

Town of Groton, Vermont - Select board Minutes Feb. 1, 2018 (draft)

Select board Members in Attendance: Deborah Jurist, Wade Johnson, Sr. and Mary Grant

Attendance for the meeting included: Debra Johnson, Lisa Hart, Carrie Peters, Mark Shallberg, Mary Ellen Boyce, Barbara Johns, Lise Shallberg, Brent Smith, Jim Downing, Kitty Diggins, Gary Lamberton, Louis Bushey (VT FPR), Donald Pinette, and Nicole Wolfgang.

Mary called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Deborah moved to approve the minutes of January 18, 2018, Wade seconded and motion passed.

Adjustments to meeting are putting signs under Mary Ellen/closing the committee.

**Mark Simakaski - to do a collaboration dinner with My Farmers Market on Feb. 14**

Mark's wife, Nicole Wolfgang came to present the information on the dinner on Valentine's Day. Mark and his wife want to sell alcohol at this Valentine dinner at the My Farmers Market. They will be selling drinks by the glass, bottle, growlers and other drinks that they have. Nicole has a special event alcohol permit from the State of Vermont for the Select Board to sign. Deborah made a motion to allow Mark Simakaski and Nicole Wolfgang to sell their alcohol at the Valentines Banquet at the My Farmers Market on Feb. 14, Mary seconded and motion passed.

**Buckaroos - RR Bed plowing**

Gary Lamberton was looking for an update on the plowing of the Railroad Bed. The Select Board has not heard any more from the lawyers on this issue. Deborah said the lawyers are working on a solution to this and it's a work in progress. Louis Bushey from VT Forest Parks and Recreation asked some questions about the issue with plowing the Railroad Bed. Louis Bushey said that the Dept. of Forest and Parks did not approve of the plowing of the RR Bed. Deborah said the RR Bed Committee just sent out letters/survey to all the property owners that are abutters with the RR Bed. Gary Lamberton said he wants the RR Bed to be a snowmobile trail in the winter. The Select Board said they are still going forward in working on the legal action and doing an ordinance. It was said that VAST needs to do what they need to do. Deborah said it is a long slow process.

**RR Bed - Mary Ellen/Closing the Committee and signs on RR Bed**

Mary Ellen said they have put up signs on the RR Bed that say, "Slow down, take caution and possible vehicle", which are being taken down. Mary said even though they are being taken down, they are putting the signs back up. Both the plowing and the signs are in violation of the Select Board decision. Legal action is in progress.

Mary Ellen wants to put a hold on the RR Bed Committee until the lawyers have worked it out until we know what is going to happen. Mary Ellen also asked if Deborah Jurist is a voting member on the RR Bed Committee since she is a Select Board member. There was a short discussion on this. Wade Johnson is going to check with VLCT on this issue.

Deborah said the town has started the process of the ordinance, the process should continue because there are a lot of people affected by this not just the group at this Select Board meeting and before the ordinance is finally approved by the Select Board, it should be sent to the State to make sure it doesn't run into any provisions. It's a piece of property owned by the town, there's no rules governing it. This is what the ordinance is all about and it needs to go forward, because we obviously need it.

There was no need to have an executive session.

#### **Highway/Brent Smith - Railroad Street (WJ/water problem)**

Wade has done some research on this water issue on Railroad Street and said there may be something in the state to help the person that is having this water issue. Wade said this person has to request the help. Mary said the water issue isn't just with one person; it would affect other houses on the street also. Brent said that the major issue is water is coming off a property being discharged into Railroad Street. The property owner needs to find a place for the water; it is not up to the town to do this. This problem is not going to get better, going to get worse.

#### **Maintenance/Mark - library/railing**

Mark has put the railing upon the CB ramp with Brent and Philip's help. Mark stated he has stopped cleaning the Library as he was having many issues and lack of communication. Mary will meet with the library trustee's at their next meeting about the cleaning. Mary had spoke with Mark before the meeting about having an evacuation plan for every building that the town owns including the library.

#### **Fire Dept. - Bids for trailer**

There was one bid received for the military trailer which was for \$275 from Mark Shallberg. Deborah made a motion for Mark Shallberg to purchase the trailer for \$275, Wade seconded and motion passed.

#### **Review 2017 Town Report**

One draft of the 2017 town report was received from REPRO to review. There are a few things that need to be changed in the report. Debra Johnson will make changes and contact Mary Dearborn from REPRO with the changes. Deborah moved that the town report be accepted with changes made, Wade seconded and motion passed.

#### **Select Board Administrative Assistant**

Deborah Jurist has a job description for the Select Board Administrative Assistant and found on the Secretary of State's website that this job is an appointed position. This job will need to be listed under appointed by Select Board in next year's town report. Deborah made a motion to appoint Lise Shallberg for the Select Board Administrative Assistant, Wade seconded and motion passed. Lise Shallberg will use the Lister computer and desk for this work.

#### **Financials**

Lisa has the property evaluation for the Methodist Church parsonage. The Lister's had met with the State appraiser a few weeks ago and got his final decision appraisal. Lisa will be sending the church a revised bill for the years 2016-2017 from \$87,500 to \$82,100 which came out to a \$227.27 credit. The Groton Methodist Church has 30 days to appeal this decision; the final date for the paperwork to be signed is on Feb. 23, 2018. The refund will be sent to the Methodist Church.

The PO for the Town Attorney, Gavin Reid concerning the Railroad Bed is to be left open.

**Open to Public & Other Business**

Wade has done some investigating with the State of VT on the junk cars that are located at the Aubrey residence. Wade has talked to Vincent Chiorgno from the Waste Management & Prevention Division of State of Vermont DEC who has visited the property and talked to the home owner and told her the vehicles need to be removed because they are in violation of the states Salvage Yard Rule and will contact AOT of the State of Vermont.

Barbara Johns thanked the Select Board for having the railing put in located at the CB. She is concerned about the Railroad Bed not having signs up (see above). The VAST was asked what their thoughts were about the signs being taken down. It was said that there is no speed limit on the Railroad Bed. If an individual post signs up on the speed limit on the RR Bed, it doesn't matter and no enforcement can be done. Deborah will send an email to the lawyer to ask him about this issue.

**Sign Orders & Open Mail**

Orders were signed and mail opened.

**Set Agenda for next Select Board meeting on Feb. 15, 20**

- Meeting called to order
- Review/Approve Minutes of Feb. 1, 2018
- Adjustments to Agenda
- Executive Session
- Highway/Brent Smith - Railroad Street issue on Feb. 3
- Library - cleaning/maintenance
- Fire Dept - disposal of old rescue unit
- Financials
- Open to Public & Other Business
- Sign Orders & Open Mail
- Set Agenda for next Select Board meeting on March 1, 2018
- Adjourn

Deborah made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm, Wade seconded and motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debra Johnson  
Select Board Secretary

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Mary Grant, Chair

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Wade Johnson, Sr.

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Deborah Jurist