

Minutes of the East Montpelier Selectboard

June 1, 2015 Meeting

SB Attendance: Chair Seth Gardner, Casey Northrup, Steve Sparrow, Kim Swasey, and Carl Etnier (7:50 p.m.); Town Administrator Bruce Johnson

Public Attendance: Ginny Callan, Erik Esselstyn, Gina Conn (Times Argus)

Chair Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Additions to Agenda:

- FY2015 External Audit Agreement with Sullivan, Powers & Co.
- VTrans Highway Access & Work Permit Application for Sidewalk Project
- Carlton C. Smith Recreational Fund CD Renewal

Public Comment: None

FY2015 External Audit Agreement with Sullivan, Powers & Co.

The Chair presented the FY2015 external audit agreement with Sullivan, Powers & Co. The town is entering the second year of a three-year contract for audit services with the company. The base price for the FY2015 audit is \$13,300.

Motion: To approve and sign the FY2015 audit agreement with Sullivan, Powers & Co. Made by Mr. Northrup; second by Ms. Swasey. Passed unanimously.

VTrans Highway Access & Work Permit Application for Sidewalk Project

In order to construct the planned sidewalk project in East Montpelier Village the town will need a permit from the VT Agency of Transportation to work within the US Rte. 2 road right-of-way. Although project construction is planned for 2016 at earliest, Rachel Beauregard, the VTrans grant manager, has requested that the town apply for the permit now to ensure that there are no issues.

Motion: To authorize Town Administrator Johnson to sign and submit the VTrans State Highway Access and Work Permit application. Made by Mr. Northrup; second by Mr. Sparrow. Passed unanimously.

Carlton C. Smith Recreational Fund CD Renewal

The Chair presented Treasurer Don Welch's request to roll the Carlton C. Smith Recreational Fund into a new cd. The principal of the fund is \$50,000, with a total present value of approximately \$50,800. Under the current low interest climate, the fund gains about \$200 per year. The interest income, once large enough to be of use, is allocated to the Recreation Board, the Trails Association, and the Four Corners Schoolhouse Association upon request.

Motion: To authorize Town Treasurer Welch to invest the \$50,000 principal of the Carlton C. Smith Recreational Fund in a one-year cd on such terms as he deems in the best interests of the town. Made by Ms. Swasey; second by Mr. Sparrow. Passed unanimously.

Consideration of Town Response to SunCommon CPG Application for 150kW Community Solar Array on Coburn Property

The SunCommon plan to construct a 150 kW community solar array on the Coburn property along VT Rte. 14 N has been a subject of discussion at the last two Selectboard meetings. Concern has been expressed that the company is garnering support more from feel-good public spiritedness rather than a straight-forward discussion of the economic and environmental benefits and costs of this and similar projects. After the board's May 18th meeting Mr. Etnier drafted a letter of support for the certificate of public good application. Chair Gardner presented the letter and opened discussion on the topic with the proviso that no decision on the letter would be reached until Mr. Etnier arrived, as he was held up at a Hunger Mountain Co-op board meeting, but expected to arrive shortly. After a round of board and public comments generally in support of the letter and the project, Chair Gardner and Ms. Callan conducted a friendly debate on the societal value of this type of solar installation and the effect of the sale of renewable energy credits (RECs) on such projects. Further action on the letter of support was tabled until later in the meeting.

Upon the arrival of Mr. Etnier, Chair Gardner reopened discussion on the CPG application and the proposed letter. The board and Ms. Callan engaged in another round of comments regarding RECs and the effect of H.40, the bill recently passed by the VT legislature that, among other things, alters the regulatory playing field for RECs. Mr. Etnier agreed to arrange for our state representative, Tony Klein, to come to a board meeting to discuss the new law and RECs in general.

Motion: To authorize Chair Gardner to sign the letter of support to the Public Service Board for the SunCommon Certificate of Public Good application for a 150 kW community solar array on the Coburn property. Made by Mr. Etnier; second by Ms. Swasey. Passed unanimously.

Discussion on Potential Uses of CVSWMD Municipal Assistance Grant

In 2013 the Selectboard applied for and received a \$3,000 municipal assistance grant from the Central VT Solid Waste Management District to host a bulk trash event in conjunction with Rally Day. The intent was to use the event as a fundraiser for the East Montpelier Signpost. Unfortunately, Rally Day was canceled so the town decided not to accept the grant and the bulk trash event was dropped. Recently CVSWMD contacted the town to inform us that the \$3,000 was still available (in essence, already allocated to the town) and we simply had to submit plans for an appropriate use of the funds.

Board members discussed various possibilities, including a variety of concepts involving tire disposal. Members also explored opportunities to link this event with other town happenings. TA Johnson will approach other town groups to solicit ideas for grant use.

Discussion on Shift of Recreation Board to Non-profit Status

The East Montpelier Recreation Board has requested that the Selectboard allow the board to reinvent itself as a non-profit corporation. At its May 18th meeting the Selectboard agreed to

consider the concept and, if appropriate, bring the issue to the townspeople at a special town meeting. As part of that discussion, the two boards decided to submit an article to the East Montpelier Signpost for the July/August issue. Kathy Richardson of the Recreation Board provided a draft article that the Selectboard edited. The gist of the article is that the duties and future aspirations of the Recreation Board seem to fit better with the non-profit model and the Selectboard will pursue this change over the coming months. TA Johnson will work with the Signpost's Edie Miller to complete the article.

Discussion on Capital Improvement Committee's Future Capital Projects Questionnaire

Every year the Capital Improvement Committee surveys the various town boards (Selectboard, School Board, etc.), committees (Village Committee, Forest Committee, etc.), and associated organizations (Trails Association, EMFD, etc.) to get a rough concept of potential projects that need to be planned for in a prudent financial manner. This year Ms. Swasey will complete the questionnaire for the concept of both studying and gaining access to the Montpelier sewage treatment plant for select location in town. The Selectboard will consider submitting this project at its June 22nd meeting.

Appointments

The Chair presented Lyn Blackwell, Lindy Johnson, Ann Stanton, Charlie Catlin, and Kevin Nadzam as candidates for reappointment to the Funding Request Study Committee for terms ending March 2016.

Motion: To reappoint Lyn Blackwell, Lindy Johnson, Ann Stanton, Charlie Catlin, and Kevin Nadzam to the Funding Request Study Committee for terms ending March 2016. Made by Mr. Northrup; second by Ms. Swasey. Passed unanimously.

TA Johnson will advertise for prospective candidates to fill additional slots on the Funding Request Study Committee.

Excess Weight Permits

The Chair presented excess weight permit applications from Tom Lincoln, David Welch, and Grandfield Masonry & Construction.

Motion: To authorize Town Administrator Johnson to sign the excess weight permits for Tom Lincoln, David Welch, and Grandfield Masonry & Construction. Made by Mr. Northrup; second by Mr. Sparrow. Passed unanimously.

Warrants

Members reviewed and signed the warrant.

Minutes

The Chair presented the minutes of the May 18, 2015 Selectboard meeting for consideration.

Motion: To approve the May 18, 2015 Selectboard meeting minutes as amended.

Made by Mr. Northrup; second by Ms. Swasey. Passed unanimously.

Other Business**Town Administrator Report:**

- Upcoming Meeting Schedule
 - Board members agreed to shift some upcoming meetings to better fit with summer holidays. The new schedule (all meetings 6:30 p.m. at the town office unless otherwise noted):
 - June 15th Regular SB meeting will not be held
 - June 22nd “Special” Regular SB meeting
 - July 6th Regular SB meeting will not be held
 - July 13th “Special” Regular SB meeting
 - July 16th Quarterly EMFD budget presentation, 7 pm at ESF
 - July 20th Regular SB meeting will not be held
 - August 3rd Regular SB meeting
 - August 17th Regular SB meeting
 - August 31st “Special” Regular SB meeting
 - September 7th Regular SB meeting will not be held
 - September 21st Regular SB meeting
 - October 5th Regular SB meeting
 - **Motion: To authorize Selectboard Chair Gardner to review and sign any necessary “between meeting” vendor warrants in lieu of full board review.**
Made by Ms. Swasey; second by Mr. Sparrow. Passed unanimously.
- Invitation to the CVEDC “Grabbing the Bull by the Horns” event on June 25th
 - Board members Swasey and Northrup will attend the event
- Update from Town Clerk Terri Conti on the ACS Land Records System
 - Ms. Conti is working diligently to close the gaps that existed between the land records index and the available images when the system was put in place back in 2013; she’s approximately halfway through the error correction effort
- Road Foreman Mike Garand Request for Clarification on 2015-16 Winter Sand
 - The board agrees that Mr. Garand and crew can procure and truck the necessary sand from Northeast Materials or the Lepage pit; there is no need to be concerned about which fiscal year (either FY15 or FY16) the purchases are made in
- May 26th CVRPC Road Foreman Meeting
 - H. 35 has passed into law, setting the stage for stormwater permits for town road systems; over the next few years the state will develop a town roads permitting scheme that will likely require both town permit payments and changes to road maintenance methodologies; more details to come as the program develops
- Delta Dental Insurance Update
 - All 7 eligible town employees have signed up for the program; the town application will be submitted June 2nd with the binder check approved on tonight’s warrant; the insurance will take effect July 1st

Zoning Administrator Report:

- No permit applications since the May 18th board meeting
- The DRB will meet tomorrow night (June 2nd) for the first time this year; there is one hearing – the Wiswall/Colman (Cate Farm) family is requesting the right to add an apartment to their historic barn under the town's adaptive reuse of historic barns regulation

Motion: To adjourn. Made by Mr. Sparrow; second by Mr. Northrup. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bruce Johnson, Town Administrator

Approved: June 22, 2015 East Montpelier Selectboard meeting