

# Greensboro Selectboard

## March 13, 2024 – Minutes

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

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

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kent Hansen, Kim Greaves, Josh Karp, Brett Stanciu, Liz Steel, Erika Karp, Beth Meachem, Chris Steel, Joseph Gresser, Lise Armstrong, Elissa Mackin, Paul Brierre

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 6:30 PM

### ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Kim: liaison for road crew union and personnel policy

### MINUTES

1. 2/14/24 regular meeting unanimously approved as written.
2. 2/26/24 special meeting unanimously approved as written.
3. 3/7/24 special meeting unanimously approved as written.

### PUBLIC CONCERNS

1. Beth Meachem announced there will be a panel event about weatherization on Tuesday 3/19 at Fellowship Hall. A chili dinner will be served.
2. Beth expressed concern about communication issues between the town and residents. Some residents are feeling that they aren't getting information easily or quickly enough.
3. Liz Steel said she found town meeting a long process, noting many people left before it was officially concluded. She suggested a working group be formed to make it more effective, and that in this digital age there must be an alternative approach. Kim Greaves said currently, the town can't do hybrid town meetings due to voting issues.  
Kent Hansen suggesting moving the meeting to Saturday. Kim said the Australian ballot items would be a challenge with this approach, since votes for items like the school budgets would likely still be held on the first Tuesday in March.  
Eric Hanson noted that Naomi Ranz-Schleifer recently spoke about improving town meeting and might want to be involved if a group is formed. David Kelley noted Susan Clark has been consulting with Craftsbury on increasing participation at town meeting.
4. Chris Steel asked about the role of Trustee of Public Funds; Kim said she'd research the position.

### GREENSBORO PLANNING COMMISSION – Proposed Zoning Bylaw updates

Planning Commission (PC) Chair Kent Hansen told the Board that the PC has updated the Shoreline Protection District Bylaw, along with other 'miscellaneous' changes. The PC held a public meeting in

October, and the state Dept. of Environmental Conservation and NVDA (regional planning commission) have reviewed the proposed changes. The PC modified their proposal based on comments received and are now handing it off to the Selectboard as the next stage of the statutory process. The Board must hold a public hearing, and may choose to edit the proposal and send it back to the PC for rework. If changes made by the Board are ‘substantial’, the PC may have to hold additional hearings on the newly-changed Bylaw. Ultimately, any proposed Bylaw changes will be voted up or down by town residents. The Board tabled further discussion until April.

**SELECTBOARD REORGANIZATION**

1. After discussion, Eric made the following motion:

*The Board approves the slate of positions as discussed.*

Peter seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Selectboard Chair	Eric Hanson
Selectboard Vice Chair	Peter Romans
Order Sheets	<i>Primary:</i> Eric Hanson <i>Secondary:</i> Peter Romans
<b>BOARD LIAISONS</b>	
Farmers Market	Kim Greaves
Highway Department	<i>Primary:</i> Peter Romans <i>Secondary:</i> Eric Hanson
Historical Society	David Kelley
Driveway Plowing	<i>Primary:</i> Eric Hanson <i>Secondary:</i> Peter Romans
Fire Districts	MacNeil
Greensboro Fire Dept.	MacNeil
Legal	David Kelley
Mountain View Union Elementary School District	Kim Greaves
Recycling	Ellen Celnik
Library	Ellen Celnik
Greensboro Association	Eric Hanson
Road Crew Union	Ellen Celnik, MacNeil

2. **Newspapers of Record.** While The Hardwick Gazette and The News & Citizen are currently the newspapers of record, Erika Karp noted that the News & Citizen is not mailed to Greensboro Bend addresses. With the Hardwick Gazette available online only, this means that some residents may not have easy access to the town’s two newspapers of record. Kim will contact the News & Citizen about their distribution. Further discussion tabled until April.



*The Board appoints Mimi Benedict as library trustee.*

David seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

- 4. Greensboro Conservation Commission (GCC).** Chris Steel, chair of the GCC, requested that the Board appoint Emily Cayer to the GCC. Since Emily resides in Stannard, Chris suggested she be appointed as a non-voting member. Josh noted that state statute requires that members of the conservation commission be town residents. There remains an open seat on the GCC.

#### **ORLEANS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.**

The Board reviewed the February OCSD report.

#### **GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT. – Chief Dave Brochu, Jr.**

- 1. GFD report.** There was no report to review this evening.
- 2. Stannard fire contract.** The Stannard Selectboard has approved the updated contract. The Greensboro Selectboard signed the contract.

#### **ROADS & DRIVEWAYS**

- 1. Road Foreman's report – Tom Camarra.** Tom was not present this evening, and submitted a written roads report. Peter said the Board requests that Tom attend Selectboard meetings, as there are often time-sensitive road issues to discuss. For example, Peter had hoped to discuss the summer work plan with Tom this evening.
- 2. Shadow Lake Rd. bridge replacement - engineering bids.** Engineering work for a new bridge was put out to bid and while multiple firms were solicited, only one bid was received. The Board reviewed the bid, and after discussion Peter made the following motion:

*The Board accepts the bid from New England Consulting Engineers for engineering work on the Shadow Lake Rd. bridge over Whetstone Brook.*

David seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

It is anticipated that FEMA will pay most of the engineering and construction costs for the bridge.

- 3. Reclassifying Barton Drive and White Rd. (off Gebbie Rd.) from Class 3 to Class 4.** Discussion; the town will still maintain bridges and culverts on these roads. Peter made the following motion:

*The Board will schedule a public hearing to reclassify Barton Dr. and White Rd. (off Gebbie Rd.) from Class 3 to Class 4, with a hearing date to be determined. Impacted landowners will be notified.*

Ellen seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

- 4. Paving bids.** Peter said in addition to the final coat on the Bend Rd., the town has funds to pave 1.25 miles this year. Discussion of putting roadside mowing, gravel crushing and winter sand out to bid as well. Ellen made the following motion:

*The town will put paving, roadside mowing, gravel crushing and winter sand out to bid as discussed.*

Peter seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

- 5. Stanley Allen – snowplowing impacts to hedge.** Eric reported that Stanley Allen is concerned about damage to his hedge due during snowplowing by the road crew. Eric said the hedge is in the

road ROW and that it seems difficult to plow without some impact to the hedge. Peter will discuss with Stanley.

- FEMA update.** FEMA coordinator Josh Karp reported that reimbursement work continues. There is currently a bill in the legislature that would increase the state's share of the local match. If this goes through, the town's share of the local match will be considerably lower.

### **TOWN CLERK – Kim Greaves**

- Liquor licenses.** Peter made the following motion:

*The Board approves 1<sup>st</sup> Class and 3<sup>rd</sup> Class licenses for the Highland Lodge, and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Class license for Willey's Store.*

Ellen seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

- Hazard Mitigation Plan.** Kim reported that with extensive help from Alison Low at NVDA, the town's hazard mitigation plan has been updated and approved. Having an approved plan will increase the state's share of the local FEMA match, reducing the town's share. Ellen made the following motion:

*The Board accepts the updated Hazard Mitigation Plan.*

Peter seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

### **TREASURER – Brett Stanciu**

- The Board reviewed the treasurer's monthly report, the FY24 budget report, and the February check warrant reports.
- MCRF loan.** The town has been approved for a \$289k low interest loan from the VT Bond Bank Municipal Climate Recovery Fund. This will allow the town to transfer about 29% of flood-related debt to a loan with a much lower interest rate. Peter made the following motion:

*The Board will sign the initial MCRF documents and directs the town treasurer to use the funds to pay down the line of credit with Community National Bank.*

Ellen seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

- Funding for sidewalks.** Last month, Naomi Ranz-Schleifer asked whether the \$18k left in the FY24 sidewalk account could be used as a match for a bike/ped scoping study grant. These funds can't be rolled over to FY25, and it's not clear whether the scoping study would expend these funds by June 30. Peter will discuss with Naomi.

Related, MacNeil said that a number years ago, a grant was received to lay out a walking path from the fire house down Breezy Ave, up Wilson St, and along Craftsbury Rd. to North Shore Rd. He said John Schweizer is in possession of the map.

### **ONGOING BUSINESS**

- Wilson St. Drainage issues.** No update on the federal grant that has been applied for.
- Community Wastewater Project.** Eric said there has been no movement on the land purchase and sales agreements. The grant deadline has been extended and the town will keep working on this.
- Housing at Town Hall.**

- *Scheduling public meeting.* It was agreed to hold the public meeting at the HCA. Dave will contact them about possible dates. It was agreed that Patrick Shattuck (RuralEdge Executive Director) should be invited to answer questions, and that Tim Nisbet should moderate the meeting if he's available. Ellen suggested local businesses be invited.
- Kim said there are a number of documents available on the town website under 'Town Hall Redevelopment'.
- Erika Karp said many folks have not seen the Town Hall's third floor and that it would be interesting for them to do so. Kim said the town can't advertise a public meeting up there due to accessibility issues.
- Regarding alternative uses for the Town Hall, Ellen said WonderArts did some initial investigations that showed renovating the building would be extremely expensive, and dropped the idea.
- Ellen observed that the town needs to improve communication about the housing project. Josh suggested that the town would benefit from a point person who would keep a close eye on project developments and would focus on consistent communication with the public.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Eric made the following motion:

*The Board will enter executive session at 8:23 PM to discuss two legal matters.*

Peter seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The Board left executive session at 8:42 PM and took no action.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:42 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted, Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk*

*AMENDED 4/11/24 J.K.*