SELECTBOARD MEETING
March 24, 2014

DRAFT

Attending the meeting; Jon Trefry, Tom Ayer, Andrea Morgante, Mike Bissonette, Phil Pouech, Renae Marshall, Joe Colangelo and attached list.

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

Old Police Station

The Selectboard heard comments regarding the disposition of the former police station.

Laura Hoopes and Kathleen Patten (HCRC) have toured the facility with Chief Koss this winter and believe it could be used for a thrift store for the HCRC. Laura said HCRC is looking to open a resale shop in Hinesburg. They are hoping when up and running the shop will generate enough income to help with current programs such as the food shelf. They would not use Town funds allocated to HCRC toward securing a building.
Catherine Goldsmith supports saving the building.
Mary Hurlie also supports saving the building and is interested in learning more about the historic aspect of the building.
Frank Koss asked what the plan is to obtain the building.
Karla Munson said the hope would be to buy the building for a dollar and then the organization using the building would be responsible for all costs.
Maggie Gordon said she likes the model of a thrift store to sustain the food shelf and feels that is a good idea. Maggie said when she and Catherine looked at the building last summer they were given an estimate of $75,000 by a contractor for work needed.
John Lyman said his comments relate only to the building. He noted if the building was not good enough for the Police Department use he does not want to see tax dollars spent on it now. He does like the idea of any possible way for the Town to receive any revenue from it. He states it has no historical or architectural value as it was just a farm house.
Len Duffy agrees with John L's statement regarding the Police Department. He added the concept the HCRC has is good but not to use that building for it. He would like to see it saved but not by the Town. He advocates selling it so it can go back on the tax role.
Roger Kohn said his major concern is the building is saved as part of the original village regardless of what use.
Rocky spoke to the condition and problems with the building.
There is no access from Rt 116 / there is no water as the allocation for that building was transferred to the new Police Building / there is no heat and the furnace is not repairable / wood rot is present in the windows / the foundation is crumbling and various other issues. He does not think $75,000 would be enough to jack up the building, put in a new foundations as well as other necessary work.
He said the Lot 1 committee felt it was most valuable as open green space.
Marge Sharp asked if it could be moved onto a slab and Rocky said it could.
Catherine G said according to zoning regulations demolition of a pre-1940 building needs a permit.
Phil said he would like to encourage the HCRC to work on their project but he does not envision it being in this building. He added that perhaps a committee could be formed to review all proposals.
Mike B said he feels it is not a good location for a thrift shop, he likes the idea of a Town park. Mike also noted that when the Town put forth the proposal to bond for the new PD building demolishing the existing PD building was a part of that plan.

Andrea said she feels it is worth considering re-use as the building provides a corner piece and there is still potential for a park with the building remaining.
Tom is not in favor of preserving, and noted the high cost for upkeep. He feels it is an ideal spot for a park.
Jon said he would to see the focus be on a park not the building.

Our thanks to Joe Colangelo

Jon took a moment before continuing the meeting to thank Joe Colangelo and awarded him with a plaque from the Town of Hinesburg for his leadership to Hinesburg for the past three years.

Town Administrator Search Committee

On March 10th, the Selectboard signified that they wanted to form a Search Committee for the new Town Administrator, much like they did three years ago. This search committee will include Town staff, 2 Selectboard members and a number of residents at large. We have advertised on Front Porch Forum, reached out specifically to certain individuals, Town staff members and put it in the Weekly Update. As of this writing, we have 4 Town staff, 5 residents and 1 SB member. Staff: Renae Marshall, Missy Ross, Frank Koss & Marie Gardner. Residents: Ann Janda, Dawn Francis (Colchester Town Manager), Bob Rusten (Burlington Chief Administrative Officer), Mary Hurlie, Aaron Kimball. Selectboard: Mike Bissonette.

The Board discussed what they felt was an appropriate and productive size for the committee to be.

Tom moved the Board vote to appoint Renae Marshall, Missy Ross, Chief Koss, Marie Gardner, Ann Janda, Dawn Francis, Bob Rusten, Mary Hurlie, Aaron Kimball, Mike Bissonette, and Phil Pouech , and appoint Phil Pouech as Chair of the committee and charge the committee with properly vetting all applicants with the goal of presenting to the entire Selectboard three finalists for Selectboard consideration by June 1st. The Selectboard understands that the process and timeline may deviate and will allow the committee to modify accordingly. Second by Andrea and approved.

Village North Sidewalk

Doug Henson engineer with Lamoureau & Dickinson, mentioned the request of the Selectboard to look at the possible alternative of building a boardwalk instead of the sidewalk and explained that the boardwalk was cost prohibitive.
Doug reviewed two new design alternatives.
Doug said GMP will not be moving the power line poles so there was a need to work around them.

One design option is closer to Route 116 and the other is farther away. The current proposal is for a 5' wide concrete sidewalk the south of the brook which would still be approximately 20' off of the edge of Route 116, but at the south end of the guardrail, would swing toward 116 and then run approximately 5' off of the edge of 116 to the end. The length of the bridge would be reduced to 35'. The reasoning behind this design is to avoid the three existing poles south of the brook, and to minimize the wetland impacts in NRG's meadow.

Andrea noted it is an option to pay a lot of money to mitigate the wetland requirements. She would like to consider variations on a sidewalk / boardwalk combination. Andrea said the location close to Rt 116 makes it a less desirable walking experience ad that the problem with locating the path further from the road as a sidewalk requires placing fill in a wetland and that while it is possible to obtain a permit the cost for mitigation of the wetland impacts would be substantial. She said she still supports a boardwalk for the section north of Patrick Brook because it would be permitable in the wetland and provide a safer and more enjoyable experience.
Phil pointed out this is more of a functional sidewalk and not meant to be a recreational walk.

Mike B moved the Board vote to state the Selectboard's support for the new alignment which positions the sidewalk closer to Route 116 and directs its project engineer to finalize those plans. Second by Tom and approved with Andrea opposed.

MOU with Fellowship of the Wheel

The Board reviewed a draft MOU that the Town Forest Committee has been working on with the Fellowship of the Wheel.
Mike Potvin said the Town Forest Committee made some changes to the original at their February meeting and approved the agreement in March.
Andrea asked if there had been any consideration to asking FOTW to notify members of the problems with speeding on the road to the Town Forest. Mike P said they have had that conversation and FOTW members are working to have the limit followed. Andrea noted that FOTW has demonstrated their commitment to communicate with their members and that they should not be held responsible for the people who use the area who are not members.
Tom asked if signing the MOU will result in any further liability on the part of the Town. Joe Colangelo said in his opinion it does not, the MOU is about trail maintenance.

Phil moved the Board vote to authorize Mike Potvin, Chairman of the Town Forest Committee, to sign the MOU between the Town of Hinesburg and the Fellowship of the Wheel. Second by Tom and approved.

Public Hearing – Champlain Housing Trust – Green Street

Jon opened the Public Hearing.

This public hearing is specifically to consider whether or not the Town of Hinesburg will apply for a Vermont Community Development Partnership/Community Development Block Grant on behalf of Champlain Housing Trust. A number of months ago, the Selectboard approved the Town of Hinesburg's application on behalf of CHT for a similar project at Hinesburg Center (behind Kinney Drugs). CHT has decided not to pursue a project at that original site and has now turned its attention to developing an affordable housing project at Green Street.
Matt Moore, of Housing Vermont explained that the former site became problematic due to the flood plain.
Amy Demetrowitz, of Champlain Housing Trust, said they are now pursing building town house type units on the Green Street property and will now be working with Chris Snyder who has partnered with them before on other projects.
Chris said it will be their responsibility to do an amendment for the overall project including ACT 250 amendments and ww and water supply ammendments.
The Board asked Chris if he is aware of the water moratorium and Chris said he is and realizes it is a risk but is confident it will work out.
Rob Bast, owner of the property with Laura Carlsmith said they are happy to work with CHT to bring the project to Hinesburg.
Carl Bohlen added that the Affordable Housing Committee supports the change of site and the project.
Tom said he still has some concerns about the financing aspect given that Hinesburg has a school they are outgrowing and with bringing in an additional 12+ children without the tax base to support the growth is of concern.
Laura C noted the demographics are not just young families but could include older individuals looking for accessible affordable housing.

Jon closed the Public Hearing

Phil moved the Board to sign the Resolution for a Vermont Community Development Program Grant for the Champlain Housing Trust/Housing Vermont proposed project at Green Street for the April 8th grant deadline. Second by Andrea and approved with Tom opposed.

The Selectboard's authorization to apply for this grant by no means signifies final approval of this project. CHT will need to capture all necessary local and state permits. The DRB will not in any way be swayed just because the SB has agreed to apply for this grant. Furthermore, the SB at a later date, if the grant is awarded, will have the ability to either accept or not accept the grant funds.

Update to Town Personnel Policy
The Selectobard reviewed the update personnel policy reflecting approved updates to the Town Administrator's Job Description.

Mike B moved the Board vote to approve updates to the Town of Hinesburg's Personnel Policy. Second by Tom and approved.

Town Administrator's Report

Interim Town Administrator Transition – As of this past Wednesday, Renae has moved into the Town Administrator's office. Joe & Renae are working to make this transition over the past few days. They tried to reach out to everyone we interact with to let them know that Renae will be the new contact.
Freeda Powers – Freeda began filling in for Renae last week and will continue to do so during the transition period until a new Town Administrator has been hired.
Samuel Hines – Sam began his employment with the Highway Department on March 10th.
Lot 31 – deed in SB packet, the lot was officially transferred to a group of abutting landowners.
Bissonette Recreation Fields – Renae & Joe are meeting with Roger Kohn to review final Deed language.
AT&T Towers – The application for a tower in Hineburg near Williams Rd in Richmond was withdrawn.
Well Development Update – continued work at the Wainer property going very well.
VT Gas Systems Negotiation – One of the purposes of going into Executive session will be for the SB to review the counter proposal from VT Gas for the Geprag's Park Easement. This counter proposal is in response to the SB's counter proposal from their original proposal.
Employee Health Insurance Issues – Town employees who are purchasing health insurance through the Town of Hinesburg will start their new Vermont Health Connect plans on April 1st. VHC is still not ready to process payments so we will be working directly with Blue Cross/Blue Shield still.
Appoint Marie Gardner as an Assessor – Now that the voters have authorized the elimination of the Office of Lister and to replace it with a professionally qualified assessor, the Selectboard must now appoint an Assessor.
Mike B moved the Board vote to appoint Marie Gardner as an Assessor for the Town of Hinesburg from March 2014 to March 2015. Second by Phil and approved.
Committee/Commission/Board Fair – Frank Twarog sent the SB and email regarding a volunteer fair and Renae will work with Frank on putting that together.
Aubuchon Follow-up – After last Monday's meeting, Joe & Renae spoke with Peter & Alex regarding the comments made during open session about the Aubuchon zoning conditions. The Selectboard has the right and professional obligation to ask any of its staff members for clarification on how they may have arrived at a decision on any matter in open session. However, critique of any decision isn't recommended in open session. Selectboard members are encouraged to speak to any employee at any time and we encourage you to do so. Peter Erb is willing to attend any Selectboard meeting to discuss any of his decisions, if asked.
Liquor Licenses – Jon moved the Board convene as the Board of Liquor Control, second by Mike B and approved.
Mike B moved the Board vote to approve a 1st and 2nd class license to Good Times Café and a 2nd class license to Rte 116 Wine and Spirits. Second by Tom and approved.
Jon moved the Board adjourn as Liquor Control Board and re-convene as Selectboard.
Exiting Town Administrator's final thoughts – Joe reviewed highlights and accomplishments of the past three years he has served as the Town Administrator for Hinesburg.

Selectboard Items;
Phil addressed the regulations passed regarding shooting at the Town Forest and suggests an approved shooting location in Town be researched.
Tom feels it is important for the Selectboard to make a decision on the old police department building. Mike B agreed and added the need to have a time line.
Mike B moved the Board vote to have Rocky start the process with the DRB for demolition and set a deadline of September 1 for any proposals for use of the building with no use of tax dollars be submitted to the Board. Second by Tom and approved

Minutes;
Andrea moved the Board vote to approve the minutes of 1/20/14 as written. Second by Mike B and approved.
Andrea moved the Board vote to approve the minutes of 3/10/14 as amended. Second by Jon and approved.
Mike B moved the Board vote to approve the minutes of 3/17/14 as amended. Second by Phil and approved.
Mike B moved the Board vote to approve the minutes of Town Meeting as written. Second by Phil and approved.

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

Jon moved the Board go into executive session including Renae and Joe for discussion of contractual agreement with VT Gas and to discuss the Health Policy specific to personnel that can't be discussed in open session. Second by Mike B and approved.
Jon moved the Board come out of executive session and adjourn, second by Mike B and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Spadaccini, secretary