

Greensboro Selectboard

March 15, 2023 – Minutes

[Meeting was held via video conference]

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ellen Celnik, Eric Hanson, David Kelley, Peter Romans

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Circosta

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Greaves, Brett Stanciu, Josh Karp, Beth Meachem, Dan Predpall, Sharon Putney, Isa Oehry, Nancy Riege, Joanne Brochu

CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 PM

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- Liquor License for Wilson Farm
- Special Event Permit for ZG Holdings
- Letter re driveway plowing from Peter and Sandra Gebbie
- Towing invoice from Shaun Hill
- Library trustee appointment
- Selectboard liaison to Greensboro Assoc.
- NEK Rail Trail Council
- Question about fireworks from Greensboro Assoc.

Peter welcomed Eric Hanson to the Board.

MINUTES

1. 2/8/23 approved as written unanimously.
2. 2/16/23 approved as written unanimously.

GREENSBORO FREE LIBRARY – Beth Meachem

Beth told the Board that the library is pursuing grants from the VT Dept. of Libraries and the VT Arts Council. The Dept. of Libraries grant must be submitted as a municipal grant. David made the following motion:

The Board approves the town executing the necessary documents to apply for the VT Dept. of Libraries grant.

Ellen seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Beth added that the library received a small grant from the Preservation Trust for a building assessment.

BEND REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE – Dan Predpall

- 1. LVRT trailhead / VTrans grant.** Dan and Peter have been looking into the VTrans trailhead grant and proposed that the town not accept the grant.

It appears it would take 12-15 months for construction to begin under grant terms, delaying the project until 2024. An NVDA study estimated considerable use of the trailhead, especially on summer weekends, and there is a concern that without a parking area, trail users will park along Main St. and cause inconvenience to Bend residents and traffic safety issues. Instead of hiring a contractor with grant funds to construct the parking area in 2024, the road crew would do the installation this coming summer.

Discussion of how to pay for the project without grant funds. Dan said \$20k has been raised locally, earmarked as matching funds for the VTrans grant. These funds were solicited to build a trailhead, not just a parking lot, so much of those funds should be used for landscaping and amenities such as picnic tables, a bike rack and a bike maintenance station. Peter suggested that \$15k in ARPA funds could be approved for the project. Town funds originally earmarked for grant match are also available – \$5k each year for FY24 and FY25.

Dan said a lease with VTrans would still be required to develop the trailhead, and he and Peter will be meeting with VTrans next week about the lease. Due to its more complex nature, a lease for the Bend Depot will likely not be negotiated as part of the initial trailhead lease.

One project in the original VTrans grant that won't be completed by the town, at least initially, is the installation of 'traffic calming structures' on both sides of the road adjacent to the trailhead.

The Board agreed to not accept the Vtrans grant.

No decision was made about using ARPA funds for the trailhead.

Dan noted that considerable town office staff time will be saved by not having to administer the grant.

- 2. Rural Edge grant.** Dan told the Board that the Bend Revitalization Committee is part of a grant that Rural Edge is applying for. The grant would provide funds to Greensboro Bend residents to improve their homes.
- 3. NEK Rail Trail Council.** Dan said VTrans has created several councils so towns along the Rail Trail can have a voice on Rail Trail issues. NVDA is hosting the NEK council, and asked Greensboro to appoint a council representative. Dan said he is willing to serve on the council. Peter made the following motion:

The Board appoints Dan Predpall to the NEK Rail Trail Council.

Eric seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

SELECTBOARD REORGANIZATION

1. Board positions. Dave made the following motion:

The Board approves the slate of Selectboard positions as discussed.

Eric seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

POSITION	WHO
Selectboard Chair	Peter Romans
Selectboard Vice Chair	Eric Hanson
Order Sheets	<i>Primary:</i> Peter Romans <i>Secondary:</i> Eric Hanson
BOARD LIAISONS	
Farmers Market	Kim Greaves
Highway Department	<i>Primary:</i> Peter Romans <i>Secondary:</i> Ellen Celnik
Historical Society	David Kelley
Driveway Plowing	<i>Primary:</i> Peter Romans <i>Secondary:</i> Eric Hanson
Fire Districts	Eric Hanson
Greensboro Fire Dept.	David Kelley
Legal	David Kelley
Orleans Southwest Elementary School District	Gary Circosta
Recycling	Ellen Celnik
Library	Ellen Celnik
Greensboro Association	Eric Hanson

2. Newspapers of Record. The Board unanimously approved The Hardwick Gazette and The News & Citizen to be the town's newspapers of record. Kim noted that she often puts public notices in The Chronicle as well.

3. Selectboard Meetings. The Board unanimously agreed that regular Selectboard meetings will continue to be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM. Meetings will be held remotely until further notice. Peter noted that the state will likely require Boards to return to in-person meetings in the near future.

SELECTBOARD APPOINTMENTS

Eric made the following motion:

The Board approves the slate of appointments as discussed.

Peter seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Road Foreman	Thomas Camarra
Zoning Administrator	Brett Stanciu
Fire Chief	Dave Brochu, Jr.
Constable	Mark Snyder
Conservation Commission (4-year terms by statute)	Linda Shatney, David Kelley, Jane Hoffman, Clive Gray, Chris Steel [OTHER MEMBERS: Erika Karp (Chair, 2026), Arlene Averill (2026), Peter Watkinson (2026), William Marlier (2026)]
Tree Warden	Cilla Bonney-Smith
Animal Control Officer	Kevin Rich
Civil Defense	OPEN
Recreation Committee	Erika Karp, Devin Burgess, David Kelley, MacNeil, Carolyn Kehler, Ellen Celnik
Development Review Board (3-year terms by statute)	Jane Woodruff (Chair) [OTHER MEMBERS: Nat Smith (2024), MacNeil (2024), Tim Brennan (2026), Wayne Young (2025), BJ Gray (2025), Mike Metcalf (2025), Lise Armstrong (1st alternate), Joanne Lacasse (2nd alternate), Brett Stanciu (ex-officio)]
Planning Commission (3-year terms by statute)	Alexis Mattos [OTHER MEMBERS: Christine Armstrong (2025), MacNeil (2025), Kent Hansen (2025), Kelli Story (2025), Brett Stanciu (ex-officio)]
Town Service Officer	Kim Greaves
Caspian Lake Beach Comm.	Ila Hunt (Chair), Linda Shatney, John Schweizer (Treasurer)
Emergency Planning Comm.	Anne Stevens (Chair), Wayne Young, Tim Nisbet, Eric Pilbin, 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
NVDA Rep.	Mike Metcalf
Grand Juror	David B. Smith

Library Trustee. The Board unanimously appointed Shelly Jungwirth as library trustee, taking the place of a trustee who recently resigned.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

None this evening.

GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT. – Chief Dave Brochu, Jr.

No report was available.

ORLEANS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

The Board reviewed the February OCSD report.

ROADS

- 1. Road Foreman's report – Tom Camarra.** Tom was not present this evening.
- 2. Letter re driveway plowing – Peter and Sandra Gebbie.** Peter and Sandra expressed concern that the town's driveway plowing service is going downhill in quality. They suggested that Perry's alternate the plowing order from storm to storm, as was done in the past, so those in the far ends of town aren't always waiting the longest to have their drives cleared.

Discussion. Eric asked whether Perry's always plows the village areas first. Peter said he's not sure and will talk to Perry's about this. He added that whatever system they have is working for residents most of the time, since there are few complaints.

- 3. Hill Farmstead Brewery re winter road conditions – Joanne Brochu.** Joanne, on behalf of Shaun Hill, expressed concern about road conditions over the past few weeks. She said the town made a commitment to the brewery that roads would be well maintained, for both truck and customer traffic. During a recent snowstorm, the brewery's own truck, as well as customer cars, got stuck in drifts. Shaun submitted to the town the \$1200 towing bill he received after the brewery's truck was pulled out.

Peter said that the town is committed to maintaining all roads but that the storm in question, a Nor'easter, was exceptional with poor road conditions over much of New England. Joanne said they made several calls to the road crew about poor conditions but calls were not returned, and she felt better communication would be appreciated. Peter said that cell coverage is poor around town and the crew is indeed hard to communicate with when out on the road.

Replying to Joanne's assertion that there weren't any trucks out that day, Peter said the crew was certainly out plowing all day, and that such exaggeration is not helpful. He noted that during a big storm it takes hours for the road crew to complete their routes.

Peter asked whether the brewery's truck driver chained up before going out; Joanne replied they did not. Peter said milk trucks would never attempt to go out without chains in such conditions. He said especially during big storms, everyone has to take responsibility for safe travel, it's not just about the road crew. Out-of-staters, for instance, who commonly run all-season tires and are inexperienced driving in snowy conditions are likely to have trouble during snowstorms, and that is not the town's responsibility.

TOWN CLERK – Kim Greaves

- 1. Hardwick Gazette use of Town Hall room.** Tabled.
- 2. Liquor Licenses.** Liquor license application reviewed from Wilson Farm, and Special Event Permit reviewed from ZG Holdings. Ellen made the following motion:

The Board approves the Second-Class Liquor License for Wilson Farm and the Special Event Permit for ZG Holdings.

Eric seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

3. Liquor License – Hill Farmstead Brewery. Liquor License reviewed from Hill Farmstead Brewery.

David made the following motion:

The Board approves the First-Class Liquor License for Hill Farmstead Brewery.

Eric seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

TREASURER – Brett Stanciu

1. The Board reviewed the treasurer’s monthly report, the FY23 budget report, and the February check warrant reports.

2. **Village Center Designation renewal.** Peter made the following motion:

The Board approves the renewal of the Village Center designations for Greensboro Village and Greensboro Bend.

David seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

ONGOING BUSINESS

1. **Wake boats.** David said it appears that the VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is moving forward with regulations that would allow wake boats on Caspian Lake. A local committee is working on a petition, to be submitted to the DEC, that would prohibit these boats on Caspian and possibly other lakes.

2. **Trapping on town properties.** Dave said state trapping regulations are inadequate, and proposed that Greensboro adopt a local ordinance prohibiting certain classes of traps on town properties, unless a permit is obtained from the Selectboard. He added that there are municipalities in the state that have decided to regulate trapping on town properties.

Due to the minimal acreage of town-owned property in Greensboro, he noted such an ordinance would be mostly symbolic.

After discussion, the Board agreed that a public hearing should be held on the proposed ordinance.

3. **New town garage.**

- Building design/lot layout. No update.
- Financing options. Bond bank and conventional bank financing options were reviewed. Eric felt that bond bank financing would be preferable. Preliminary estimates are that a \$1,500,000 bond would add approx. 6% to the existing town budget. Some relief would come in four or five years after the final fire station payment is made.

4. **Hiring grant writer – update.** Eric recently talked to a grant writer who may be interested in working for the town. He will connect her with Ellen and Brett.

OTHER BUSINESS

Funky Fourth. Becky Arnold contacted the town on behalf of the Greensboro Association, wondering about fireworks this coming summer. Peter said fireworks have gotten prohibitively expensive and are no longer a line item in the town budget. He added that residents seemed to like last summer’s Funky Fourth, where town funds were used to hold a free town picnic on the village green.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk