

(Draft only – not approved by the Selectboard)

Greensboro Selectboard

August 11, 2021 – Minutes

[Meeting was held in person and on video conference]

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

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Greaves, Lucy Keefe, Brett Stanciu, Ellen Celnik, Anne Altman, Adam Froelich, Clifford LaPoint, Carroll Peters, Monica Health, Karen LaPoint, Eric Hanson, Sharon Putney, Josh Karp, Mike Lammert, Eric LaPoint, Steve Ferber, Dr. Gary Damon, Deshaun James.

CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 PM

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Kim: catering permit; changes to parcels; public concerns about ATVs at public beach; speeding on Rt. 14; resignation of elementary school director

MINUTES

1. July 14 regular meeting: unanimously approved as amended.
2. July 22 special meeting: approved as amended (P.R., G.C., M.M., D.K. approved; T.C. abstained).

PUBLIC CONCERNS

ATVs on town roads. The Board reviewed a letter from Maura Sylvester, who's seen ATVs on town roads and inquired whether this was allowed.

Discussion of the town's 2008 ATV ordinance, which permits ATV use only on Old Schoolhouse Rd. in Greensboro Bend, and on Class IV town roads. David said ATV use on any other town road is not legal. Tracy wondered if the ordinance is outdated and should be revisited. A few of those present commented that there are more ATVs around than there used to be. Gary said it doesn't seem that ATVs on town roads are causing any harm, and Matt added that they are commonly used by farmers.

Gary noted that in some towns, discussions about ATV regulations have been very divisive.

Tracy and Matt will review the ordinance and may propose updates.

Kim said a resident of Beach Rd. reported seeing ATVs doing donuts in the beach parking lot late at night, and asked whether the Sheriff patrols the area. Peter said the beach is patrolled regularly, but the Sheriff is only there for a short time.

GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT – Chief Dave Brochu, Jr.

Chief Brochu was not present and no FD report was available.

ORLEANS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

- 1. Monthly report.** The OCSD July report was reviewed. This was the first report provided by the OCSD, and Board members noted their appreciation of the report's level of detail. Peter said that a representative from the OCSD will likely attend next month's meeting.
Mike Lammert said he's been pleased so far with the OCSD.
- 2. Speeding on Rt. 14.** While there have been some complaints about speeding on Rt. 14, Peter said that the town's speed cart and state speed signs have been in operation for most of the summer, and he's heard that these signs have been pretty effective in reducing speeds.
Peter said he encouraged the OCSD to run radar in that area.

ROADS & DRIVEWAYS

- 1. Road Foreman's report – Tom Camarra.** Tom was not present this evening.
- 2. East St. sidewalk project.** The road crew has completed prep work for the new sidewalk. The curb setters will be coming soon and when their work is complete the sidewalk can be poured. Peter or Gary will be present when the curb setters arrive to give them some direction and answer any questions.
- 3. Bridge grant.** Kim reported that the town received a \$200k grant from VTrans for repair work on the bridge over Porter Brook on Craftsbury Rd. This grant requires a \$25k in-kind match from the town.
- 4. Speed limits on gravel roads – Mike Lammert.** The default speed limit for gravel roads is 50 mph. Mike said this an antiquated law from a different era, and that 50 mph is too high a speed limit. He said that traffic on many gravel roads has increased over the years along with the numbers of bikers and pedestrians, and that there are places where 40 mph isn't safe, let alone 50 mph.

Ellen Celnik said there have been a few occasions when she was biking and almost had to head for the ditch due to cars going too fast. 50 mph is a ridiculous speed limit for gravel roads, she said.

The gravel road around Caspian Lake has a 35 mph speed limit. Mike wondered what the rationale was for setting that speed limit – was it due to density of houses, or the amount of activity on the road? If 35 mph was deemed appropriate for that road, it would also be appropriate for many other gravel roads in town, he felt.

Eric LaPoint said that on some of these gravel roads, 35 mph would be a little too slow and you'd be holding up traffic. He said there's a careful balance of factors to consider if there's further discussion on lowering speed limits.

Tracy said that drivers are responsible to drive at a safe speed for conditions, and if you lower the speed limit but can't enforce it, what's the point? Adam Froelich agreed, saying that a lower speed limit couldn't be well enforced unless there was more police coverage.

David Kelly said that he lived in a Montana town that had a \$500 fine for exceeding the 35 mph speed limit.

Peter said that this is a difficult issue and should go to the voters at town meeting. He said the Board will continue to research this topic and perhaps draw up some proposals to present to the voters.

TOWN CLERK – Kim Greaves

- 1. Greensboro Bend sign.** Peter said that a finished 'Greensboro Bend' sign has been sitting in the town offices, waiting to be installed. Once he and Mike Metcalf have completed a small roof to protect the sign, it will be installed.
- 2. Catering permit – 802 Cocktails.** 802 Cocktails requested a catering permit for a wedding at Turning Stone Farm on Aug 14. Gary made the following motion:

The Board approves the catering permit for 802 Cocktails.

Dave seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

- 3. Tax map updates / lister's errors & omissions.** Kim said that surveyor Wayne Mutrux completed his update of the town tax maps. Since he hadn't updated the maps in a few years, over 500 updates were made.

Assessor Stearns Allen submitted lister's errors and omissions, requesting changes to two parcels on the grand list. David made the following motion:

The board accepts the two requested changes to the grand list.

Gary seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

- 4. Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union – elementary director.** Kim reported that one of Greensboro's elementary school directors resigned, and the open position is being advertised. The selectboard will appoint an interim director upon the recommendation of the supervisory union.

TREASURER – Brett Stanciu

1. The Board reviewed the treasurer's monthly report.
2. **FY22 budget report, YTD.** Reviewed by the Board.
3. **July check warrant reports.** Reviewed by the Board.
4. **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds.** Brett reported that the first half of the town's ARPA funds have been received (\$36,588). The remaining half will be received within two years.

She added that the town will also get \$67,886 in County funds in 2021, and this same amount again in 2022. This brings Greensboro's total ARPA funds to \$208,949.

There are requirements that must be met to properly use these funds, as well as a significant administrative burden. Brett suggested that a few selectboard members begin considering ways to use the funding, and added that while there's not a hurry to spend the funds, they must ultimately be spent and can't just be socked away.

Feedback from the community will be sought after the town has a thorough understanding of the funding's parameters.

VLCT has dedicated staff to assist towns with all aspects of these funds.

Discussion of putting the funds into a short-term interest-bearing account.

ZONING

The Planning Commission forwarded three proposed Bylaw amendments to the selectboard: the Extended Village Zone, the Eligo Resource District, and a document of miscellaneous, mostly 'housekeeping' changes throughout the Bylaw.

The next step in the statutory process is for the selectboard to hold a public hearing to consider the proposed amendments. After that required hearing, and any additional public meetings the board chooses to hold, the board must 1) pass the proposals on to the voters as written; 2) pass them on to the voters with minor changes, or 3) make major changes and hand the proposals back to the planning commission, where it will revisit the changed proposals and hold additional hearings.

Discussion of holding an informational meeting on Aug. 25 where the planning commission can present the proposed Bylaw changes to the selectboard and answer questions from the board. This meeting would not serve as the selectboard's required public hearing, which would come at a later date. Gary and Matt felt that

the selectboard needs more time to review the proposed Bylaw changes, and that the informational meeting should be delayed.

David made the following motion:

The planning commission will be invited to present their proposed Bylaw changes to the selectboard at a meeting on August 25, in order for the board to become more familiar with the Bylaw.

Peter seconded the motion. Further discussion.

Brett said that the proposed informational meeting is an opportunity to begin a conversation with the planning commission, and could be the first of a number of such meetings.

Peter called the question and the motion carried (P.R., D.K, T.C. in favor; M.M., G.C. opposed).

Discussion of whether a conflict of interest exists with Peter being on the selectboard and his wife Linda being on the planning commission. Kim said that this particular situation is not on the state's list of incompatible offices.

RURAL ARTS COLLABORATIVE, TOWN HALL USE – Steve Ferber

Kathryn Lovinsky resigned as executive director of the Rural Arts Collaborative (RAC). Carol Fairbank also resigned from her role in RAC. RAC Board chair Steve Ferber was present to represent the organization.

Discussion of how to equitably share costs for shared town hall spaces, such as the first floor hallway and toilets. The hallway and toilets are used by Spark patrons, by attendees of meetings in the Collier Rm., and by patrons of the Giving Closet.

Discussion about a plumbing issue with one of the toilets. Steve agreed that the RAC will fix the toilet this time, but it was agreed that if the issue is ongoing and requires a major capital expense, the town will pay. After further discussion, it was agreed that one of the bathrooms will be for RAC use only and will be locked. The other bathroom will be left open for town use.

It was agreed that the RAC will clean the first floor hallway.

Tracy suggested that the town renegotiate the lease, since it was drawn up when the RAC was a differently-structured and differently-named organization.

Regarding making progress on planning for the town hall renovation, Steve said that the RAC is looking at a six month delay on that project as they focus on reorganizing themselves.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 1. VT Covid Data.** Reviewed by the Board.
- 2. Junk ordinance.** Peter said that the two residents who had initially volunteered to enforce the ordinance are no longer interested in this work. Given that the ordinance won't be enforced, Peter felt the ordinance should be repealed and made the following motion:

The Board will repeal the junk ordinance.

David seconded the motion. After further discussion, Peter withdrew his motion.

Peter will discuss enforcement options with the Orleans County Sheriff. Matt agreed to be in charge of writing letters to residents who are not following the ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk