

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes
February 17, 2015**

Members present: Steve Gutowski, Loretta Lawrence, Sally Torrey, Jim Warden. **Absent:** Jim Benoit.

Town officials present: Gloria Warden, town clerk; Ken Wheeling, zoning administrator.

Visitors present: Judy Elson, Jamieelynn Gaboriault, Bob McNary, Red Muir, Nick Patch, Robert Peisch, Bessie Sessions, Bill Sullivan.

1. 6:30 p.m. Regular meeting — call to order.

Loretta Lawrence called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Approve minutes — February 3, 2015

Steve Gutowski made a motion to approve the minutes of the selectboard meeting on February 3, 2015, as submitted. Sally Torrey seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

3. New business

(a) John Bull — road foreman's report. John Bull was not able to attend the meeting.

(b) Jaimeelynn Gaboriault — health officer and animal control officer reports. Jamieelynn Gaboriault, who now serves as both health officer and animal control officer, said that she had not had to deal with any issues as health officer so far this year, and had received just a few calls about dogs running loose. She asked board members to confirm that she was not supposed to deal with domestic cats, and should leave issues concerning wild animals up to the state's Department of Fish & Wildlife. Board members agreed. She also asked if she should carry some dog license applications to give to residents with unlicensed dogs, and board members thought that would be a good idea. Residents would be asked to return the applications, with current rabies certificates and license fees, to the town clerk's office within seven days, after which they could receive a ticket. She asked the board to approve the purchase of an inexpensive digital camera for about \$80, and the board agreed, asking her to buy the camera through the town clerk's office.

Bob McNary suggested that the animal control officer be more proactive in communicating with residents, perhaps posting items regularly on Front Porch Forum about topics of interest, such as tips for dealing with animals in cold weather and reminders about licensing requirements. Gaboriault said she was using Facebook to pass along messages, but would also sign up for Front Porch Forum.

(c) Elections March 3 — sheriff coverage for Route 7. Board members agreed to request that two deputies from the Addison County Sheriff's Department be available for traffic control at the town hall from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on election day, March 3. They will also be asked to be out of their cars directing traffic, and not leave vehicles where they might make it more difficult to enter and exit the town hall lot.

(d) Selectboard meeting time — March 3, 2015. The board was asked to start its meeting on March 3 earlier. That's the day the town votes by Australian ballot at the town hall, and board members help

count votes after the polls close at 7 p.m. Sally Torrey made a motion to start the March 3 meeting at 6 p.m., instead of 6:30 p.m. Jim Warden seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

4. Selectboard old business

(a) Vermont Agency of Natural Resources — Ringer property acquired by Department of Fish & Wildlife. The board received a letter saying that the Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish & Wildlife, had acquired 74.93 acres in Ferrisburgh from David J. and Mary Celeste Ringer, for \$45,500. The land will be added to Fish & Wildlife's Lower Otter Creek Wildlife Management Area. The selectboard had previously written a letter to the state in support of the purchase.

5. Selectboard general business

(a) Rate inquiry for legal services. Per a request from the board at its meeting on February 3, Town Clerk Gloria Warden asked several area law firms to supply information on their rates for town legal services. The board's request followed receipt of a notice from the town's current law firm about a fee increase. Gloria Warden received several responses and the board plans to study them and discuss the issue at its meeting on March 3.

6. Public comment

Red Muir said if the town intended to use the church parking lot next door to the town hall for overflow parking during the March 3 election, a path would need to be cleared through the snow to the town hall's front entrance. Board members agreed.

Bob McNary, chair of the town's energy committee, said Encore Redevelopment was working with Housing Vermont to develop a solar project on Reed Road in Ferrisburgh, which is off Monkton Road, just east of Route 7. Encore Redevelopment is a Burlington-based company that deals with community-scale renewable energy systems. McNary said the committee, which did not have an official position on the project, would host an informational meeting at the town hall at 6:30 p.m. on February 23, 2015.

7. Selectboard to approve or sign

(a) Phone for listers' office. Sally Torrey made a motion to authorize the purchase of a new phone for the listers office, which will be pre-programmed by the vendor, for \$200. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(b) VT Cares bike tour — June 13, 2015. Steve Gutowski made a motion to approve the use of town roads by the VT Cares bicycle tour, a fundraiser for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, on June 13, and to send the sponsoring group a copy of the town's guidelines for bike event organizers. Sally Torrey seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(c) Chris Olson, Addison County Forester — Ferrisburgh Green maple trees and tapping. Loretta Lawrence, as board chair, received a letter from Chris Olson, Addison County forester, about a meeting with Nick Patch on the Ferrisburgh Green to evaluate the health of the maple trees, which have been tapped each spring by Ferrisburgh Central School students. Patch, who has donated his time and his portable maple sugar house to the project, and Judy Elson, a teacher at the school, attended the meeting to discuss Olson's suggestions for further study of the town's maple trees. Patch, Elson and her students would carry out the studies, which could include analyses of whether tap hole closure and fine branch health are predictive of sap production levels; recommendations for pruning; and a map with individual records for each tree. Steve Gutowski made a motion to approve additional

study of the trees, and tapping them again this spring. Sally Torrey seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(d) Selectboard warrant. Steve Gutowski made a motion to approve the warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$48,340.75. Sally Torrey seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

8. Other business

Steve Gutowski said he had not heard back yet from Noelle McKay, commissioner of the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development, about a possible meeting with town officials to discuss development of the town parcel at the corner of Routes 7 and 22A. He said it was clearly a busy time of year for state officials, with the Legislature in session. He also said Rep. Warren Van Wyck (R-Addison-3), a Ferrisburgh resident, had introduced a bill in the House (H. 158) that would exempt from the 9L criterion of Act 250 land designated by municipalities for commercial or industrial use.

Loretta Lawrence told the board that she had decided to step down as chair of the selectboard, effective at the end of the February 17 meeting, and recommended that the vice chair of the board, Steve Gutowski, take over for her. Lawrence, chair for nearly 14 of her 15 years on the board, said that serving as chair had been a great experience, but that she was looking forward to spending the rest of her current term, which ends in March 2016, as a regular board member. Sally Torrey made a motion to name Steve Gutowski as acting chair of the selectboard. Jim Warden seconded. Loretta Lawrence, Sally Torrey and Jim Warden voted in favor. Steve Gutowski abstained. MOTION PASSED. Residents at the meeting and selectboard members expressed their appreciation to Lawrence for her work as board chair and her service to the town.

Jim Warden said he had spoken with George Merkel, chief of police in Vergennes, who suggested his department might be able to help provide a police presence in Ferrisburgh. He said Merkel's early ideas on this probably were more ambitious than Ferrisburgh would want, but that he would keep the selectboard informed as discussion progressed.

9. Correspondence

(a) Addison County Readers — 2014 Annual Report to Donors. The board received a copy of the organization's report to donors, thanking Ferrisburgh for its support.

(b) Public Service Board — public hearing February 24, 2015, on certificate of public good (CPG) for TDI New England electric transmission line. The PSB has scheduled a public hearing on the plan to run an electric transmission line under Lake Champlain from Alburgh to Benson, Vt., and then underground to Ludlow, Vt.

(c) Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission — motion to intervene, TDI New England. The SWCRPC, based in Ascutney, Vt., sent a note to the PSB and all towns involved indicating that it would be appearing at the hearing.

(d) Northwest Regional Planning Commission — notice of appearance, TDI New England. The NRPC, based in St. Albans, Vt., also plans to appear at the hearing.

(e) Vermont Government Finance Officers' Association — 2015 Winter Workshop, February 24, 2015. The workshop will be held at the Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, Vt.

(f) Spring Selectboard Institute — March 21, 2015. The institute, sponsored by the Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) Municipal Assistance Center, takes place at the Capitol Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Montpelier, Vt.

(g) Spring Auditors Workshop — March 24, 2015. This workshop is also at the Capitol Plaza.

(h) Mary McGuire — notice of appeal of Public Service Board approval of Beach Properties Inc. solar project. McGuire, owner of property on Mile Point Road, has appealed to the Vermont Supreme Court the PSB decision to issue a certificate of public good to Basin Harbor Club for a solar array.

(i) Public Service Board application for certificate of public good — David Shlansky, Satterly Road. David Shlansky of 343 Satterly Road in Ferrisburgh has applied for a CPG for a wind turbine to be located on his property, 200 feet north of his home. The 10 kilowatt turbine at the top of a 100-foot tower will replace an inoperative 3 kilowatt turbine atop a 60-foot tower currently on the same site. He notes that the tower and the Bergey Windpower Co. Excel-10 turbine are nearly identical to the set-up now operating at the Ferrisburgh Central School.

10. Zoning administrator evaluation (probable executive session).

Jim Warden made a motion at 7:50 p.m. to enter executive session to discuss personnel, inviting Ken Wheeling, zoning administrator. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

— *End of minutes from open session.* —

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Etchells

— *Minutes from executive session and the open session that followed.* —

Steve Gutowski made a motion to leave executive session at 8:25 p.m. Jim Warden seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Jim Warden made a motion to appoint Ken Wheeling as zoning administrator for a three-year term, expiring in February 2018. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. Steve Gutowski made a motion to increase Ken Wheeling's hourly rate from \$22 to \$23 per hour, not to exceed 20 hours per week, beginning February 16, 2015. Jim Warden seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

11. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Torrey, board clerk