

Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes – Approved
April 2, 2019

Members present: Jim Benoit, Rick Ebel, Clark Hinsdale, Jessica James. Michael “Red” Muir participated electronically.

Town officials present: No town officials were present.

Visitors present: Kristin DeBellis, Ron DeBellis, Gail Blasius, Chris Campbell, Bill Clark, Jadziah Hannon-Moonstone, Brad Hargett, Rayne Herzog, Sue Hoxie, David Olsen, Bessie Sessions, Norm Smith, Nick Thomann, Steve Yates.

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

Rick Ebel, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Approve minutes — March 19, 2019, regular meeting.

Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2019, regular meeting, as submitted. Jessica James seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

3. Selectboard new business

(a) Vermont State Police — Lt. Matt Daley — meet with board. Rick Ebel said the selectboard had met with both the Addison County Sheriff’s Department and the Vergennes Police Department for police services, adding the current contract is with the sheriff’s department. There was a discussion about who people should call in emergencies; Lt. Daley confirmed that the Vermont State Police is the first line for 911 calls and criminal complaints. He said including his position there is a full staff with 4 sergeants and 11 troopers. Lt. Daley offered to give to the board data listing the calls received for the last year. The board will follow up on this.

(b) Gail Blasius — Ferrisburgh Day. Gail Blasius reviewed the history of Ferrisburgh Day from the beginning. She said the event has drawn over 200 townspeople to various locations, including the town offices, the Union Meeting Hall, and the historical society. She listed the wide variety of things available, such as activities for kids, music, food, etc. Since the town has sponsored the event in the past, Gail asked if the town would want to sponsor it again. She said one idea was to ask for a waiver to use Button Bay State Park. Rick Ebel asked her for the names of past volunteers who would do it again and categories of events.

(c) Racevermont.com — Lake Champlain Maritime Museum May 11 and Basin Harbor Club on July 6, 2019. Rayne Herzog, owner of Racevermont.com, spoke to the board giving details of the two events. He explained that the swim and run portions of the Basin Harbor Sprint Triathlon would take place only within Basin Harbor Club. Biking will include Basin Harbor Road, Button Bay Road, and Panton Road. Rayne spoke about where police would be directing traffic: Button Bay Road and Panton Road, Basin Harbor Road and Panton Road. He also said he revised the direction of the course for the riders so now there are only right-hand turns. After discussion, Jessica James made a motion to approve the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum Half Marathon and the Basin Harbor Sprint Triathlon. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(d) ACORN — Tour de Farms — September 21, 2019. Sue Hoxie, event manager, addressed the board describing the event and the bike ride route. She reviewed the steps that have been taken to ensure the safety of the public and the riders, including staggered starts, roadway signage, and a safety talk by Local Motion. She said the Shelburne Police Department has been hired for traffic control. After discussion, Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the Tour de Farms bike ride on September 21, 2019, pending receipt of a certificate of insurance prior to the event. Clark Hinsdale seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

4. Selectboard old business

(a) US Route 7/Old Hollow Road/Stage Road — traffic study update. Rick Ebel stated there would be a community meeting on April 16, 2019, as part of the regular selectboard meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the town offices. He said VTrans and VHB would present design plans from the study of the intersection and ask the selectboard for a recommendation.

(b) Arnold Bay Road tree cutting and right-of-way update. Rick Ebel stated this is an ongoing matter, which is currently before superior court. He noted it would remain on the agenda until the issue is resolved.

(c) GroSolar — Harold Craig, Lincoln Landé, Steve Yates — town solar array. Rick Ebel displayed a map provided by GroSolar, which shows the location on the 15kW solar array being constructed for the town. He asked Steve Yates (the only representative for GroSolar who was able to attend), why the location was different from what had been chosen when he walked the area with Lincoln Landé. Rick asked Steve to talk to Lincoln about moving the array.

5. Selectboard general business - annual appointments boards/commissions, representatives.

(a) Applicants' requests for appointment for unified union school board member (ANWSD). After Rick Ebel described the process for this appointment, the board interviewed Chris Campbell and Bill Clark.

7:28 p.m. – Jessica James made a motion to go into executive session finding that premature disclosure of the board's recommendation would put the board at a substantial disadvantage. Clark Hinsdale seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

7:45 p.m. – Jessica James made a motion to come out of executive session. Clark Hinsdale seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

7:45 p.m. – Jessica James made a motion to reconvene open session. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

7:46 p.m. – Rick Ebel announced that the board would vote on a person to move forward then consult with the district. He asked for a roll call vote. Jim Benoit, Rick Ebel, Clark Hinsdale, and Red Muir voted for Bill Clark. Jessica James voted for Chris Campbell. MOTION PASSED. Both Rick Ebel and Clark Hinsdale cited reasons why they wished two positions were available.

(b) Applicants' appointment requests.

Zoning Board of Adjustment — 3-year term. Clark Hinsdale made a motion to reappointment Bob Beach to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a 3-year term ending 2022. Jessica James seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. Clark Hinsdale made a motion to reappointment John Paul to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a 3-year term ending 2022. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. After discussion, Clark Hinsdale resigned from the zoning board. Norman Smith,

zoning board chair, accepted the resignation. The selectboard interviewed Kristin DeBellis and Nick Thomann. Katie Quinn was not present. Norman Smith said it is traditional for the zoning board to interview candidates and that the board had already interviewed Kristin and Katie. This agenda item will be tabled until the next regular selectboard meeting on April 16, 2019, to allow the zoning board time to interview Nick Thomann.

Planning Commission — 4-year term. After the board interviewed Bessie Sessions, Clark Hinsdale made a motion to reappoint her to the Planning Commission for a 4-year term ending 2023. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. After Clark Hinsdale spoke on behalf of Mike Quinn, who was not present, he made a motion to reappoint him to the Planning Commission for a 4-year term ending 2023. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. Rick Ebel announced there is still one vacancy.

Addison County Regional Planning Commission representative — 1-year term. Jim Benoit made a motion to reappoint Tim Davis to the Addison County Regional Planning Commission. Jessica James seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. Jessica James made a motion to reappoint Arabella Holzapfel to the Addison County Regional Planning Commission. Clark Hinsdale seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. Jessica James made a motion to reappoint Steve Huffaker to the Addison County Regional Planning Commission. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Addison County Solid Waste Management District representative — 1-year term. Rick Ebel said Steve Huffaker was requesting reappointment. Jessica James made a motion to reappoint Steve Huffaker to the Addison County Solid Waste Management District. Jim Benoit seconded. During discussion, Clark Hinsdale pointed out that David Olson, another candidate, was not allowed to be interviewed for the position. Recognizing the error, the board interviewed him. After discussion, Rick Ebel, Clark Hinsdale, Jessica James, and Red Muir voted for Steve Huffaker. Jim Benoit opposed. MOTION PASSED. Clark Hinsdale made a motion to appoint David Olson as alternate to the Addison County Solid Waste Management District. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Addison County Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) — 1-year term. After discussion, Jessica James made a motion to reappoint Steve Huffaker as representative to TAC. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Conservation Commission — 4-year term. After the board interviewed Ron DeBellis, Jessica James made a motion to appoint him to the Conservation Commission for a 4-year term ending 2023. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. After the board interviewed Jaziah Hannon-Moonstone, Jessica James made a motion to appoint her to the Conservation Commission for a 4-year term ending 2023. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. Rick Ebel said there is still one vacancy.

6. Public comment

Clark Hinsdale asked the other board members to consider moving public comment to the second agenda item of each meeting so visitors could comment on non-agenda items and then leave, if desired. The board agreed there would be more discussion of this matter.

7. Other business

Red Muir described for the board the details of a septic system backup at the fire station. Clark's Septic Company was called and will be returning on Friday to continue to work on the problem. Rick Ebel

asked that Chief Wager be invited to attend the April 16, 2019, regular selectboard meeting to update the board.

8. Correspondence

(a) Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) — Effective Property Tax Appeals Workshop — April 30 and May 7, 2019. By mail, the board was notified by VLCT that it will present free workshops, sponsored by the Vermont Department of Taxes, in Fairlee and Rutland, Vermont.

(b) Deb Healey to selectboard – resignation as Delinquent tax Collector. By letter, Deb Healey, town treasurer, informed the board that her resignation was March 5, 2019. After discussion, Rick Ebel said he would like to hear if there is any interest from current town employees for the position.

(c) GMP MicroGrid-Ferrisburgh, LLC — letter to commence site prep and construction of project. The town was copied on a letter announcing that GMP MicroGrid-Ferrisburgh, LLC has fulfilled all requisite pre-construction CPG conditions and intends to commence site preparation and construction of the project immediately.

(d) Vermont Emergency Management – Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference — September 6 and 7, 2019. By letter, the town was notified this conference would have presentations related to fire service, town highways, emergency management directors, volunteers, and elected officials. The conference will take place at the Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, Vermont. The selectboard will contact Bill Wager, fire chief, and John Bull, road foreman, to see if they would like to attend this conference.

(e) Vermont Land Trust (VLT) – conserved property and stewardship support. The town received a letter from VLT describing the organization's more collaborative approach and offering to visit conserved properties. Clark Hinsdale asked if the town co-holds any conservation easements with VLT. The board will ask Pam Cousino, assistant town clerk, to follow up with the Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission to find out.

9. Selectboard to approve or sign

(a) America Red Cross blood drive — hall rental agreement (upstairs) — May 8, 2019, from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Jim Benoit made a motion to rent the upstairs community hall to the American Red Cross for a blood drive on May 8, 2019, from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. waiving the rental fee but requiring a \$500 deposit and proof of insurance. Jessica James seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(b) Selectboard warrant. After review, Jessica James made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$17,367.27. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

10. Adjourn

Clark Hinsdale made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Silveira