

TOWN OF CLARENDON, VERMONT

MINUTES

SELECTBOARD AND PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, December 11th, 2017

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS:

Robert Bixby, Clerk
Robert Congdon, Jr.
Michael Klopchin, Chair
Daniel Pinkowski
Richard Wilbur

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT AT MEETING: Select Board (5), Planning Commission members Carol Geery, Gale LiCausi, Bryan Johnson, John McKenna, and Heidi Eccleston, the Administrative Assistant, Road Commissioner, Alf Strom-Olsen, Marjorie Southard, Ed Baker, Joel Baker. Also present were Ned Swanburg, Shannon Pytlik and David Rosen.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: The Board Chair asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. There were none.

PLANNING COMMISSION – RIVER CORRIDORS: The PC Chair Carol Geery introduced the guests, and gave a synopsis of what the process of adopting river corridors in the Town would look like. Ned Swanburg presented slides to the Board reviewing the flood plains in Clarendon, and the main goals of the river corridor program, which included leaving room for rivers to change course and preserve flood plain function, which would result in less loss of infrastructure and funds. The distribution of hazard events in the state was reviewed, with flooding being the number one disaster in regard to impact. Mr. Swanburg explained that adding new infrastructure caused the river to flow unnaturally and reinforced the cycle of damages, in that respect a river corridor ordinance would prevent anything new being added within the river corridor, leaving “room for rivers” and preventing losses. If Clarendon adopted river corridors, the Town would be eligible for 5% more funding from the Emergency Relief Assistance Fund. The Board Chair stated his concerns about the railroads not cooperating on river issues in the past, a discussion followed.

Selectman Wilbur arrived at 6:40 p.m.

Marjorie Southard stated her belief that all the water ways in Town needed to be identified and read a statement to that affect. A discussion on watersheds followed; PC Chair Carol Geery stated her concern that not all the watershed maps were correct, Mr. Swanburg responded that field based data updates to the maps were coming. PC member John McKenna questioned what the restrictions might be on property owners in the river corridors, Mr. Swanburg replied it was up to the municipality to set the restrictions in the ordinance. Selectman Pinkowski questioned on whether the new designation of a property as being a river corridor would be something that the banks and eventually insurance companies might pick up on and impact a property owner negatively. Mr. Swanburg replied that it hadn't happened yet. Following a brief discussion, PC member Heidi Eccleston asked if the Town could get out of river corridors after adopting them if it chose, the response was not conclusive. PC Chair Carol Geery asked the Select Board to consider if they would like the planning commission to proceed with river corridors. Alf Strom-Olsen

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asked if the town plan would have to change if the river corridors were not adopted, PC Chair Carol Geery responded that the Town Plan was guidance only.

At 7:16 p.m., the Planning Commission adjourned. Selectman Congdon motioned that the Select Board recess for 5 minutes, Selectman Bixby seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

At 7:20 p.m., Selectman Wilbur motioned to reconvene, Selectman Bixby seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

APPROVAL OF SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

Select Board Meeting Regular – November 27th, 2017: Selectman Congdon motioned to accept the minutes, Selectman Bixby seconded, the motion passed unopposed. There were no corrections.

Select Board Meeting Special – October 23rd – November 27th, 2017: Selectman Congdon motioned to accept the minutes, Selectman Wilbur seconded, the motion passed unopposed. A correction of the time at which Selectman Wilbur arrived at the October 23rd segment of the meeting was corrected to 5:50 p.m., this was the only correction.

HIGHWAY: The Road Commissioner was present and participated in discussion.

John McKenna, School Board Request: Mr. McKenna advised that Board of the School Board's concerns for students crossing from the main high school to the Holden House across the road due to limited visibility, and questioned if flashing signs would be appropriate. After a brief discussion, the Board asked the Administrative Assistant to look into it, and Selectman Wilbur stated he would contact the sheriff about the issue.

Possible Executive Session, Personnel: At 7:30 pm, Selectman Wilbur motioned to enter executive session not to exceed 15 minutes for a personnel discussion, Selectman Bixby seconded, the motion passed unopposed. The Select Board, Administrative Assistant, and Road Commissioner entered executive session. At 7:42 p.m., upon return to the public, Selectman Pinkowski motioned to exit executive session, Selectman Bixby seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND PAYROLL WARRANTS: All new warrants and warrants previously signed by the designated Select Board member were approved and signed by all Select Board members.

GUEST: There was no guest.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (10 minutes): Ed Baker and Alf Strom-Olsen advised that there would be a meeting on the twelfth for the Highway Committee of Operation and Function.

OLD BUSINESS:

Personnel Policy, Final Draft: Selectman Wilbur motioned to adopt the policy with the updated changes and elected official agreement, Selectman Bixby seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Select Board's Meeting Schedule 2018: Selectman Congdon motioned to accept the schedule with no second meeting in December and the second meeting in May to fall on the 30th, Selectman Bixby seconded, the motion passed unopposed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: There was no report submitted.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S REPORT: The Administrative Assistant had nothing to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY (5 minutes): None.

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS CONCERNS: The Board Chair asked the Administrative Assistant to notify the Sheriff's Department of possible suspicious activity in the West Clarendon Cemetery. Selectman Congdon asked the Road Commissioner if the highway department was prepared for the upcoming snow storm, the Road Commissioner responded that they were. Selectman Congdon also requested that the Road Commissioner be careful when working around power lines. Selectman Wilbur thanked the Road Crew for their work during the last snowfall.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:55 pm, Selectman Congdon motioned to adjourn, Selectman Pinkowski seconded.

SIGNED: _____ Michael Klopchin, Chair /s

SIGNED: _____ Robert Bixby, Clerk/s

These minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Heather Kent, Administrative Assistant, and are scheduled for approval on December 27th, 2017.