

**East Montpelier Selectboard Meeting APPROVED (05/07/18) MINUTES
April 23, 2018 at the Town Office**

Selectboard (SB) members present: Carl Etnier (recording secretary), Kim Swasey (arriving 6:55, during agenda item B), Vice-chair Gene Troia, Amy Willis; Bruce Johnson (town and zoning administrator).

Others present: Planning Commission Chair Julie Potter.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Troia called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Additions to the agenda

None

Public comment

None

Review of minutes

Motion: I move to approve the minutes of April 9, 2018 as amended. Made: Ms. Willis. Second: Mr. Etnier. 3-0.

B. DISCUSSION ON 2018 DRAFT TOWN PLAN

Planning Commission (PC) Chair Julie Potter presented a revised version of Map 15 for the village center designation, removing any reference to a possible future expansion of the boundary. She checked with Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) planner Clare Rock to make sure the draft plan contains everything necessary for the village center designation; it does. Ms. Rock's suggestion, which the PC concurs with, is to leave the draft plan language as it is, saying the town is considering requesting a boundary adjustment for the village center, but not to show the potential new boundary on the map in the draft plan.

There are several reasons for taking this path. 1) The odds of getting state approval for a boundary adjustment are very low. Larger blocks of undeveloped parcels are generally not approved within a village center designation. 2) The Town does not damage a future application for a boundary adjustment by not showing a mapped proposal in the town plan. 3) Tools other than an expanded village center designation may be better suited to achieve the goal of making undeveloped parcels available for development, even though they lie in the river corridor. CVRPC staff have noticed Montpelier has zoned areas where river corridor rules don't apply. East Montpelier could create a special zoning district where river corridor rules don't apply, perhaps. The PC will be looking into it.

Motion: I move to amend the 2018 draft town plan for the warning of the SB hearings to include the revisions presented to Map 15. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Willis. 4-0.

C. TOWN HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

Mr. Johnson presented information from Town Health Officer Ginny Burley about her follow-up on the Murray Road dog bite complaint and about a rat infestation on lower Horn of the Moon Road.

On the dog bite complaint, she said she has attempted to contact the complainant to get more details and has not heard back from the complainant, so she has no further information. Her investigation continues.

She alerted the SB to a rat infestation reported on lower Horn of the Moon Road, and she is continuing to discuss the situation with the residents involved. No SB action is needed at this time.

D. CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (LEOP)

The base LEOP is essentially unchanged from 2017. Ms. Swasey has now taken the emergency management

class for town leaders (ICS 402) and hence is eligible to certify adoption of the LEOP.

The LEOP appendix includes a new section on “Animal Resources During an Emergency,” developed by local representatives of a recently formed Disaster Animal Response Team (DART) serving central Vermont. Ms. Swasey said her recent training included information that a large percentage of pet owners will not evacuate if they cannot take their animals with them, so DART is working to ensure possibilities for animal care in emergencies.

Motion: I move to adopt the revised Local Emergency Operations Plan. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Willis. 4-0.

In related news, Ms. Swasey also reported that Vermont Emergency Management worker Emily Harris, who led the training Ms. Swasey recently received, is willing to come to town to do a tabletop exercise of emergency response. The SB expressed interest in such an exercise, with the understanding that Ms. Harris is about to take a leave of absence, so it would be some months before she is available.

Also, Mr. Johnson reported he has a meeting scheduled with FEMA about damage to the town during the October 2017 wind event, mostly debris removal from roadways. He and road foreman Guthrie Perry will be assessing whether filing for a claim for the town's costs, around \$10,000, will be worth it, considering the effort involved in filing and the likelihood of approval.

E. CONSIDERATION OF RECREATION BOARD RULES OF PROCEDURE

The SB was pleased that the revisions presented seemed to be responsive to previous SB comments. SB members who wish to make detailed comments will send them to Mr. Etnier by midnight Saturday. Mr. Etnier will add his own comments and compile them all into a version for consideration at the SB's May 7 meeting.

F. CONSIDERATION OF NEMRC ANNUAL DISASTER RECOVERY CONTRACT

This is the annual renewal of the main off-site backup program for our NEMRC software modules. The cost is \$692.12, which reflects the standard NEMRC annual increase of 3%.

Motion: I move to accept the NEMRC annual disaster recovery contract. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Ms. Willis 4-0

G. WEC ANNUAL MEETING VOTING AUTHORIZATION

The Town is a member of Washington Electric Co-op (WEC) and has received a ballot for the annual board election. This year, there are more candidates running than positions, so the SB briefly discussed the difficult task of choosing among qualified candidates.

Motion: Whereas all four candidates for the Washington Electric Co-op board appear eminently qualified, and whereas four (4) candidates are vying for three (3) positions; be it therefore resolved that the Selectboard authorizes the Town Administrator to vote for Stephen Farnham, Roger Fox, and Steven Knowlton.

H. DISCUSSION ON EM VILLAGE SIDEWALK PROJECT WATERLINE ISSUES

Mr. Johnson reported he is trying to set up a meeting for next week with Crystal Springs owner Dean Hedges.

I. CONSIDERATION OF LAPERLE PROPERTY BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

A state wastewater inspector is required to sign off on the proposed boundary adjustment, and our region's inspector is away on a short National Guard deployment. Until he returns and can review it, the adjustment is on hold.

J. ACCESS PERMITS

The SB approved an access permit for 855 Jacobs Road in 2015. The new one uses the same curb cut, for a

slightly different use: the driveway would serve two back lots instead of one.

Motion: I move to approve access permit 18-008. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Willis. 4-0.

K. WARRANTS

Signed.

L. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Etnier reported on his investigations into signage for electric vehicle charging at the park and ride. He has sent Mr. Johnson a proposal for a sign designating the non-ADA space closest to the level 2 charging station as for electric vehicles when charging only. The SB concurred in moving forward to install the sign—which involves working with the park and ride contractor, as they still own the facility.

Since the facility's future is in legal limbo, because of disputes over construction deficiencies, Mr. Etnier suggested waiting before making additional changes.

Town Administrator Report

- Meeting Schedule:
 - May 7th 6:30 pm Regular Selectboard meeting
 - May 14th 6:30 pm Selectboard hearing on draft 2018 town plan
 - May 21st 6:30 pm Regular Selectboard meeting

Zoning Administrator Report

- There have been 2 new applications since the April 9th SB meeting; 8 total so far this year
- Next DRB meeting will be held May 1, 2018; tentative agenda includes one subdivision hearing (Rice; 855 Jacobs Road); and, the continuation from the April 3rd DRB meeting of two linked commercial site plan hearings for a reconfiguration of parking and display areas at Classic Auto, 4233 US Rte. 2

M. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: I move to adjourn. Made: Ms. Wills. Second: Ms. Swasey. 4-0. 8:15 p.m.