made the following motion:

*The Board appoints MacNeil as a member, and Lee Wright as an alternate, for the Development Review Board.*

Marsha seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**5. Extra Summer Help at the Recycling Center.** Valdine has placed an ad.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Warren made the following motion:

*The Board will enter executive session at 9:25 PM to discuss a personnel issue.*

Marsha seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board left executive session at 9:49 PM.

Bridget made the following motion:

*The Board will establish a bullying, or code of conduct policy, for town officers and employees. The policy will be implemented after further research.*

Peter seconded the motion, which carried (B.C., P.R., M.G., S.W. in favor; W.H. abstained until research has been completed).

Bridget left the meeting at this point.

Marsha made the following motion:

*The Board will return to executive session at 9:52 PM to discuss a personnel issue.*

Peter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board left executive session at 10:20 PM and took no action.

**ADJOURNED: 10:20 PM**

*Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk*