

Town of Ferrisburgh  
Selectboard Minutes - APPROVED  
September 18, 2018

**Members present:** Jim Benoit, Rick Ebel, Steve Gutowski, Jessica James.  
Michael Red+Muir participated electronically.

**Town officials present:** Deb Healey, town treasurer

**Visitors present:** Eloise Beale, Carl Cole, Arabella Holzapfel, Dennis Hopper, Steve Huffaker, Andy Kirkaldy, John Medenwald, Ernie Oldenburgh, David Palmer, Bessie Sessions.

**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 — September 4, 2018, regular meeting.**

Steve Gutowski made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2018, regular meeting, as submitted. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**3. Selectboard new business**

**(a) John Bull — highway operations report.** Rick Ebel announced that John Bull was unable to attend the meeting.

**(b) David Agard — contribution to North Ferrisburgh Friends Cemetery Association.** Rick Ebel expressed his desire to discuss the contribution when John Bull, road foreman, is available to attend a meeting, as the road crew maintains this cemetery. After discussion, Jim Benoit made a motion to table this agenda item until a future meeting when John is available. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**(c) Quitclaim Deeds for glebe lands — Lot 1 and Lot 2.2 Highland Way.** After Rick Ebel gave a brief definition of glebe land, he signed the two quitclaim deeds conveying the two lots to Elizabeth Walker. Jean Silveira notarized the two signatures by Rick.

**(d) Ernie Oldenburgh — discuss cost savings insurance program.** Ernie Oldenburgh, agency liaison, introduced David Palmer, owner of Williston Insurance Agency. They addressed the board regarding the possible savings from buying various types of insurance plans from Travelers Insurance Company versus current plans through Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT). David said Travelers is the nation's largest insurer of municipalities. After discussion, Steve Gutowski made a motion to pursue discussing a cost savings insurance program with Williston Insurance Agency. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. Per David, the board is obligated to notify VLCT in writing that the town is accepting insurance quotes from another agency.

**(e) Town hall preventative maintenance proposals — Avonda or Mountain Air Systems.** Red Muir detailed for the board the various aspects of quotes from Avonda and from Mountain Air Systems for the HVAC mechanical equipment at the town offices building. Discussion ensued regarding pricing from both companies and the past performance of Mountain Air Systems. The board agreed to accept the proposed agreement from Mountain Air Systems after the proposed agreement is revised; the sentence stating that the agreement will be in effect from year to year unless either party gives written notice will be deleted. Since the budget is voted on every year, the board cannot agree to this stipulation.

**(f) Bike rides — traffic control.** Jim Benoit began the discussion by describing what he witnessed during the Kelly Brush Bike Ride held on September 8, 2018, at the intersection of US Route 7, Robinson Road, and Greenbush Road. He said a flagger, not a police officer, would get out of his car and stand in the road to stop southbound traffic. He did not stop northbound traffic. Jim said a letter should be sent to the Kelly Brush Bike Ride organizers stating that as part of the town's approval for the ride it had agreed to use local police and county sheriffs to facilitate traffic control. During the discussion, Rick Ebel said the

board may need to create a policy about police presence at bike rides. The board will communicate with Kelly Brush to develop a policy in the future.

**(g) Ferrisburgh train station — information from discussion with VTrans Secretary Joe Flynn.** Rick Ebel stated that he attended Governor's Capitol for a Day at the train station. He commented that the project is ready to start with wiring and insulating, and installing a lift. He said the project is seeking a tenant, preferably a non-profit organization, to occupy the top floor of the building.

#### **4. Selectboard old business**

**(a) Vermont Green Line (VGL) update.** Rick Ebel said he received an email from Craig Heindel, chair of the town's VGL Committee, which stated that Alex MacLean, a public relations consultant for National Grid-Vermont Green Line, called him because the partnership had received a request for a proposal from the state of Connecticut for delivery of renewable power. The design, size, and route will be the same as previously proposed, except that the source of power will be 100% hydropower from HydroQuebec. Craig said there is nothing for the town VGL committee or the selectboard to do until the proposal by Connecticut is announced in December 2018.

**(b) 2512 Sand Road update.** Rick Ebel said this agenda item was about Heidi's Haven Rescue, which has moved out of the property. He said at the last selectboard meeting there was concern about the condition of the property. Although he contacted the town's attorney to see what steps could be taken he said he had not heard back yet.

**(c) Vorsteveld tree cutting update.** Rick Ebel referenced a letter sent on September 14, 2018, by Jim Carroll, the town's attorney from the law firm of Carroll, Boe & Pell, to Jim Foley, the attorney for the Vorstevelds. Rick said the letter puts the Vorsteveld farm on notice that it cannot do any further work in the town's right-of-way without receiving a permit from John Bull, road foreman. John Medenwald, member of the town's conservation commission, said there was a site visit to the Vorsteveld farm on September 11, 2018, which was attended by 24 people, including neighbors from the town of Panton, Vermont. He continued by saying the purpose of the site visit was to examine the area for habitat loss from the cutting of the hedgerow, increased erosion and sedimentation, water quality, and the proposed tile drainage. He said a draft report of the site visit would be reviewed by the commission at its next meeting on October 9, 2018.

**(d) GroSolar update.** Led by Carl Cole, a discussion ensued pertaining to an offer by Lincoln Landé of GroSolar to pay the town \$40,000.00 if a suitable site for a proposed 15kW array could not be found. Rick Ebel said a solar array would be a better investment than the money. Further discussion ensued regarding possible new sites: the property at the intersection of US Route 7 and Route 22A, the Sisters property located on the southern side of the town offices building; in addition to sites previously considered, such as the fire station. Red Muir suggested asking GroSolar to stake out the proposed array at each site so the size and location of the array would be clear, helping with the decision. The board will contact GroSolar regarding this request.

**(e) Vermont Agency Of Transportation (VTrans) Planning Coordinator Sommers Bucossi — US Route 7-Old Hollow Road-Stage Road update.** Rick Ebel read part of a memo from Sommers Bucossi to Adam Lougee, executive director of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, regarding the town's petition for a traffic signal at US Route 7-Old Hollow Road-Stage Road. Steve Huffaker, the town's representative to the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), updated the board saying that VTrans would begin to study the intersection and look to construct a solution. The town will receive updates from VTrans and there is no need for the town to pursue a TAC-funded study.

#### **5. Selectboard general business**

**(a) Arabella Holzapfel — FY19 Municipal Resolution for planning grant application.** Arabella Holzapfel discussed the details of completing the grant application, which will be used to help pay for the costs of the zoning by-law revision. After discussion, it was agreed that Rick Ebel would be the

authorizing official; Red Muir would be the alternate authorizing official, and Arabella would be the grant administrator.

**(b) Queen City Tango, Inc. — hall rental agreement — December 1, 2018, from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m.**

Jim Benoit made a motion to rent the upstairs community hall to Queen City Tango, Inc. for a social dance on December 1, 2018, for a rental fee of \$200.00 plus a \$500 deposit and proof of insurance. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**(c) American Red Cross blood drive — hall rental agreement — October 10, 2018, from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.** Steve Gutowski made a motion to rent the upstairs community hall to the American Red Cross for a blood drive on October 10, 2018, waiving the rental fee but requiring a \$500 deposit and proof of insurance. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**(d) Ferrisburgh Historical Society — hall rental agreement — October 14, 2018, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.** Jim Benoit made a motion to rent the upstairs community hall to the Ferrisburgh Historical Society on October 14, 2018, waiving the rental fee but requiring a \$500 deposit and proof of insurance. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**6. Public comment**

John Medenwald informed the board about a presentation by Sue Morse of Keeping Track, Inc. entitled Wild Yet Wonderfully Near Us: Bobcats of the Champlain Valley. The presentation is sponsored by the Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission and will be held at the town offices on October 4, 2018, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Sue will also lead an afternoon site visit the same day to the town forest (20 people maximum) to explore this bobcat habitat.

**7. Other business**

(a) Budget - set date to begin budget meetings. After discussion, the board agreed to hold budget meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m., beginning October 9, 2018.

**8. Correspondence**

**(a) Vermont League of Cities & Towns — Fall Planning & Zoning Forum.** The town was notified that this forum would be on October 17, 2018, at Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, Vermont.

**(b) Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) — 2018 PACIF Equipment Grant Program.** Deb Healey, town treasurer, said the town had received a reimbursement check for \$3,000.00 from VLCT for purchasing an aluminum trench box.

**9. Selectboard to approve or sign**

**(a) Selectboard warrant.** After review, Jessica James made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$131,902.86. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. Red Muir abstained. MOTION PASSED.

**10. Adjourn**

Jim Benoit made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Jessica James seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Silveira