

Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes – Approved
June 4, 2019

Members Present: Rick Ebel, Jessica James, Clark Hinsdale, Michael Muir. We received communication from Jim Benoit that he would be working late and unable to attend.

Town Officials Present: Arabella Holzapfel, Planning Commission Member and Land Use Regulations Update Committee Chair, Justus DeVries, Jr. Town Assessor, Joe Blasius, Lister, Gail Blasius, Planning Commission Member, Craig Heindel, Conservation Commission Chair, Bonnie Barnes, Zoning Administrator, Joh Bull, Highway Commissioner

Visitors Present: Bessie Sessions, Mona Schreck, George Schreck, Joanne Mullin, Jessy Amblo, Lindsey Pepperine, Dean Pepperine, Lois Luczai, Tim Davis, Doug Fletcher.

1. 6:30 PM Regular Meeting – Call to Order

Rick Ebel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and announced that member Jim Benoit would not be present this evening.

2. Approve Minutes

Red Muir moved and Jessica James seconded a motion to approve the minutes of May 21, 2019 as presented. All in favor. MOTION PASSED

3. New Business

3a) John Bull – highway operations report – John reported that all cemeteries were mowed in advance of Memorial Day. Crew will be working on the Old Hollow Road project for the next two to three weeks. Paving is scheduled for June 17. Discussion turned to the treatment of the road shoulders on Old Hollow Road. John described his process of walking the road with neighbors to get input on shoulder treatment, drainage and other issues. John says his experience indicates that these pre-project walks are worthwhile and reduce issues down the road. Jessy Amblo, of Old Hollow Road expressed that he is not in favor of a walking path through the Hollow. Chairman Ebel raised the issue of the proposed crossing of route 7 on the south side of the intersection slated for traffic lights and indicated that there were no plans to create a Federally compliant sidewalk through the Hollow. Craig Heindel concurred and provided the board and public with further details of the size, status, and mission of the North Ferrisburgh Village Association. It is a private not for profit group not affiliated with town government. It has 50 – 60 members, \$10. annual dues, and is open to anyone interested. Tim Davis indicated that NFVA minutes are posted on the internet.

3b) Land Use Regulations Update Committee – update. Arabella Holzapfel indicated that her committee meets on the first Wednesday and fourth Tuesday of the month and consists of 12 – 13 members. She indicated that Brandy Saxton, a land use consultant, had prepared a comparison of the points in the town plan to implementation strategies in the Land Use Regulations as a start to the rewrite process. Arabella brought up the issue of an official Trails Map and handed off that responsibility to the Selectboard. She indicated that the town may consider mooring regulations in the rewrite as well as village designation for the Hollow. Arabella handed out the committee work

plan and reviewed it with the Board. Arabella asked how finances of the committee should be handled and Chairman Ebel indicated that she should work with Town Treasurer, Deb Healey.

3c) Gilson Lane Neighbors – open space agreement – Member Clark Hinsdale indicated that he was an adjoining landowner to the property in question and was involved with the Ashley family in developing the project – including the open space agreement. Therefore, he would not participate in the discussion as a Selectboard member but would sit in the audience and share historical information. Dean Pepperine came forward to represent the group of 5 lot owners, all of who were present in the audience. A hand-out attached to the meeting record was given to all Selectboard members providing detail on their request. The request is to amend the Open Space Agreement originally made between the Ashley family as owners of the farm and the Town of Ferrisburgh through its Selectboard to allow the Gilson Lane neighbors input into selecting the farmer to farm their conserved property that is subject to the Agreement. Gail Blasius raised the issue of property taxes not being paid by the farmer who currently uses the property as called for in the agreement. Craig Heindel shared a map of the property and Zoning Administrator, Bonnie Barnes provided a history of the neighbor’s request. They started by talking with Bonnie and then went to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission referred the neighbors to the Selectboard as the municipal parties to the agreement. Bonnie had reviewed the Open Space Agreement in advance of the meeting and stated her belief that the owners of the farm should be participating in the discussion if any changes were to be made in the Agreement. Bonnie indicated that the Agreement obligates the farmers to farm the property appropriately. Chairman Ebel indicated that he did not see any action to be taken at this point. Clark Hinsdale offered to put the neighbors in communication with the prospective buyer of the farm.

3d) Justus DeVries – Lister’s office workload - Justus DeVries and Joe Blasius updated the Board on the status of the Lister’s work load with Pam Cousino out on sick leave. Pam spends about 10 hours per week assisting the Listers. Justus indicated that 140 change of appraisal notices have been sent out and 210 or 21 tax payers have filed grievances. Justus indicated that he recommended hiring George Hinman for \$85/hour to assist with getting all grievance notices out by June 28 as required.

3e) Duncan Harris – contract renewal discussions – Mr. Harris was not present but had spoken with Chairman Ebel in advance of the meeting. Mr. Harris has had the listing agreement to represent the Town of Ferrisburgh in selling the land at the intersection of Route 7 and Route 22A. Tim Davis updated the Board regarding attempts to redesign and consolidate sewer pipes that will serve the Train Station and the Town property in question. Board members discussed new overtures from the Mayor and City Manager of Vergennes and opportunities to work with Vergennes on a range of issues including the proposed economic development corridor. Red Muir moved and Jessica James seconded a motion to renew the listing contract with Duncan Harris. All members voted in opposition to the motion MOTION FAILS

4. Selectboard Old Business

4a) Arnold Bay Tree Cutting – Chairman Ebel indicated that the Defendants have filed a motion to dismiss.

4b) Building Maintenance Reports – Red Muir provided extensive updates on the fencing of the fire station generator, proposed elimination of cedar trees encroaching on the fire station septic field and conversations on these issues with Chief Wager. Redd reported on a number of issues concerning the Town Hall including roof slates failing, bell tower deterioration, bulging stone wall, and buckling siding. The building also needs to be painted. Red has also been handing out old bid packages on the Union Meeting Hall repairs to local contractors in search of someone with the time and expertise to do the work.

4c) Town Offices Update - This issue was discussed during the previous agenda item.

5. Selectboard General Business

5a) NEMRC IT security – Chairman Ebel reported that no actual breaches have been found.

5b) Incident Command System training – June 20, 2019 – Rick Ebel plans to attend this training at the New Haven State Police Barracks

5c) Municipal 9-1-1- coordinator appointment – Jessica James moved and Red Muir seconded a motion to appoint Bonnie Barnes as a Ferrisburgh 9-1-1- Coordinator. All in favor. MOTION PASSES

6) Public Comments – there were no public comments

7) Other Business – there was no other business

8) Correspondence – no correspondence was highlighted.

9) Selectboard to Approve or Sign

9a) Selectboard warrant. Jessica James moved and Red Muir seconded a motion to approve warrants in the amount of \$1,451,273.90. All in favor. MOTION PASSES.

10) Adjourn – Red Muir moved and Jessica James seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:16 PM. All in favor. MOTION PASSES

Respectfully Submitted,

Clark Hinsdale, Clerk