

Greensboro Selectboard

March 21, 2025 Special Meeting – Minutes

[This was a hybrid meeting held at the Greensboro Free Library]

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ellen Celnik, MacNeil, Mike Metcalf, Judy Carpenter, Tim Brennan

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT in person: Rob Brigham, Davis Barnett, Erika Karp, Mary Metcalf, Christine Armstrong, Lise Armstrong, Josh Karp, Kim Greaves, Maria Amador, Gary Circosta, Renee Circosta, Cole LeRue

OTHERS PRESENT remote: Alison Gardner, Andrea MacLeod, Anne Stevens, Chad Sims, Elissa Mackin, Glenn Olds, Ila Hunt, Janet Long, Nancy and Mike Lammert, Ornella Matta-Figueroa, Polly Parsons, Raymonda Parchment, James Jacobson, Blake Auchincloss, Brian Titus, Diane Irish, Elsa Schultz, Vince Cabbage, Lisa Sartorius

CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 PM

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENT

MacNeil said this initial public comment period will be the only opportunity this evening.

Davis said that as a member of the Communications Working Group, he is asking that ballots for the RuralEdge vote be sent to all registered voters. Gary agreed with Davis, saying this would maximize voter participation.

Gary asked if the RuralEdge Purchase and Sales Agreement that is currently posted to the town website is the final version that will be voted on. Tim said that it might be, but the board is not sure at this moment.

Gary said the selectboard should consider holding two meetings a month.

BROADBAND GRANT

Mike said the NEKCV (formerly NEK) Communications Union District is applying for a federal “Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment” grant. NEKCV asked member towns to submit a resolution to the VT Community Broadband Board endorsing the grant. Mike noted that this grant will cost the town nothing. High speed fiber internet is currently available to many households in Greensboro, and this grant will allow additional miles of fiber to be added to the existing network. Judy made the following motion:

The board will sign the resolution in support of the BEAD grant.

Mike seconded the motion which carried (Metcalf, Celnik, Brennan, Carpenter in favor; MacNeil abstained as chair).

MUNICIPAL PLANNING GRANT

At the March 12 selectboard meeting, the board approved applying for a municipal planning grant that would be used to hire a consultant to assist the planning commission with an update of the town plan.

Ellen said that including subdivision regulations as part of the planning grant application would make the town's application more competitive. She said the hired consultant could review the zoning bylaw and recommend ways to integrate new subdivision regulations.

Josh recollected that this issue had been discussed and resolved at the March 12 meeting. Ellen disagreed, saying that the issues the consultant will be focusing on are still up for debate. Christine reiterated that Alison at NVDA felt that the town is not ready to consider subdivision bylaws until after the town plan is updated. Information gathered during the town plan update will help clarify whether to move ahead with subdivision regulations.

The board signed the planning grant application.

Christine said that NVDA will assist the town in applying for the grant, and will provide a list of qualified consultants that the town can choose from. NVDA will also assist in grant administration.

Some selectboard members said they'd like to provide input about which activities the grant is used for. Christine said all selectboard members as well as the public are welcome to attend planning commission meetings.

RURALEGE / TOWN HALL REDEVELOPMENT

After discussion, Judy moved that the RuralEdge Australian Ballot vote be held on Tuesday, April 29. Mike seconded the motion. Tim moved to amend the motion, adding that the town will mail out ballots to all registered voters. Mike seconded the amendment. The amended motion:

The RuralEdge Australian Ballot vote will be held on Tuesday, April 29. Ballots will be mailed to all registered voters.

was voted on and carried (Metcalf, Celnik, Brennan, Carpenter in favor; MacNeil abstained as chair).

Kim said ballots must be sent out at least 20 days before the vote.

MacNeil said an informational meeting must be held within 30 days of the Australian Ballot vote. The board agreed to hold the informational meeting on Wed. April 16, 6:30 PM at Lakeview School, with Fellowship Hall as backup location.

Rob asked if a representative from RuralEdge will be present, since it is likely that questions will come up that only RuralEdge can answer. Some board members agreed this would be a good idea. Ellen said she'd also like Evernorth, who would likely be doing the actual construction, to be there as well.

Discussion about the language that will be used for the Australian Ballot. MacNeil said the language would be just a few lines, similar to Article 11 on the 2025 town meeting warning.

BREAD & PUPPET – PARKING AT TOWN GRAVEL PIT

Judy asked whether it would be possible for Bread & Puppet to use a field portion of the town gravel pit for public parking for 5-10 weekends this summer. Parking space for as many as 500 people would be needed. Judy asked Tom about this and he said it might be possible. Kim said the gravel crushing contractor is often at the pit during July and August, creating a possible liability issue. Dangerous conditions in and around the pit could also be a concern.

Judy will ask the manager at Bread and Puppet to reach out to MacNeil to further discuss, and possibly plan a site visit.

LIQUOR LICENSES

Ellen made the following motion:

The board approves a second class liquor license and outside consumption permit for Hill Farmstead Brewery, and a second class liquor license and tobacco license for Smith's Store.

Mike seconded the motion which carried (Metcalf, Celnik, Brennan, Carpenter in favor; MacNeil abstained as chair).

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk