

Greensboro Selectboard

May 12, 2021

Meeting Minutes

[Meeting was held via video conference]

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

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Greaves, Josh Karp, Brett Stanciu, Tom Camarra, Elizabeth Steel, Michael Porrazzo, Ellen Celnik, David Perrigo, Andy Kehler, Christine Armstrong, Eli Wells, Eric Hanson, Keisha Luce, Jennifer Ranz, Jennifer Lucas, Ken Johnson, Meghan Wayland, Nancy Riege, Naomi Ranz-Schleifer, Norm Patenaude, Heidi Lauren Duke, Peter Gebbie, Lise Armstrong, Kellie Merrell, Oliver Pierson

CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 PM

MINUTES

Minutes from 4/10/21 special meeting, approved prior, were amended and re-approved unanimously.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

1. The old Greensboro High School bell has been sitting outside the Town Hall for many years.

Hazen Union principal David Perrigo told those present that the Hazen community is on a quest to find a bell, to fulfill a dream articulated by Finn Rooney, a student who passed away a year ago.

Finn had researched an old bell that used to be in the tower at Hardwick Academy, which was rung for special community occasions such as graduations and when important games were won. Finn envisioned putting that bell on Hazen's roof to continue the tradition. Community unity was very important to Finn, and this bell could be used to bring the community together.

It turned out that the Hardwick bell is not available, and in their quest for a bell David heard about Greensboro's bell and has been discussing the possibilities with Kim.

The bell was stored in the Town Hall basement for many years, and was moved outside when the town clerk's office relocated down there. Kim contacted a number of long-time Greensboro residents who attended Greensboro High School, and all of them thought it was a great idea to donate the bell to Hazen.

David said that if the timing works out, they'd love to ring the bell at Hazen graduation this year.

Gary made the following motion:

The town of Greensboro will donate the old Greensboro High School bell to Hazen Union School.

Tracy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2. **Website task force.** Elizabeth Steel and Michael Porrazzo are seeking Selectboard support to form a task force that will undertake a strategic study of the town website. The current website was built in 2012 and they believe it needs a major overhaul. The task force would be comprised of up to seven people who would be a diverse cross-section of the community, to make sure that the needs of the entire community are addressed when the site is redone.

The task force would report back in three months with recommendations, which will be sensitive to the time and budget considerations of both upgrading and maintaining a town website.

Grant opportunities to fund the upgrade will be pursued.

Andy noted ADA compliance is an important consideration for a redesigned website.

The group will meet for three months, make recommendations, and disband. The Board is supportive of the task force, and all agreed that it doesn't need to be an official town committee.

3. **Community Garden.** Peter noted that this item is for discussion only, since it was just added to the agenda and wasn't warned.

Naomi and Meghan spoke about a proposed Community Garden (CG) project. There's lots of energy going into CGs everywhere, and a small group in Greensboro has been working to start a local CG. They've had a hard time finding a suitable location, even after asking a number of area organizations for help. They're now considering the Willey Beach Park (WBP).

Naomi said that when the WBP was donated to the town, it was stipulated that the park would have public access and be used for outdoor recreation. A state official she talked to said that a CG would be permissible at WBP, assuming there's equitable access to the public.

Naomi and Meghan are first looking for Selectboard support for the idea, then would gather public input to make sure the project will meet the community's current and future needs, i.e. what does the community want to see in a CG?

They've been talking with the Vermont CG Network and have researched how area CGs are managed and what they offer to the public. There are many different models; for example, at Hardwick's CG you can rent a plot for yourself, but there are also plots for school and food pantry growing, cared for by volunteers.

Nancy said she loves the idea, but warned against a rushed planning process. She stressed that a CG would affect the neighbors and that they should be given the opportunity to give their input.

While the group is eager to get planting, Meghan said they understand that there's a process that needs to play out. Peter said he's personally in favor, but repeated that the Board can't give the go-ahead right now prior to wider public input. He noted that last time changes were made to WBP, some members of the public were not in favor.

Tracy wondered if there should be two plots, one in the Village and one in the Bend. Meghan said that the Bend could certainly have one if that's desired by the community, but that they're focusing on a Greensboro Village site at this time because that's where most of the organizers live.

Discussion of holding a special meeting to further discuss this issue. David made the following motion:

The Board will hold a special meeting on May 26 and will include discussion of a community garden on the agenda. As much promotion will be made as possible, with the goal of gathering public input.

Tracy seconded the motion. Further discussion. Peter said the CG group should be prepared to make a comprehensive presentation at the meeting, including clarifying who's responsible for running the CG day to day, how problems will be managed, etc. Neighbors, both abutting and across the street, will be notified prior to the meeting.

The Board voted and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE

1. The Board reviewed the April report from the Hardwick Police Dept.
2. Gary, Peter, and members of Hardwick Rescue and the GFD met with the Orleans County Sheriff to discuss the upcoming police transition, and to make sure the hand-off is well coordinated and as seamless as possible.

The Board is planning a public meeting to discuss the policing changes in Greensboro.

GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT.

The Board reviewed Chief Brochu's monthly report.

- COVID-19 vaccinations have been completed for those GFD members who elected to receive one.
- The new tanker is finished and its paperwork is being prepared to allow it to cross the border from Canada.
- The GFD has started flushing hydrants.
- The old tanker will be put out to bid soon.

ROADS & DRIVEWAYS

1. **Road Foreman's Report – Tom Camarra.** The crew has been grading, and is preparing the chloride truck.
2. **Paving bid.** One bid was received, from Pike Ind. for \$102,708.90. Gary made the following motion:

The Board accepts Pike's \$102,708.90 bid for paving.

Matt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. **Gravel crushing bid.** Two bids were received, from JP Sicard (\$4.50/yd.) and McCulloch (\$3.59/yd.). Matt made the following motion:

The Board accepts McCulloch's bid of \$3.59/yd. for gravel crushing.

Tracy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. **Roadside mowing.** Two bids were received, from Neborsky (\$7,300) and Big Dreams Lawn Care (\$7,295). David made the following motion:

The Board accepts Neborsky's bid of \$7,300 for roadside mowing.

Gary seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. The State has suggested that the road crew use a tablet (ipad, etc.) to assist them with aspects of their work. Discussion tabled.

5. **Municipal Roads General Permit.** After discussion, Gary made the following motion:

The Board approves the MRGP as discussed.

David seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

6. **Peter Gebbie – request to bury pipes under town roads.** Peter said he's part of a federal program to implement a manure dragline system, which will result in a major reduction of heavy farm equipment traveling over town roads. The project requires one 8" pipe under Gebbie Rd. and three 8" pipes under Rocking Rock Rd.

Peter said that in order for project design to commence, he needs permission to cross the town roads. Matt said that while he's not against the project, he and Tom would like to inspect the proposed pipe locations before giving approval, in order to better understand the scope of the project and how it might impact the town roads. Peter said that the contractor installing the pipes would be responsible for bringing the town roads back to proper specifications after the installation.

David made the following motion:

The Board grants Peter Gebbie permission to have four 8" pipes installed under town roads as discussed, contingent on a review of the final proposal that shows no adverse impact on town roads.

Gary seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

7. **Sand Screening 2020 – Bill from JP Sicard.** The final bill came in at \$16,600, which isn't much over budget.
8. **Crosswalks.** Tom said that the road crew will soon be painting crosswalks. Gary requested that this be completed by May 27, prior to the upcoming Local Motion study. It was clarified that the road crew won't paint the three crosswalks involved in the study.
9. **New Town Garage planning.** No update.
10. **Culvert Policy.** Peter said that the Board felt it necessary to rewrite the Culvert Policy. The new draft makes it clear that landowners have the responsibility to maintain and replace their own driveway culverts. The town would bear responsibility for culvert replacement in certain cases, as specified.

Matt made the following motion:

The Board adopts the Culvert Policy as amended.

Gary seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The town's Curb Cut application was also rewritten. Peter made the following motion:

The Board adopts the Curb Cut application as amended.

Gary seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

11. **Sidewalk bid.** Jeff Perry updated his bid from last year as requested, due to an evolution of the project. Jeff's bid increased from \$16k to \$20k, reflecting the fact that the lineal feet of new sidewalk more than doubled, but that curbing will no longer be his responsibility.
12. **Local Motion Study.** On May 27, 28, and 29 Local Motion will be putting up temporary crosswalks and possibly bulb-outs (curb extensions) as part of a traffic/pedestrian study in downtown Greensboro. They also may paint temporary parking spaces at Willey's. The goal is to improve pedestrian safety in the congested downtown area. The group is seeking public input.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Highland Center (HCA).

- Request to expand outside consumption permit. HCA executive director Keisha Luce requested permission to expand the area covered by their Outside Consumption Permit. David made the following motion:

The Board approves the HCA's request to expand the area covered by their Outside Consumption Permit.

Matt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- Third Class liquor license. Gary made the following motion:

The Board approves HCA's Third Class liquor license.

Peter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2. Liquor license – Wilson Herb Farm. Gary made the following motion:

The Board approves Wilson Herb Farm's Second Class liquor license.

Matt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Reclassification of Caspian Lake. The Stewards of the Greensboro Watershed (SGW) are proposing to petition the State DEC to reclassify Caspian Lake's water quality from B(1) 'very good' to A(1) 'excellent'. This is a voluntary process that is derived from federal and state statute, but the Selectboard needs to be in support. A petition may be submitted anytime, and the process typically takes 6-12 months to complete. Public hearings would be required, and the state legislature has a part to play.

Oliver Pierson of the VT DEC Lakes and Ponds Management and Protection Program gave a presentation explaining the reclassification process. He appeared to be advocating for the town to submit the petition, saying that the national trend - including Vermont - is higher phosphorus loads and increased nutrients over time. The state is concerned that we will gradually lose our high quality waters and wants to reverse this trend.

Caspian is indeed trending in the wrong direction with increased phosphorus loading.

There are a few regulatory changes that would go into effect if Caspian is upgraded to A(1), including that septic systems with over 1000 gal. per day of designed flows are prohibited. Oliver said that this wouldn't affect individual landowners since typical septic design for a 2-4 bedroom home is at most 500 gal per day. He added that the DEC is hoping to change this part of the statute in the future.

Heidi felt that due to this aspect of the regulation, the town shouldn't support reclassification. For example, if a few neighboring camps close to the lake wanted to install a small community septic system, they would be unable to; or, a larger business like the Highland Lodge could be negatively affected.

Gary asked how reclassification would help the town maintain Caspian's water quality, adding that nothing is keeping the town from working on water quality improvements right now. Oliver said that reclassification to the higher class means that the state would be legally required to maintain this higher quality condition, and that the lake would sooner hit the point where resources would be legally obligated. A plan would be drawn up that would identify principal stressors and propose projects, which might include road improvements, and addressing non-point runoff, including voluntary manure injection projects and wider buffer strips in the watershed.

Oliver added that it's much easier to work on solving a water quality problem early, rather than at later stages of degradation.

Christine said that the SGW has applied for funding to develop a Lake Watershed Action Plan, a document that would support this reclassification effort.

Matt and Gary felt that before moving forward with reclassification, the impact of this change must be fully understood. It was agreed to hold a public meeting to further discuss the reclassification.

TOWN CLERK – Kim Greaves

1. A Caledonia Spirits special event will be held on Sat. June 12 at HCA. Gary made the following motion:

The Board approves the Caledonia Spirits special event as presented.

Matt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2. **Story Walk at Willey Beach Park.** The Selectboard expressed their support.
3. **Craft Fair at Greensboro Bend Community Park.** This upcoming event will be held outside in the Community Park. Peter made the following motion:

The Board approves the Craft Fair in Greensboro Bend as presented.

Matt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. **Farmers Market.** This will be held mid-June through August on the Village Green. The market has insurance and the individual vendors also have insurance. Gary made the following motion:

The Board approves the Farmers Market being held on the Village Green.

Peter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously

5. **Tax map update.** The last time the tax map was updated was in 2016. Surveyor Wayne Mutrux agreed to do an update, but told Kim that this will be his last as he's retiring. Ideally more regular updates will be undertaken in the future. Kim noted that the state funds these updates. The Board approved updating the tax maps as necessary.
6. **Letter of support for Craftsbury Community Care Center.** The CCCC is applying to the Northern Borders Regional Commission for a grant to fund air handling improvements. Gary made the following motion:

The town will send a letter in support of the CCCC's grant application.

Matt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

TREASURER – Brett Stanciu

1. The Board reviewed the monthly report from Treasurer Brett Stanciu.
2. **FY21 budget YTD.** The Board reviewed the FY21 YTD budget reports.
3. **April check warrants.** The Board reviewed the April check warrant reports.

ONGOING BUSINESS

1. **First Constable.** Mark Snyder was the sole applicant for this position. Gary made the following motion:

The Board appoints Mark Snyder to the First Constable position.

Matt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Gary thanked interim First Constable TJ Collier for a month of dedicated service.

2. **Moving Recycling Center to Stump Dump.** The road crew has made progress cleaning up the site, and Peter is hoping that the move could happen by mid-summer. Peter and Gary met with the Marotti's, who live adjacent to stump dump. Their concerns around moving the recycling center to the stump dump have been resolved to their satisfaction.

Ken suggested that the town begin communicating this upcoming change to the community.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Extra Selectboard meetings.** Discussion of holding Selectboard meetings twice a month for a while, with the hope of somewhat shorter meetings.
2. **June 10 tax sale.** At least one Selectboard member will attend.

3. **Library septic tank risers.** The library has notified the town that its planning to replace the old concrete risers with modern flush-to-ground risers. The library will pay for the work. The Selectboard supports the project.
4. **Zoning Bylaw changes.** Zoning Administrator Brett Stanciu updated the Board on the Planning Commission's progress on updating the Zoning Bylaw. A number of public hearings have been held to discuss proposed changes and there are more hearings to come, with the next one being held virtually on June 2.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gary suggested making time for 'Public Announcements' at Selectboard meetings.

1. **Upcoming: Reopening Town Offices to the public, and holding Selectboard meetings in person again.**
2. **Discussion of Federal COVID-19 relief funding needed.**
3. **Reaching out to homeowners about the East St. sidewalk project.**

ADJOURNMENT

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:14 PM.

Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk