

Wilmington Selectboard/Sewer Commission
May 16, 2012 at 6:00 pm
At Twin Valley High School Library
MINUTES

Selectboard Members Present: Thomas Consolino, Margaret Streeter, Susan Haughwout, James Burke, and Diane Chapman

Others Present: Scott Murphy, Mary Towne, Mike Eldred, Gary Henry, Lynne Matthews, Gary DeBarba, Nicki Steel, Liz Marshall, Joe Arnold, John Greene, Cliff Duncan, Brenda Sysko, Mary Jane Finnegan, Beth Greene, Elizabeth McEwen, John M. Gannon, Crista Gannon, Robert Stachelek, Kathryn Longbotham, Dana Baylor, Carlotta Gladding, Doris Horton, Kathy Arnold, Gale Stachelek, Jeanne MacDougall, Laura Sibia, Ann Manwaring, and Robin White.

1. **6:00 Public Hearing on Proposed Amendment to Article V of the Zoning Bylaws:** Public hearing called to order at 6 pm by Chair Tom Consolino. The Board received copies of the planning Commission's Report on the revised amendment. Public comments:
 - a. Nicki Steel: Speaking personally she supports the change to include all districts. She said she knows the Planning Commission does not approve, but she hopes the Selectboard will adopt the amendment tonight and then review it with the Planning Commission for possible changes. She said speaking for the Development Review Board, they have not had a vote on these changes, but she thinks they concur. The DRB also had a lot of input when the Planning Commission was writing the amendment.
 - b. Cliff Duncan: He said he approves of the language and thinks it will help him make his building better. He encouraged the board to adopt the amendment.There being no further public comments, the hearing was closed at 6:05 pm.

Streeter moved and Chapman seconded that the Selectboard adopt Article V as amended 4/18/12 and that the Selectboard and Planning Commission meet to review the article within three months.
Vote: All in favor.
2. **Minutes:** Haughwout moved and Burke seconded to approve minutes of May 2, 2012. Vote: All in favor. Haughwout moved and Burke seconded to approve minutes of May 9, 2012. Vote: Four in favor and Chapman abstained.
3. **Visitors and Public Comments:** Brenda Sysko spoke against approving a tobacco license for the Family Dollar Store (agenda item #4). The local PRIDE group is a student initiative against smoking. She quoted statistics on teen smoking and said 9 out of 10 smokers start before age 18. She said tobacco companies advertise in dollar stores and convenience stores by cutting the price. The board thanked her for her comments.
4. **Liquor and Tobacco Licenses:** The board discussed the request for a tobacco license by Family Dollar Stores of Vermont. It is a legal request and the board has approved others in town and cannot discriminate against one business. Stores are required to card potential buyers if they look younger than age 27. Streeter moved to approve the tobacco license by Family Dollar Stores of Vermont and Burke seconded. Vote: All in favor.
5. **Starting Over Strong Vermont (SOS):** Robin White, Crisis Counselor at SOS, gave a presentation on the services she offers to the many people still struggling after Hurricane Irene. In addition to

individual counseling, there is a support group at North Star Bowl and a Yoga Night is planned as well as a Story Circle.

6. **Memorial Hall Board:** Jeanne MacDougall, Chair of the Memorial Hall Board, read a letter to the Selectboard. The letter listed the MH Board's many achievements and their desire for better communication between the boards. Consolino said he is reviewing the business plan and charge. He said he is pleased with the work the MH Board has been doing.

Burke apologized for a remark he made at the last Selectboard meeting, saying he did not mean to hurt anyone; it is just an expression he uses. He asked about the procedure for refinishing the floor at the hall, and was told that they did not need to do an RFP because of the cost amount.

MacDougall thanked Murphy for his work on the grant, and Murphy in turn thanked MacDougall and Carlotta Gladding for all of their work on the grant.

Other comments included:

- Beth Greene: Appreciates the MH Board and understands what it is like to be on a board like the Selectboard.
- Gale Stachelek: As the newest member of the MH Board, she is so impressed with the people on the board and proud to be a part of the group. She appreciates the building and what an asset it is to the town.
- Carlotta Gladding: The MH Board is not running amok and she hopes the Deerfield Valley News prints that an apology was given to the board. She asked if they have the Selectboard's blessing to move forward. Consolino response: Not a blanket blessing for any projects – they need to talk to Murphy about projects.
- Liz Marshall: came to the meeting out of concern after reading the newspaper article about the last Selectboard meeting. She asked questions about who decides and oversees use of the hall. The Town Manager has full authority over town-owned buildings by VT statute.
- Murphy addressed the use by the Valley Town Church and said issues have been resolved and they have agreed to the things we have asked them to do. They want to renew their lease and have agreed to be bumped if there are other activities.
- The MH Board is working on a manual to be given to potential renters. This should help to clarify the rules.

The Board thanked MacDougall and the rest of the Memorial Hall Board for coming in.

7. **Mary Jane Finnegan** came in to discuss the riverbank destabilization on South Main Street. Finnegan and Chris Cady's buildings and possibly the town's River Bank Park are in danger due to the flood damage. Engineering reports were passed out to the Board. The big rocks that used to be against the seawall and protecting it were washed away and the river is now eroding the walls. It now seems to be encroaching on the park as well. Finnegan said she remortgaged and fixed her building because at the time, they said it was stable. She said she can't take out more loans and does not know what to do. She said Cady has money to either fix the building or the riverbank but not both. If the riverbank walls are not fixed, the buildings and the park could all slide into the river which would be devastating for the town. Finnegan has been looking into grants and met with a lot of people who are trying to help. She said she does not want to give up and will do all she can. The Agency of Natural Resources will not let anyone put the river back the way it was.

Murphy said he has looked at a lot of things and there is only one state agency that said maybe they would have funds, but that would not be available until fall. At this point we do not know how extensive the damage is.

Haughwout added that there are approximately 8 low income housing units involved. This is a cataclysmic problem that affects the whole town.

Cliff Duncan said there are now huge amounts of debris going into the building, while it used to be in the channel. He said we need to tell the State that we need to manage this river or it will cause major problems.

Representative Ann Manwaring said this is a multi-building project and it needs to be put together into one project. Streeter suggested a task force with Scott Murphy, Ann Manwaring, and Gretchen Havreluk to work to get all the permits. It is not three problems; it is one problem.

8. **Memorial Day Special Traffic Regulations:** Haughwout moved and Burke seconded to approve Special Traffic Regulations for the Memorial Day Parade on May 28th. Vote: All in favor.
9. **Update on Economic Project Coordinator:** The board received a summary report on the town's Economic Project Coordinator. Laura Sibilia said that Gretchen Havreluk is doing a great job and the town is certainly getting their money's worth.
10. **Footbridge Update:** Trail Committee Chair John Greene said they are now getting engineering done for the bridge which will go across the Deerfield River from Cliff Duncan's property on West Main Street. The design has not been picked yet, but it will be ordered in a few weeks. There will be a walkway on town property by the sewer pump station and there will be seating and landscaping along the berm. They are working with Carolyn Palmer of the Parking Committee to get landowner permissions. He said that because the bridge is being built privately and then given to the Town, he would like the Selectboard's blessing that the Town will accept the bridge when built, before investing more time and money. The Selectboard would like to see a visual of the bridge and walkway.

Greene said they hope to apply for all the permits in the next few weeks. The bridge and Riverwalk trail can be permitted separately which will simplify the permitting. They hope to build both this summer.

Greene said the Trails Committee is working on a map with all of the trails shown. They are also moving along with the Raponda Primitive Trail, the Hoot, Toot, and Whistle Trail, and only need permission from one more landowner for the Valley Trail.

Burke said that he would want to be sure all of the warranties, etc. are conveyed to the town with the bridge. The consensus of the Selectboard was that if all these requirements are met, then they would accept the bridge. No objections – full steam ahead!

11. **Signing of Line of Credit Extension:** The Town's Line of Credit with People's Bank, acquired for flood cash flow purposes, needs to be renewed. The amount needed has been reduced to \$350,000. It is just rolling it over at no additional cost. Streeter moved and Burke seconded to approve the extension of the line of credit. Vote: All in favor.
12. **Correspondence to/from Selectboard:** reviewed and no action taken

13. **Other Business:**

- a. **Selectboard Member Comments and Action Items:** Consolino told the Board of a meeting on May 21st at the Red Mill regarding downtown designation. Reminder of special Selectboard work meeting on May 30.

14. **Town Manager's/Assistant's updates:**

- a. Stairs next to Apres Vous: passed over; need more information
- b. Haynes Road Update: Engineers adjusted plans on the bridge. The state had not approved and has some issues.
- c. Smith Road: Previously FEMA had said no money, but a new report shows the project meets some FEMA requirements so they will cover some of the project. \$20,000 out of a \$1,000,000 project is a small amount. The town will appeal.
- d. Audit report accounting recommendations: Murphy said he has gone over the report with Treasurer Christine Richter and made some changes to comply with the recommendations.

Chapman moved and Streeter seconded to adjourn. All in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Towne, Administrative Assistant

Approved by Wilmington Selectboard:

Thomas P. Consolino, Chair

Margaret L. Streeter, Vice Chair

Diane Chapman, Clerk

Susan Joy Haughwout

James R. Burke