

Selectboard Special Meeting Minutes

Sunday, May 31, 2020 at 10 am via Zoom conference call

Present: Denise Wheeler (Chair), John Brabant (Vice Chair), Rose Pelchuck (Member), Clif Emmons (Member), Marc Mihaly, Jan Ohlsson, Scott Bassage

Absent: Sharon Winn Fannon (Member)

1. Call to Order: Denise Wheeler called the meeting to order at 10:08 am.
2. Public Comment: None.
3. Review, Additions/Changes to Agenda: None.
4. East Calais Community Trust Grant Application: Marc Mihaly, Treasurer of the E. Calais Community Trust (ECCT), explained that the Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC) grant application process is new to both the committee and the consultant. He explained that buried in a 40-page instruction document an obligation was discovered to include a letter from the Selectboard at this time, and he apologized for having to pull together a last-minute Sunday morning meeting.

The application is well aligned with carrying out the Calais Town Plan, such as focusing on village centers (East Calais village is designated as such), encouraging mixed use development (such as residential and general store), and incentivizing small scale commercial development (such as maintaining community gathering places in village stores). The store area needs some renovations while ECCT looks for a store operator. The grant asks for a little more than \$100,000. Additional grant applications will be sought in the future.

Best scenario may be for the store to be open in early 2021. Ryan Edwards, Calais resident, has been hired as the architect. Jan Ohlsson commented that once the group gains ownership of the building, they hope to have things such as “pop ups,” to use the building and the exterior to allow little events to go on; it may be able to be the drop off location for the food bank. Mary Alice Profit, owner of the former Montpelier diner Down Home Kitchen, has offered kitchen materials that may be able to be utilized in the store, and herself as a resource as well. The Chair added that the group has also been in communication with the Town Hall renovation team about using materials offered by Mary Alice Proffitt.

The store closing is scheduled for July 10.

Rose Pelchuck made a motion to authorize the Vice Chair to sign a letter of support for the grant application of the East Calais Community Trust, to file with Northern Borders Regional

Commission. The motion was seconded and passed 3-0. (The Chair recused herself because of her membership in the organizing group.)

5. Other Business/Old Business/New Business: None.
6. Adjournment: John Brabant made a motion to adjourn at 10:24 am. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0.

Date: 6/2/2020 Respectfully Submitted, Katie Lane-Karnas, Recording Secretary
Approved by the Selectboard at the 6/8/2020 meeting

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<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1XwdPLn5odiN2DvJpB4CoTctnmISieqZt?usp=sharing>