

Greensboro Selectboard

March 10, 2021

Meeting Minutes

[Meeting was held via video conference]

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Romans, Gary Circosta, Tracy Collier, David Kelley

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Matt McAllister

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Greaves, Josh Karp, Chief Dave Brochu, Jr., Nancy Hill, Elizabeth Steel, Miriam Rodgers, Naomi Ranz-Schleifer, Mark Snyder, Tom Camarra, Elissa Mackin, Michael Porrazzo, Jennifer Ranz, Carol Fairbank, Brett Stanciu, Ellen Celnik

CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 PM

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Peter welcomed David Kelley to the Board and congratulated Tracy and Gary for their elections.

1. VLCT Selectboard training
2. Add to appointment list: Grand Juror, Communication Union District, NVDA rep.

MINUTES

1. 2/10 regular meeting unanimously approved as amended.
2. 2/23 special meeting unanimously approved as amended.
3. 2/27 special meeting unanimously approved as amended.

SELECTBOARD REORGANIZATION

1. The Selectboard agreed upon the following positions:

Selectboard Chair	Peter Romans
Selectboard Vice Chair	Gary Circosta
Order Sheets	<i>Primary:</i> Peter Romans <i>Secondary:</i> Tracy Collier
Board Liaisons:	
Farmers Market	Kim Greaves
Highway Dept.	<i>Primary:</i> Matt McAllister <i>Secondary:</i> Peter Romans
Historical Society	David Kelley
Driveway Plowing	<i>Primary:</i> Peter Romans <i>Secondary:</i> Tracy Collier
Fire Districts	Tracy Collier
Greensboro Fire Dept.	Peter Romans

Legal	David Kelley
Orleans Southwest Elementary School District	Gary Circosta
Recycling	Peter Romans

2. Newspaper(s) of Record. The official newspapers of record are currently The Hardwick Gazette and The Chronicle. Discussion of the pros and cons of The Hardwick Gazette, The Chronicle and The News & Citizen. While no longer offered in a print version, The Hardwick Gazette has historically been the town's newspaper of record.

Gary moved to select The Hardwick Gazette; Tracy seconded. After further discussion, Gary amended his motion as follows:

Greensboro's Newspapers of Record will be The Hardwick Gazette and The News & Citizen.

Tracy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Naomi suggested that notices of Selectboard meetings be posted on Front Porch Forum.

3. Date, time, location of regular Selectboard Meetings. Gary made the following motion:

Regular Selectboard meetings will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, at 6:30 PM at the Collier Room in the Greensboro Town Hall, and/or on Zoom or another digital platform.

Tracy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Naomi urged the Board to continue offering the option of meeting participation via Zoom, even after in-person meetings are resumed.

SELECTBOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Board discussed the following appointments:

Road Foreman	Thomas Camarra
Treasurer	Brett Stanciu
First Constable	<i>Tabled until April meeting</i>
Second Constable	<i>Tabled until April meeting</i>
Conservation Commission	Jane Hoffman (up this year)
Health Officer	Karl Stein
Deputy Health Officer	Christine Armstrong
Tree Warden	Cilla Bonney-Smith
Animal Control Officer	Kevin Rich
Civil Defense	Open
Recreation Comm.	Erika Karp, John Schweizer, Devin Burgess, Naomi Ranz-Schleifer
Development Review Board	Nat Smith, Linda Romans, MacNeil (all three up this year)
Planning Commission	<i>Tabled until April meeting - one open position is currently being advertised</i>
Town Service Officer	Kim Greaves
Town Forest Fire Warden	Patricia Mercier
Caspian Lake Beach Comm.	Ila Hunt (Chair), Linda Shatney, John Schweizer (Treasurer)
Emergency Planning Comm.	Anne Stevens (Chair), Wayne Young, Tim Nisbet, Eric Pilbin, Andy Dales, Michael Lapierre

Emergency Mgmt. Chair	Dave Brochu, Jr.
Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District Rep.	Ken Johnston Alternate: open
Hazard Mitigation Comm.	Valdine Hall, Kim Greaves, Lorelei Wheeler, Melissa Moffatt, George Young, Tim Nisbet
Energy Comm.	Anna Kehler, Mark Snyder
Communication Union District (comes up in May maybe)	Primary: Carol Fairbank Alternate: Mary Metcalf
NVDA Rep.	Mike Metcalf
Grand Juror	David B. Smith

- The Board unanimously appointed Jane Hoffman to the Conservation Commission and Nat Smith, Linda Romans and MacNeil to the Development Review Board.
- **Treasurer.** On Town Meeting day, the voters approved a change whereby the town Treasurer gets appointed by the Selectboard, rather than elected. This change was proposed by the Selectboard due the complexity of municipal accounting and the difficulty of finding a registered Greensboro voter who is qualified for the position. Brett Stanciu, a Hardwick resident, has been assistant treasurer since Barbara Brooke stepped down in November. Discussion. Naomi said she understood that if the treasurer was changed from elected to appointed, the position would be advertised widely in order to broaden the applicant pool. Peter noted that the pandemic created extraordinary circumstances. One reason Brett was offered the assistant treasurer job was because she was already spending time in the town offices as Zoning Administrator, and hiring her meant there wouldn't be a new person coming and going, possibly causing some level of risk to other town office staff. Kim and Gary both commented that Brett has done a great job as assistant treasurer. Elissa asked whether Brett had experience in municipal accounting when she was hired. Kim said she did not, but that she was able to learn from prior treasurer Barbara Brooke. Elissa felt that while Brett may have done a great job as assistant treasurer, the treasurer position should still be posted, adding that the assistant treasurer job should have been advertised back in November. She asked the Board to come up with a transparent hiring policy that would be used every time a job or position is open, to allow everyone to be part of the process. The policy would specify what physical and digital locations jobs are posted at, and for how long. Naomi agreed with Elissa, expressing concern that not advertising for the treasurer position has caused a lack of transparency in the process. David agreed that typically the treasurer position would be advertised, but that Brett has received training and is doing the job well – so what's the sense in advertising at this point? He made the following motion:
The Selectboard appoints Brett Stanciu as town treasurer. Gary seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- **Constable.** On Town Meeting day, the voters approved a change whereby town Constables get appointed by the Selectboard, rather than elected by the voters. This change was proposed by the Selectboard due to difficult police contract negotiations at the time, and could make it easier to find qualified individuals if the constable role was expanded. Peter noted that the town is mandated to have a first constable only.

Mark Snyder said he's interested in the first constable position.

Naomi asked for an update on police contract negotiations. Peter said the Board hopes to hold a vote tonight on which direction the town will go for policing services. He added that the Board has taken the issue of policing very seriously and that negotiations have been lengthy and difficult.

- Elizabeth Steel agreed with Naomi and Elissa, asking the Board to do a better job advertising job openings, for the sake of transparency.

Jennifer Ranz felt that if you reappoint the same people to committees every year, you lose diversity of representation, adding that she's specifically concerned about the DRB.

Peter said that when someone volunteers to serve on a committee and spends many hours contributing and wants to continue, we generally reappoint them. He added that the Board has historically respected the internal candidate vetting process that the Planning Commission and DRB go through, typically accepting their recommendations for filling vacancies.

Tracy said we have this notion that there is a dearth of volunteers in town, but maybe people are waiting in the wings and just need an invitation – how might we reach them and collect their names? David agreed, suggesting that the town develop an on-going list of interested residents, and make a point to publicize opportunities as they come up. Josh suggested that the town website could list job openings and positions on boards and committees, and you could click a button to register as interested in a particular job.

- The Board unanimously approved the remaining names on the slate of appointments.
- Michael Porrazzo said that a lot happens at the town level, and thanked those present for the discussion about transparency and civic involvement. He added that the discussion should be continued, and that we must be proactive and work to fight apathy.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

None this evening.

POLICE

The Board reviewed the February HPD report.

GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT.

Chief Dave Brochu, Jr. was present, and the Board reviewed the February GFD report.

- Work is progressing on the tanker, it will hopefully be delivered by the end of March.
- The FD is completing vaccinations for fire dept. members who want the COVID-19 vaccine. Dave said there's been good participation.
- Lock boxes have been installed on all town buildings, and will give the FD emergency access when needed.

ROADS & DRIVEWAYS

1. **Road Foreman's Report – Tom Camarra.** Tom said that with the lack of snowfalls lately, the crew has been getting a little rest.
2. **Crosswalks.** Tom said painting crosswalks is very time consuming for the road crew, and that it makes sense to put the job out to bid, adding that he'd like to have the town offices parking lot

delineated at the same time. Tom will coordinate with Naomi regarding the upcoming Local Motion event, which might result in some crosswalks being removed and/or added in new locations.

3. Sand screening cost overrun. No update.

4. New town garage. In November 2019, the Board engaged project manager Steve Pitkin to start planning for a new town garage; when the pandemic hit the project was put more or less on hold. Peter said that Steve, or someone with similar experience, should resume working on the project, and that he will discuss a strategy for moving forward with former Selectboard member Andy Kehler.

Peter said it's unclear whether the current town garage property is suitable for a new town garage. The Board is still looking for alternative sites and asked those present to keep their eyes out for a suitable property.

TOWN CLERK – Kim Greaves

Kim said that town meeting day and the Australian Ballot voting went well.

TREASURER

1. FY21 budget YTD. The Board reviewed the FY21 YTD budget reports.

2. February check warrants. The Board reviewed the February check warrant reports.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Spark – use of Town Hall. Carol Fairbank, Director of Programs Engagement for the Rural ARTS Collaborative, gave an update about Spark's current use of the Town Hall, and future plans.

She said excellent progress has been made creating the Spark spaces, and they had a soft opening in February. Spark is currently occupying two classrooms on second floor; both have high speed fiber internet and the entire second floor now has a coded access security system. Anyone who wants to use the Spark spaces can reserve a time on the Spark website. There are specific protocols for pandemic safety that must be adhered to.

Carol said they are partnering with the town to renovate the second and third floors of the Town Hall. This will be a long, multi-year project and they will be working with a consultant to come up with a funding plan for the \$500-750k project. They are hoping to fund the majority of the project with grants.

The scope of work includes a lift to make the third floor accessible, fire safety improvements, electricity upgrades, and major weatherization improvements. \$90k in grant funds have already been secured and there are many interested grantors.

While funding is being pursued, Carol said there will be community meetings to get feedback about the proposed project, to make sure we're on track before the project really gets underway.

More information about the project can be found at wonderartsvt.org/annex.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 1. Historical Society – Painting bids.** The Board reviewed three bids for exterior painting of the Historical Society building, from Jeff Montgomery (\$7850), TEC Property Maintenance (\$7700), and Grady Thayer (\$10,500).

Josh asked the Board to take the issue of lead paint seriously, and to follow up with the selected contractor to confirm that they will be following lead-safe work requirements.

Discussion. It was agreed that David will write up an agreement between the town and the contractor including a clause specifying that lead-safe work practices must be followed, or they will be terminated.

Tracy made the following motion:

The Board accepts Jeff Montgomery's bid of \$7850 to paint the exterior of the Historical Society building.

Gary seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- 2. Caspian Challenge race.** The Board reviewed the Caspian Challenge proposal for road races, to be held on July 25. This is the tenth year of the event.

Gary made the following motion:

The Board approves the Caspian Challenge proposal as presented.

Tracy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- 3. Selectboard training.** Gary, David, and Tracy will attend an upcoming Selectboard training session put on by VLCT.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Tracy made the following motion:

The Board will enter executive session at 9:17 PM to discuss the police services contract.

Gary seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board left executive session at 9:42 PM. Gary made the following motion:

The Selectboard will sign a one-year contract with the Orleans County Sheriff's Dept., who will provide general law enforcement services to the town of Greensboro.

Tracy seconded the motion, which carried (P.R., G.C., T.C. in favor; D.K. abstained).

The contract begins on July 1, 2021 and will cost the town \$190,000.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk
AMENDED 4/14/21 J.K.