

**Selectboard Minutes**  
**February 9, 2015**  
Approved

Present: Selectboard members John Brabant, Scott Bassage, Toby Talbot, Rose Pelchuck, Toby Talbot; Nel Emlen, Peter Harvey, Ginny Kern; Will Walters (Hardwick Gazette); Donna Fitch, Clerk

Denise Wheeler, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of the January 12, 2015 ancient roads minutes was moved by Scott, seconded by Rose. Motion carried 5-0.

Operations Manager Report: Toby Talbot received a couple complaints about parking in the road near the Whammy Bar in Maple Corner. The town's winter parking ordinance doesn't cover the situation because it prohibits roadside parking only from 1 am to 7 am. The situation is made worse due to snow banks. Toby will talk with the Whammy Bar owners and ask them to try and keep people from parking in the road. In other areas of town, a couple people are parking on the road repeatedly. Toby suggested making a copy of the "Snow Removal and Parking Ordinance" and putting it on the car's windshield, noting the first notice is a warning and the second time the car will be towed. He will also put this on Front Porch Forum. Guthrie Perry's last day with the road crew is February 17. The job opening is being advertised. Toby and Alfred will interview candidates and the selectboard will interview finalists.

Federally Mandated Road Signs and Kents Corner: Donna Fitch stated she would hate to see the large federally mandated road signs erected in the Kents Corner Historic District. "We created our own road standards," she said, "so why do we have to follow federal standards that are inappropriate for the historic district?" Toby will research the federal guidelines to find out if there are exceptions. "Stop" and other signs have to meet federal guidelines by 2015, but the deadline for road signs is later. Nel Emlen will talk to the new director at Historic Preservation.

Ancient Roads: Donna and Toby added Grist Mill 1 and a portion of Sand Hill Road as trails to the official state highway map. All ancient roads have been addressed except for Dodge Road; the board is waiting for more information from property owners.

Prioritizing Agenda Items: In order to catch up on languishing agenda items the Board made the following list:

- ✓ Dog ordinance
- ✓ Curtis Pond Island ordinance
- ✓ Memorial Hall – Denise suggested Peg Bowen talk to the selectboard about the Hall's history; concern has been expressed about the veteran's monument being on private land
- ✓ Town hall renovation
- ✓ Shade trees (tree ordinance) – Scott and Toby
- ✓ Purchasing policy - Scott
- ✓ Internet usage policy – Scott – Donna will send Scott the Calais Elementary policy

Toby will organize a meeting with Dan Weston (WEC), the Roads Committee, town tree wardens and Scott to discuss trees.

Universal Recycling: Scott reviewed the Universal Recycling deadlines. Central VT Solid Waste Management is providing help to the towns. July 1, 2015 is the deadline for public buildings to provide recycle bins alongside trash containers.

Capital West Dispatching Meeting: Denise reported on the meeting Capital West Dispatching held with surrounding towns, fire departments and Montpelier Police Department to discuss the increase in cost. Cost increases are significant. Walden's cost went from \$4,750 to \$9,300. Plainfield's bill went up 100% and Calais 125%. People are not happy with the process and lack of transparency. Capital West thought the fire chiefs were sharing information with the selectboards. The Capital West contract shows costs escalating over five years with no town input, John pointed out. He questioned why we are using an independent system when there is a state system. Toby explained Capital West has 15,000 events a year. One event may involve multiple calls and those multiple calls are not included in the 15,000 events figure. Tower locations influence the service. Other options are Barre City and Lamoille sheriff. However, there is the quality of service to consider. Capital West knows the area. Toby explained that the City of Montpelier has subsidized a significant portion of the dispatching cost in past years. Capital West is now paying 46% of the cost. In 2005, it paid 11%. Denise pointed out that Capital West apologized for the miscommunication. "Do we want to have bills come to Calais rather than through Woodbury and EMFD?" she asked. Toby stated the contract with Capital West is for five years and Calais can be part of future negotiations.

Public Hearing on Town Plan: On Tuesday, February 17, the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing for residents to give input on the Town Plan. The Selectboard will hold its public hearing on the Plan in March. Toby mentioned there is regulatory wording in the document so there should be lots of public input. The Board discussed going back to having the town voters vote on the Town Plan rather than the Selectboard. "I want to make sure we do outreach so everyone knows they have a say," said Toby.

The next selectboard meeting is February 23 at 7 pm. School board chair Charlotte Bassage and town and school meeting moderators, Gus Seelig and Craig Line respectively, are on the agenda for 7:30 to review the town meeting warning.

Executive Session and Adjournment: At 8:30 Denise made a motion to go into executive session in accordance with Title 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3) to discuss a personnel matter. Scott moved the motion, Toby seconded. Motion carried 5-0. At 8:45 pm the Selectboard came out of executive session with nothing to report. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried, 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Fitch, Clerk