

SELECTBOARD SPECIAL MEETING
and VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER
Approved Minutes

October 11, 2017

6:00pm Calais Town Hall

Attending: Denise Wheeler, Rose Pelchuck, Sharon Fannon, John Brabant, Judy Robert, Donna Fitch, Jonathan Williams, Alfred Larrabee and many volunteers and staff that serve the town

Actions:

Denise Wheeler called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm. Denise welcomed everyone and thanked them for their service to the Town of Calais. "The town appreciates all you do and would not be able to run without you," Denise said. Introductions were made all around the room. Denise came up with a Calais Trivia Quiz and prizes were awarded to the person(s) with the correct or nearly correct answers. Questions were sprinkled throughout the evening.

The catered dinner, made by Beth Ann Porter of East Montpelier, was served and enjoyed by all. The guest speaker this evening was Susan Clark from Middlesex. Susan's message about volunteers and serving our communities is what makes Calais so great. Susan cited numerous things that happen in Calais that are seen by outsiders as making this a most desirable place to live.

Various comments were made by people with regards to their position in town.

Janet Ancel, State Representative noted that local issues brought to her in the legislature have made positive impacts on all Vermonters such as green burials, burial depth and investment of cemetery funds.

Dorothy Naylor spoke about Act 46 and encouraged everyone to complete the survey regarding school consolidation in WCSU in an effort to hear how people think about the issue.

Alfred Larrabee, Road Commissioner reported he has received five applications for the two open positions on the road crew and is moving forward on them. In total there are four members of the road crew plus a per diem position.

Judy Robert, Town Clerk thanked the town for passing the Town Charter in March that enabled the Selectboard to hire a Selectboard Administrator, Jon Williams, which has positively impacted running the town. Judy informed all about the new Assistant Town Clerk, Sandra Fewer, who was the town clerk in Worcester for many years and comes with a wealth of experience.

Stephanie Kaplan, Conservation Commission Chair, spoke about the Roadside Vegetation Pilot Project that Calais was selected to participate in sponsored by the Agency of Transportation and Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation. This inventory looks at roadside vegetation that has a hydro-logic connection. Calais is way ahead of what the Municipal General Permit requirements timeline mandates. At the conclusion, they will come up with a report and action plan for the Conservation Commission to help implement.

Larry Bush, Lakes & Streams Committee, reported there were 84 responses to the recent survey they put out. An amazingly high percentage said how important the lakes and streams in town are to them and the quality of life here. The results will be reported to the Selectboard and Planning Commission. Larry Bush, Historic Preservation Commission noted that, because responsibility for the Town Hall renovation project seems to have been turned over to other capable hands in the town office, the Historic Preservation Commission hopes to turn its attention to getting East Calais village listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

_____?Charlotte or Steve Killoran, Trails Committee is always looking for more land for new trails.

Jan Ohlsson, Planning Commission Chair noted there are two vacant positions on the Planning Commission and would love some new members.

John Simanskas, Cemetery Commission Chair reported they are working on getting prices for monument stone washing at Fairview Cemetery.

Rod Buck, Trustee of Public Funds reported the trustees are developing new policies and strategies to earn as much money as possible. You have to balance how much risk to take to make more money and they are trying to determine what level of risk is appropriate.

Bill Powell, CVSWMMD Representative reported Act 148 mandates all food scraps out of landfills by 2020. They have a solid organics program run through Grow Compost. The District is in good financial health. Washington Electric Co-op has a contract to make electricity from methane generation at the Coventry Landfill. Methane is produced from decomposition of organic waste.

An Edible Garden was planted by volunteers behind the Town Hall this summer.

Fletcher Dean, Green Up Day Coordinator is looking to step down after 18 years on the job. There are lots of motivated people in Calais and we need someone to coordinate Green Up Day; mostly three to four weeks prior to the event.

Denise Wheeler, on behalf of the Selectboard thanked everyone for attending and for their efforts in town.

Rose Pelchuck made a motion to adjourn at 7:50 pm. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Pelchuck
Selectboard Member

Approved at the 10/23/2017 Regular Selectboard Meeting