

Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes / DRAFT
June 3, 2014

Members present: Jim Benoit, Steve Gutowski, Sally Torrey, Jim Warden; absent: Loretta Lawrence

Town officials present: Gloria Warden, town clerk; Garrit Smits, town treasurer

Visitors present: R.J. Adler, Judy Chaves, Carl Cole, Tim Davis, Craig Heindel, Tom Kelly, Michael McCarthy, Bob McNary, Mike Muir, Joe Painting, Robert Peisch, Doris Raymond, Ross Raymond, William Raszka, Bessie Sessions, Tim Vincent, Jessica Edgerly Walsh

1. Call to order

Vice chair Steve Gutowski called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and reported that chair Loretta Lawrence was unable to attend because of a training session.

The board was asked to add three items to its agenda for June 3, under “7. Selectboard to approve or sign.” The items were:

- (c) Antidote catering license — Mile Point Road, June 14, 2014
- (d) CAMA product by NEMRC — license until June 30, 2015 (\$238.81)
- (e) Listers’ request for filing an extension for the grand list

Sally Torrey made a motion to add the items to the agenda. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

2. Approve minutes

Steve Gutowski asked that the minutes of May 20 be revised to correct the reduced tipping fee that the town was seeking from the Addison County Solid Waste Management District for removal of the burned out building on Route 7. The correct number was \$90 per ton. Sally Torrey made a motion to approve the minutes, with the change requested by Steve Gutowski. Jim Warden seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

3. New Business

(a) Jessica Edgerly Walsh from SunCommon gave a brief presentation on the company's plans to put up a “community solar array” on property owned by Neil Aguiar on Plank Road in Ferrisburgh. She said the company, based in Waterbury, Vt., had installed more than 800 solar systems, and was the leading residential installer in the state.

She said the theory behind the community solar array (CSA) is that there are people who want to “go solar” but do not have a good spot for installing a photovoltaic system. So landowners who do have the room and the right exposure can host a solar array for friends and neighbors. Membership in a CSA is open to anyone who shares the same utility as the CSA host; as SunCommon literature says, members are connected through their utility’s billing system, not through wires. According to a site plan passed out at the meeting by Edgerly Walsh, the proposed Aguiar project would be a 203KW (DC) ground-mounted photovoltaic system, including 666 solar modules. The footprint of the array would be about 100 feet by 355 feet, and it would be located 790 feet north of Plank Road. This size array would allow about 25 to 30

families to become members. Families would be able subscribe for a fixed monthly fee over 20 years that would be related to but less than their monthly electric bill. In return for membership, they would see a solar credit on their electric bill. She said all maintenance, insurance and upkeep for the array would be handled by SunCommon.

Neighboring property owners in Ferrisburgh and New Haven attended the meeting to express their opposition to the Aguiar project. They said they were concerned about the effects on the neighborhood and particularly on the view, and predicted that property values would be adversely affected if the project went forward. Steve Gutowski and others on the selectboard said the board wanted to hear what residents thought about the project, but pointed out that approval of the solar array was ultimately up to the state's Public Service Board.

Walsh said that SunCommon was still in the earliest stage of planning for the project, and did not know what Green Mountain Power will allow in terms of connectivity to the grid. She also said the company would be happy to hear from neighbors about issues with the project.

(b) The board also invited Bob and Paulette McNary to attend the meeting to discuss a similar SunCommon community solar array proposed for their land on Route 7. There were no questions about this project at the meeting.

(c) The board took up a proposed amendment to the Ferrisburgh town ordinances, reducing the speed limit on Old Hollow Road from 35 mph to 30 mph on a 0.58-mile stretch between the intersection with Mt. Philo Road and a point 400 feet east of the intersection with Four Winds Road. Jim Warden made a motion to approve the amendment, which was seconded by Sally Torrey. The reduced speed limit was recommended in a traffic engineering report by the Addison County Regional Planning Commission. Several residents appeared at the meeting to support the change, citing in particular the number of children that live along the road. Steve Gutowski read a letter opposing the change from one resident of the area, who felt that reducing the limit would not be as effective as better enforcement of the current 35-mph limit.

Following the discussion of the proposed amendment, all board members voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. All board members present signed the amendment. Barring a challenge by petition, the new speed limit will take effect 60 days following board approval. A copy of the amendment is attached to these minutes.

4. Selectboard Old Business

(a) The board heard that the contract for construction of the new town garage building had been awarded to Cameron Construction. Jim Benoit said that there could be foundation work beginning in late July or early August with the building starting to go up in late August or early September.

(b) The board heard that the town had received a letter from Tim Bouton of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) about the appointment of a hazard mitigation committee for Ferrisburgh. The committee would help identify possible hazards, especially those specific to the town; come up with plans to deal with those hazards; and create a plan to be adopted by the selectboard and approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Having an approved plan can help a town qualify for more state assistance in the event of an emergency, and make a town eligible for FEMA grants for mitigation projects. Steve Gutowski volunteered to be the selectboard representative on the committee. Other possible members mentioned were road foreman John Bull, a member of the planning commission, and a representative from the fire and/or EMS departments. Resident Tim Davis, who has worked as

an ACRPC delegate, volunteered to serve on the committee. Gloria Warden agreed to put a notice in Front Porch Forum about the committee, asking for other volunteers.

(c) Carl Cole said that contractors had agreed to do the electrical work and the painting on the Union Meeting Hall before the end of the current fiscal year on June 30, so that the work could be paid for out of the FY 2014 budget.

(d) Carl Cole reported that he had talked with a slate roofing expert from Fair Haven about the issues with the roof of the town office, including rust stains that have appeared. The roofing contractor said slates were installed by another company, but had come from his stock, and that he would stand behind the materials. Carl said he would continue to have discussions with the contractor about possible solutions. Other board members and visitors said that Bread Loaf Corporation, the general contractor, should also be approached about the roof problems, and some other issues that have come up. Steve Gutowski said he would contact Bread Loaf.

(e) Steve Gutowski reported that the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) was ready to review the town's proposed traffic ordinance. The board had authorized paying VLCT \$240 for the review (three hours at \$80 per hour), but Steve discovered the current hourly rate is actually \$88, and that VLCT believed it would take five hours to do a thorough review. Jim Benoit made a motion to pay VLCT not more than \$440 for the review. Sally Torrey seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. The review should be completed by mid- to late June.

Selectboard General Business and Correspondence

(a) The board received a letter from the Office of the State Treasurer saying that employer and employee rates for contributions to the Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System would be increasing, effective July 1, 2014. The employer rate goes from 5.125 percent to 5.375 percent, and the employee rate from 4.625 percent to 4.75 percent. Jim Warden made a motion to adopt the new rates. Sally Torrey seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

6. Public Comment

Mike Muir asked about the status of discussions between the town and the school concerning possible transfer to the town of a portion of school property. He said the recent interest in creating a recreational facility on land now owned by the school made it important to resolve the situation. Steve Gutowski reported that selectboard chair Loretta Lawrence was scheduled to attend the next meeting of the school board on June 5 to discuss the issue. It was also suggested that the committee planning the recreational facility should attend a future selectboard meeting to discuss the project.

7. Selectboard to Approve or Sign

(a) Monkey Hospitality requested a catering license for an event at Kingsland Bay State Park on June 14. Jim Warden made a motion to approve the request. Sally Torrey seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(b) Monkey Hospitality requested a catering license for an event at Grosse Point on June 28. Salley Torrey made a motion to approve the request. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(c) Antidote requested a catering license for an event on Mile Point Road on June 14. Jim Warden made a motion to approve the request. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(d) The town received a letter asking it to pay \$238.81 to the Vermont Department of Taxes for a license to use Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal Cost Tables. Sally Torrey made a motion to approve the request. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(e) The board received a letter on behalf of the town listers requesting a 30-day extension from the June 4 filing date for the preliminary 2014 grand list, due to the necessity of a second grievance session. Jim Warden made a motion to approve the request. Sally Torrey seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(f) Sally Torrey made a motion to approve the selectboard warrants for a total amount of \$31,657.10. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

8. Other Business

Sally Torrey reported a resident's concern that a large lilac bush on the north side of the intersection of Stage Road and Greenbush Road may block the view of drivers.

Town treasurer Garrit Smits said that Bernard Dam had paid the firefighting bill for the unpermitted burn on his property earlier this spring (see minutes of 5/20/14). While the bill came from the town, Dam paid the Vergennes Fire Department directly, so the fire department has given the town a \$144 credit against future charges.

9. Correspondence

(a) The town wrote to the Kelly Brush Foundation approving its use of town roads for the Kelly Brush Century Ride on September 6, 2014.

(b) The town wrote to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater New England Chapter, approving its use of town roads for the cycling event on August 2 and 3.

(c) The town wrote to RaceVermont approving its use of town roads for the paddle/bike/run triathlon benefiting the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum on August 2.

(d) The town sent a letter to the contractor hired to mow various pieces of property in town, saying that the work had not been done to the specifications in the contract. Jim Benoit had been in touch with the contractor before the letter was sent, and said he would follow up with him again now that the contractor had received the letter.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Etchells