

SELECTBOARD MEETING  
*Approved Minutes*

April 8, 2013

7:00pm Calais Town Office

**Attending:** Denise Wheeler, John Brabant, Scott Bassage, Rose Pelchuck, Donna Fitch, Alfred Larrabee, Rolf Mueller, Bill Gray, Conrad Smith, Will Walters, Gus Seelig and Steve Cusick.

**Absent:** Toby Talbot

**Actions:**

Approval of the March 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes - Scott Bassage made a motion to approve the Minutes. Denise Wheeler made one correction. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0.

Road Commissioner Update - The Selectboard reported we all noticed the roads are in much better shape this mud season. Alfred Larrabee responded that it is a combination of weather conditions and the road crew's efforts are paying off.

Town Invoices & Road Commissioner's Orders of the Day – The Selectboard reviewed and processed the town invoices and orders of the day as per usual protocol.

Budget Update – Donna Fitch provided the budget update for the Selectboard to review through April 8, 2013. These figures represent what is remaining for the final quarter of the fiscal year.

Road Commissioner Update (continued) – Alfred Larrabee reported he is tracking the roads he has been grading on a paper copy of the town highway map. Bill Gray commented that the major resurfacing projects over the past 2-3 years are paying dividends now.

WEC Permit on Max Gray Road – The Selectboard reviewed the permit request and map location of the proposed 7200-volt transmission line on Max Gray Road. After some discussion, Scott Bassage made a motion to approve the permit as requested with the condition that no ornamental shade trees be cut without first consulting the Calais Tree Warden, Dave Curtis. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0.

Central Vermont Solid Waste Management Grant – Donna Fitch has written the grant application to CVSWMD to obtain funds for erecting a fence and possibly a new sign at the trash/recycling depot on Moscow Woods Road.

Class 2 Highway & Structure Grants – Donna Fitch reported the grant applications are nearly ready for submission. Conrad Smith requested to be on the Agenda to discuss consideration of Adamant residents concern about the culvert replacement on Center Road in Adamant Village. Conrad Smith said, "Thought that if you are going to replace a culvert in the village, you should get input or comment from the people who live there." Conrad Smith was very concerned about the process the Selectboard and Road Commissioner went through with no involvement of the townspeople in Adamant specifically. Denise Wheeler noted the plan will be to submit the grant application for the culvert replacement in Adamant, put a figure in on the high side that would be used for cosmetics and we can then get community input about final design.

Calais TH 44 Mileage Certificate – The Selectboard reviewed the state highway map regarding TH 44, Wheeler Road. The Selectboard agreed the drawn Town Highway Map does reflect the changes of including a section of Class 4 Road per the November 21, 2011 hearing with the Morse's and Storrow's. As previously noted at the February 11, 2013 meeting, John Klesch, Esq. will be notified to send Charles Storrow a letter on behalf of the town for not producing the deeds as agreed to in March 2011 and posting a "No Trespassing" sign on a town road.

Town Meeting Recap with Town Moderator, Gus Seelig – The Selectboard welcomed Gus Seelig as he reported, “This was the longest town meeting I’ve ever remembered”. Scott Bassage recalled that taxes are really hurting townspeople and people wanted the chance to speak. As to the reason why the town meeting lasted five hours, perhaps because several new articles were proposed about establishing different town funds that people never had to consider before. Some ideas discussed included: starting at 9:00am, and having the school meeting first in alternating years. Microphones were used very successfully. Donna Fitch suggested having an informational meeting prior to Town Meeting. Gus Seelig suggested someone re-read the Warning Articles to be sure they are clear (his test is can your grandmother understand this?). Gus also suggested that it would be good for the Selectboard to do road shows throughout the town to obtain public input and answer questions. The Selectboard thanked Gus Seelig for being Town Moderator for another year.

2103 State Town Road and Bridge Standards – John Brabant gave background information leading up to the formation of these new state standards. As discussed at the last meeting, John Brabant provided draft proposed modified language that the Town of Calais can insert into the standards. Conrad Smith said we do not need to adopt these until July 2014 since the town has adopted the 2011 Road and Bridge Standards. Conrad suggests delaying adoption over time and add in some definitions. Denise Wheeler asked what is the next step; a letter from the Selectboard to request a copy of the Chapter 12 ASTO standards. Bill Gray said it would be good to meet with VTrans and/or ANR to answer questions. John Brabant had the idea to check in with VLCT and maybe have them organize a forum with other town officials to ask questions and make comments about the proposed 2013 State Standards. Conrad Smith offered to assist the Selectboard with language.

Zoning Violations, Appeals, Litigation, and Personnel Matters – Scott Bassage made a motion to go into Executive Session with Steve Cusick at 8:22pm in accordance with 1 V.S.A. subsection 313 (a) (1) for the purpose of discussing real estate matters. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0. The regular session resumed at 8:47pm. Denise Wheeler stated there was nothing to publicly report.

Appointments to Various Boards, Committees and Commissions (one-year positions)

Tree Warden – David Curtis	Gospel Hollow Warden – Ernie Parrish
First Constable – Wilson Hughes	Emergency Plan Coordinator – Toby Talbot
Animal Control Officer – Wilson Hughes	Alternate to CVRPC – John Brabant
Inspector of Lumber – Greg Pelchuck	CVRPC TAC – Rick DeWolfe
E-911 Coordinator – John McCullough	Energy Coordinator – Bill Powell
VT State Police Advisory Committee – Peter Harvey	

Development Review Board:

Nedene Martin and Walt Ames were each reappointed to a three-year term, expires 2016. One vacant position remains, a three-year term, expires 2016. Steve Reynes was appointed to an Alternate Position on the DRB, to fill the vacant seat from 2012, a three-year term that expires in 2015. One alternate position to the DRB remains vacant, expires in 2014 and one is up for reappointment.

Historic Preservation Commission:

Scott Bassage was reappointed to a three-year term, expires 2016. Two other seats are up for reappointment.

Denise Wheeler made a motion to approve the entire above slate to serve in these respective town positions. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0.

Planning Commission:

John Brabant made a motion to reappoint Gary Root to a four-year term, expires 2017. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0. Two seats remain vacant; one expires in 2013 and one in 2014.

Meeting with the Planning Commission – Denise Wheeler would like to meet with the Planning Commission to discuss why the Selectboard could not move forward with the proposed zoning regulation changes due to the fact that they were substantive changes and there was not sufficient time to hold another

public hearing. Denise Wheeler said, "We need to mend some fences". The Planning Commission would like to decrease the number of members from nine to seven members. This will be discussed at the next Selectboard meeting.

Roads Advisory Committee – John Brabant came up with a new charge that will be discussed at the next meeting. Some of the former members of the committee are willing to serve again.

Reclassification of Poor Fen on the McCullough Crushing, Inc. Property - Next time we will discuss the reclassification and formulate a response letter Denise Wheeler reported.

Tentative Agenda for the April 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting:

- Annual Financial Plan for Highways
- Decrease Planning Commission from nine to seven members
- Appointments to Various Boards, Committees and Commissions
- Poor Fen Reclassification Letter

Scott Bassage made a motion to adjourn at 9:15pm. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Pelchuck  
Selectboard Member & Administrative Assistant