



Select Board

Town Of Hinesburg

10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461

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Meeting Minutes – October 7, 2013

- Approved 10/21/13 -

Attending The Meeting: Jon Trefry, Mike Bissonette, Tom Ayer, Phil Pouech, Andrea Morgante and see the attached list.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Jon explained the meeting would begin with a continuation of the Public Hearing from September 16 on the proposed Firearms Ordinance. Jon further explained the ordinance was crafted due to irresponsible behavior at one of the Town Forest areas.

Henry Benis said this has a negative impact on firearm enthusiasts in Hinesburg. He cited State law regarding the use of firearms and stated if the ordinance is passed a petition will be circulated in Town to repeal the ordinance.

Dan Brooks stated he has in past years sighted in his rifle just past the safety zone. He again noted that according to State regulations the Game Warden can deal with shooting problems.

David Rondeau said he feels the ordinance does nothing except prevent sighting in rifles. He does not want to restrict people from being able to shoot.

Terry Wilson asked if this is a citizen or police driven issue. He believes this could be a precursor to restricting firearms in Hinesburg. He feels if there is no knee jerk reaction to the issue and more patrolling of the area is done it will resolve the problem.

Maggie Gordon said what is being done is obviously only by irresponsible individuals and makes all hunters look bad. She feels prevention of the irresponsible behavior makes sense.

Greg Munsell suggest the Select Board talk to other towns to see if they experience the same problem and if so should get together and address the issue with the State. As far as recreational shooting he suggests setting up a range where that can be done.

M. Ainsfield asked if there would be availability to challenge shooting in other areas of Town is this is passed.

George Dameron believes strongly the mission of the ordinance if to preserve public health and safety.

Mary Jane Ballard agrees with statements made by those opposed. She questioned the language “in and around” as she has land adjacent to Geprag Park and would not want the ordinance to extend to her private property.

George LeClair said he was under the impression that if a gun is shot the police can respond and Frank Koss stated it depends on the incident. George stated he is against the ordinance and as Terry Wilson stated it could lead to not allowing shooting in Hinesburg.

Terry Wilson also noted his property on which he hunts is adjacent to Town land and there needs to be clarification of the “in and around” statement.

Dan Brooks said he has personally sighted in his rifle behind the parking lot in discussion. He said the word needs to get out to the public to call the Game Warden for such problems.

Ray Kenyon said a few years ago Williston banned all hunting on Town property.

Frank Stanley, resident of Monkton who hunts in Hinesburg said he spoke to a landowner who lives in the area near the parking lot who did note it was kids causing the problem. He said he would assume the Police Dept. could handle a bunch of rebellious teenagers, and in regards to shooting from a vehicle there are State laws in place to deal with that.

Owen McDonald does not believe the Police Dept. could not investigate a problem when called. He also mentioned the law of needing to be 25 feet of the road to shoot a firearm.

Brent Francis said it feels like this is looking for a means to an end, the end being safety.

Frank Koss said it is in the Town Forest plan to prohibit recreational shooting and he does not feel sighting in a rifle during hunting season will be a problem. He does not look at the ordinance as a precursor to no shooting in Hinesburg. He stated Title 10 is only enforced by Fish and Game.

Greg Munsell suggests the Board work to get the State to back the Police Dept.

Terry Wilson thanked the Police Dept. for the great job they do in Town. He asked Frank if someone calls to complain that someone is shooting in the Town Forest are they going to waste time and energy to look for that person shooting in the Forest.

George Dameron suggests making the language more precise. In section II drop the term “in and around” and change to within or into as in section IV it might then be acceptable.

Jon closed the Public Hearing and explained that no action on the ordinance will be taken by the Board at this meeting.

Mike B said we would like to talk with a representative from Fish and Game to be clear on what they can and cannot do.

Phil said he wondered at the beginning what the purpose was - a problem could happen anywhere and the ordinance targets the Town Forest. He did not hear any issue with firearm restriction within Geprag raised which then accommodates others for hiking.

Tom said the Town Forest Management Plan addresses shooting.

Andrea asked if the Town might deal with vandalism and disorderly conduct at the parking lot by having more enforcement.

Tom said he agrees with Andrea that vandalism is the problem.

Jon agreed that the irresponsible behavior could be dealt with in other ways than passing an ordinance.

Other Business

Ed Matthews asked the Board if they will hold informational sessions for the approved zoning changes before the vote in November.

Village Steering Committee Annual Update

Dona Walker talked about the Committee's progress last year. The Village Visualization Project was completed; they did substantial work at Memorial Park and plan to continue this next year. Dona asked the Board if the Committee needs permission to do fund raising for benches they want to have at the park. The Board said they were in favor and suggested Dona contact Joe Colangelo for specifics regarding fund raising.

Tom Ayer mentioned he received a donation for the recreation field which had \$1,500 marked specifically for benches on the recreation path.

John Lyman noted that along with benches perhaps dog waste disposal access could be included along the sidewalks and recreation path.

Mike B thanked Dona and George Dameron for their years of service on the Committee.

Grant Proposals From Hinesburg Community Police Department

Chief Koss is seeking permission to apply for three (3) grants from Homeland Security. All of these grants would be funded 100% by the federal government. Granted, all grants the Town of Hinesburg receives entail in-house work: bookkeeping, accounting, management, etc. and typically require quite a bit of attention during audit season, regardless of the 'size' of the grant award. This is not to say we should not continue seeking grant funds but it is important for the Select Board to be aware of the fact that even 100% grant funding for relatively small amounts of money does not mean the Town is off the

hook when it comes to management responsibilities.

Chief Koss outlined the three grant requests.

1) Grant request of \$63,000 to replace radios for the cruisers, portable radios and a base station. Frank advised the radios are digital and will bring the Dept. up to date with communication. Andrea asked what the expected life of the radios is. Frank said the current ones are 7 years old and working but the technology is changing.

2) Grant request for fingerprint machine and one year of the maintenance contract. The maintenance contract is approximately \$3,000 a year. Frank said the final cost is estimated around \$15,000. The Board asked why the maintenance contract is so high in comparison to the cost of the machine. Frank had no specific answer but assumes it is the cost of yearly calibration.

3) Grant request for a license plate reader and three years maintenance. After that the cost is \$1,600 a year for maintenance. Frank explained this will allow the Dept. to be aware of vehicles in violation travelling through Hinesburg.

While in agreement that it is good to be seeking grants for equipment the Board expressed concern the Police Dept. budget may start to creep up partially due to maintaining the items. Frank said unlike the COPS Grant there is no commitment on the part of the Town to retain the item after three years.

Frank will bring more information on the grants back to the Board.

Road Acceptance Policy

Joe advised the Board it was brought to his attention during the Town take-over of the Creekside roads a few months ago that the Town should update its New Town Road Policy to require title insurance be required for all roads proposed to be dedicated to the Town. In advance of the Town's take-over of the Thistle Hill roadways (see Town Administrator report), this is a good time for the Select Board to update the policy to reflect the suggestion made by our attorney.

Mike B moved the Board vote to approve the updated Town of Hinesburg's Policy for Consideration of New Town Roads effective October 7, 2013. Second by Phil.

The Board discussed areas of concern. Andrea noted underground utilities in relation to the street trees could be addressed by the DRB. Jon suggested adopting this and to continue to improve it.

Alex said there is need to reference the official map.

Phil asked if the Highway Forman had reviewed the document and said he felt it important to get his input.

Motion voted and approved.

Committees, Boards, and Commissions (CBC) Interviews

Per the Select Board's CBC policy, October is the month of interviews and appointments to the Town's CBCs. Also remember that the Select Board has made the point to conduct interviews and have deliberations on candidates in open session but did reserve the right to enter into executive session if it so desired for deliberations.

Kathy Newton was present seeking to serve on the Agency Request Review Committee. Kathy is a lifetime resident of Hinesburg looking to become involved in her community. She has worked at both schools in Town and is a volunteer at the VT Respite House.

Carrie Fenn is seeking to serve on the Energy Committee. She has lived in Town for 18 years and has served on the Planning Commission and Conservations Commission in the past. She has experience working as an energy auditor.

Ray Keller is seeking to serve on the Energy Committee. Ray has lived in Town for 13 years. He has experience as an engineer in the energy and water conservation field.

Katelin Emerson is also seeking to serve on the Energy Committee. Kate has experience researching energy technologies and governmental and non-governmental programs to help the public change their energy habits.

George Dameron is seeking a position on the Trails Committee. George has lived in Hinesburg for 25 years and has served on the Village Steering Committee and is now looking to serve on a new committee.

Tom moved the Board vote to appoint George Dameron to a three (3) year seat on the Trails Committee for a term ending January 1, 2017. Second by Phil and approved.

Andrea moved the Board vote to appoint Carrie Fenn to a three (3) year seat on the Energy Committee for a term ending January 1, 2017. Second by Jon and approved.

Tom moved the Board vote to appoint Katelin Emerson to a three (3) year seat on the Energy Committee for a term ending January 1, 2017. Second by Mike B and approved.

Phil moved the Board vote to appoint Ray Keller to a three (3) year seat on the Energy Committee for a term ending January 1, 2017. Second by Tom and approved.

Mike B moved the Board vote to appoint Kathy Newton to a three (3) year seat on the Agency Request Review Committee for a term ending January 1, 2017. Second by Tom and approved.

Tom moved the Board vote to appoint Susan Marino to a three (3) year seat on the Agency Request Review Committee for a term ending January 1, 2017. Second by Andrea and approved.

Andrea moved the Board vote to appoint Chuck Reiss to a three (3) year seat on the Energy Committee for a term ending January 1, 2017. Second by Mike B and approved.

Zoning Administrator (Re)appointment

Pursuant to State Statute – Title 24, Chapter 117, Section 4448 – the Zoning Administrator shall be appointed for a three (3) year term. Hinesburg’s Zoning Administrator, Peter Erb, was last appointed on July 12, 2010 for a term which expired on August 31, 2013. State Statute requires the Planning Commission to nominate (or re-nominate) people for this position, and the Select Board then decides who to (re)appoint.

The Planning Commission, during their April 24, 2013 meeting, unanimously approved a motion to nominate Peter Erb for another term as Zoning Administrator.

The Board had discussion around Peter’s employee evaluation and looking to have thoughtful input from Planning Commission members and DRB members who work with him.

Phil moved the Board vote to approve reappointing Peter Erb as the Town of Hinesburg’s Zoning Administrator per the recommendation of the Planning Commission for a three (3) year term ending August 31, 2016. Second by Andrea. Mike B asked of the motion could be changed to a one (1) year term, he felt the evaluation process was lacking in a uniform manner and needed to be improved. Jon pointed out the term is set for three years and Peter has heard the concerns and Jon is sure he will work on them. Motion vote and approved.

Town Administrator Report

Thistle Hill Roads - As follow-up to agenda item # 7 above, we are taking necessary steps for the planned take-over of Thistle Hill Roads. We had a site visit a few weeks back and Mike and Rocky met with Joe Fallon to review the notes and engineering plans. As of now we are looking at a site visit for October 21, 2013. Joe will keep the Select Board informed.

Boil Water Notice - See notice in Select Board meeting packet.

Water Fund Payment Question - We are in the early stages of unraveling a missing \$58,000+ payment from the State to the Town of Hinesburg’s Water Department. It’s a bit of a convoluted story but the long and short is that a State reimbursement payment was made to a private company who was, theoretical, responsible for sending the Town of Hinesburg the check. The Town never received the check and the company has since gone out of business. Our contention to the State is that they owe us the money and it’s on them to get their original check back from the private company. Hopefully this will work out smoothly. This may be a future agenda item for the Select Board. Some of the details would be discussed in executive session.

Health Insurance - Joe has set-up time for Navigators to come to Town Hall on October 29 and 30. October 29 will be specifically to assist Town employees and their families; October 30th is available to any Town resident and a number have contacted me so far requesting time with a navigator.

Police Officer Interviews - Phil Pouech, Michael Bissonette, and Joe Colangelo interviewed two (2) candidates for the position of Police Officer this past Thursday afternoon. Both candidates were previously interviewed and screened by Chief Koss and Sergeant Casco. The interviews went well and the expectation is that a new candidate will be put before the Select Board on October 21st for an offer of employment with the Hinesburg Community Police Department.

Select Board Items

Phil asked about the culvert by the Dameron house. Mike B said Mike Anthony is working on it. Andrea said the sidewalks need to be swept and cleaned before winter and the hole on Route 116 fixed. Jon will advise Rocky.

Jon said he spoke with Rocky about the Geprag water feasibility study and it is not looking good. Rocky will give specific details to the Board.

Warrants

Phil moved the Board vote to approve the warrants, including payroll, as submitted by the Town Treasurer. Second by Mike B and approved.

Minutes

Mike B moved the Board vote to approve the minutes of 9/16/13. Second by Andrea and approved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 on a motion by Mike B, second by Phil and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Spadaccini, secretary

Hinesburg Selectboard Meeting Sign-in Sheet

October 7, 2013

1. Owen McDonald
2. Kevin McDonald
3. Donald Stearns
4. Randy Thernien
5. Frank Ross
6. Bob Hedge's
7. Margery Sharp
8. Sarah Patten
9. ~~John~~
10. John Lyman
11. Bret Francis
12. Ann Aricoll
13. Kris Reinhardt
14. Deey Bann
15. Gene B LeClair
16. Heather Brooks
17. Dan Brooks
18. David Roudem
19. Nike John
20. MARY JANE BAILLARD
21. Nancy Amisfield
22. JERRY Wilson
23. Norbert Auger
24. Ethan Côté
25. Harrison Mead
26. Jacob Nicholson

Hinesburg Selectboard Meeting Sign-in Sheet

October 7, 2013

27. Sean Garex

28. Brennan Anger

29. Max Barron

30. James D. McAlister

31. Maggie Gordon

32. Frank Stanley

33. Andrew Spivman

34. Joe D...

35. [Signature]

36. [Signature]

37. Ray L. Keyser

38. Mitch Damon

39. Lana Stowe

40. Matt Laberge

41. Dona Walker

42. Carrie Jenn

43. Phil Jones

44. Alex Weinhagen

45. Kette Emerson

46. Peter Ezz

47. Ray Keller

48. Kathleen Newton

49. _____

50. _____

51. _____

52. _____