

Greensboro Selectboard

August 9, 2023 – Minutes

[This was a hybrid meeting held at the Greensboro Free Library, with some participants joining remotely]

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

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Greaves, Brett Stanciu, Josh Karp, Beth Meachem, Meaghan Meachem, Erika Karp, Alison Low, Chris Roy, Dan Predpall, Elissa Mackin, Liz Steel, Christine Armstrong

CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 PM

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Kim:

1. Groennfell Meadery – Special Event Permit
2. Mad River Food Hub – Educational Sampling Event Permit
3. Hazard Mitigation Plan

MINUTES

1. 7/27 special meeting: minutes approved as written unanimously.
2. 7/31 special meeting: minutes approved as written unanimously.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

Beth Meachem. Beth has seen cluttered signage on the town park, and suggested a signage policy be made, either by the Selectboard or by the Planning Commission. She suggested that signs could be permitted to be put out a week or two prior to an event and must be removed the day after. Eric wondered how ongoing events like the Farmers Market would be addressed in a sign policy.

Beth thanked the town for repairing the roads after the July flooding, but asked why such large rocks had to be used, resulting in rough driving conditions. Peter said such rocks are typical and necessary for initial repairs and the road surface will be finished with finer gravel at a later date.

WASTEWATER GRANTS & CONSULTANTS

Dan Predpall requested that the Board approve a geophysical contractor begin work on investigating sites for a possible town wastewater system. It is likely that this won't cost the town any money. Eric made the following motion:

The Board approves the geophysical contractor beginning work.

Ellen seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT.

No report was available.

ORLEANS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

Board members have had issues access the monthly report via the OCSO portal. Josh will include the report in monthly Board packets going forward.

TREASURER – Brett Stanciu

1. The Board reviewed the treasurer's monthly report, the FY24 budget report, and the July check warrant reports.
2. Brett reported that two of the town's CDs with Infinex are maturing next week. The two CDs are HERF funds, each in the amount of \$250k. Discussion of whether to renew these CDs. Discussion about not renewing other CDs holding Capital Budget funds. Peter made the following motion:
The Board approves Eric Hanson making the final decision on renewing these investments.
Gary seconded the motion which carried unanimously.
3. Brett reported that the line of credit for flood repairs has been approved. The first invoices are being reviewed by Peter and Gary and will be paid soon. These initial invoices approach \$250k in total.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

The plan is overdue and this could result in the town not getting an additional 5% in state funding for road flood repairs. The plan update is now on a fast track, in the hopes that VT Emergency Management (VEM) will quickly review and approve it, freeing up the 5% which could amount to \$50k or more.

The review process is being run by Alison Low from NVDA, and she updated the Board on progress to date. If the town submits an updated plan and VEM agrees to grant 'approval pending adoption', this quickly-updated plan could be further updated and resubmitted at a later date if the town feels that certain elements need more work.

A public meeting to discuss the updated plan will be held on Aug. 10, and Alison will run the meeting.

Kim and Gary thanked Alison for her work guiding the town through the revision process under an extremely tight deadline.

TOWN CLERK – Kim Greaves

1. Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP).

- Kim said the updated LEMP needs Board approval. Eric made the following motion:

The Board approves the LEMP with Gary's changes. Kim will do further updating of emails and personnel contact information as necessary.

Gary seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

- **Town Communications during Emergencies.** Beth Meachem said that communication between the town and residents in an emergency can be challenging, and that hopefully the town's new LEMP addresses this. Kim said the town website has been the primary way information is relayed to residents.

Beth suggested a town Facebook page be utilized as an additional communications tool. Meaghan Meachem agreed, saying that many people use social media as their primary source of information, certainly checking it before checking out a website. She felt residents would regularly check a town Facebook page if it was updated regularly.

Liz Steel noted that social media sites and websites are used differently, and agreed that social media can be a much more nimble way to get information out quickly.

The Board agreed that a town Facebook account would be a good idea – the more sources of information, the better. Meaghan volunteered to manage the account.

2. The Board approved the following:

- Education Sampling Event Permits: David Solomon; VT Cheese Council; Mad River Food Hub LC3.
Gary moved to approve all, Eric seconded the motion which carried unanimously.
- Catering Permits: Black Diamond Barbeque; Blood’s Catering & Party Rentals.
Gary moved to approve all, Eric seconded the motion which carried unanimously.
- Special Event Permits: Kalche Wine Cooperative; Smuggler’s Notch Distillery; Keck Wine Enterprises LLC; Shacksbury Holdings Inc.
Gary moved to approve all, Eric seconded the motion which carried unanimously.
- Flag Hill Farm Special Event Permit.
Gary moved to approve, Eric seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

ROADS

1. Road Supervisor’s Report. Tom was not present this evening.

2. Crushing is done.

3. July Flooding.

- Repair work continues. The State is telling us that emergency work should be completed by now, so no more time & materials contracts: all work must be put out to bid. This is challenging and we’re still figuring out how to proceed with the bidding process.
- We’ve applied for FEMA assistance and they will be reaching out to the town to do an exploratory call within two weeks.
- Erika Karp asked when the bridge over Whetstone Brook on Shadow Lake Rd. will be replaced. Peter said there’s not time to do this project before winter, and they’re looking for an appropriately-sized temporary bridge. Erika also asked about the state of the Caspian Lake dam. Peter said the state has inspected the dam and it’s in stable condition.
- Gary thanked all the contractors that have helped the town with flood recovery, especially Matt McAllister.

4. Josh offered to assist the town with flood-related data collection and reporting work. Eric made the following motion:

The Board approves town employee Josh Karp assisting with flood-related data collection and reporting.

Gary seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

5. Culvert Policy. Discussion. It was agreed to follow the current culvert policy as written.

6. Curb Cut. Gary made the following motion:

The Board approves a curb cut for Steve Kirby at 685 Harrington Rd.

Eric seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

7. Damage to Compton’s driveway by Perry’s.

- The Board reviewed and discussed a letter from the Compton’s asking the town to reimburse them \$1965 for repairs to their driveway. The Board tabled further discussion.

According to Peter, Jeff Perry won't take responsibility for the damage. There's two years left on the plowing contract; it was agreed that when it comes up for renewal the damage clause should be carefully reviewed and possibly updated.

- A letter was sent to Perry's requesting that a meeting be held to discuss driveway plowing issues. The town has not received a reply yet; David will follow up with Jeff.

- 8. Petition for 25 mph speed limit in Greensboro Bend – update on speed study.** Tabled.
- 9. New Town Garage – update.** Peter reported that the area on the fire station lot that was being considered for a new town garage is classified by the state as a wetland. This means any construction is prohibited.

ONGOING BUSINESS

- 1. Trapping Ordinance.** The public hearing was held on July 27. David will present the final version of the ordinance next month for the Board to sign.
- 2. Library Driveway.** Kevin Rich will be asked to contact Beth directly about an estimate for the repair.
- 3. Selectboard Rules of Procedure.** Tabled.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was unanimously adjourned 8:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk