

TOWN OF CRAFTSBURY
REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, July 19, 2022
7 PM at Craftsbury Town Hall

Present: Susan Houston, Jim Jones, Bruce Urie | Susan Alexander (LRSWMD), Kris Coville, Penelope Doherty, Seth Hayden, Nathalie Jonas, Brian Machesney, Katherine Sims, Michelle Warren

SELECT BOARD AGENDA

- **Action – Call Meeting to Order**
Jim Jones called the meeting to order at 7 pm.
- **Action – Adjustments/Changes to Agenda**
Susan Houston asked to have two items added under “Other”: a) Sept 10 date b) a concern
- **Action – Approve Minutes**
Bruce Urie motioned to approve the July 5 meeting minutes; Susan Houston seconded. All aye. Motion passed.
- **Discussion – Legislative Update – Katherine Sims**
Representative Katherine Sims stated that since the legislative adjournment, she has been conducting listening tours to hear constituent, town concerns and to provide updates on various initiatives and other endeavors. She discussed passage of the record \$8B state budget, the NEK broadband implementation and expansion, childcare and mental health improvements, climate resilience, the fully funded pre-K through 12 (effective FY25 budget). Calling it an “honor to serve our communities,” she said she’s grateful for everyone’s phone calls/emails, both of which are useful in identifying concerns to take to the State House. Given the more than 2,000 buildings owned by municipalities, the State also will invest \$45M for municipal technical assistance, providing grant funds for town improvements, energy assessments of town buildings that include recommendations: up to \$500K to communities to implement new energy systems, weatherization to help maintain historic buildings owned by municipalities. She addressed [the passage of H. 722 \(2021\) which reapportioned](#) the House of Representatives and the Senate and was enacted as 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 89. She then fielded a Q&A session with the Select Board and those in attendance.
- **Discussion – Solid Waste Needs/ Preferences for Craftsbury Transfer Station**
Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District Supervisor for Craftsbury Penelope Doherty invited LRSWMD Manager Susan Alexander to discuss options and field questions from the Select Board given the upcoming recertification of the Craftsbury Transfer Station. Craftsbury is unique: it is the only facility operated on private land; all others are on town properties. With the recertification due March 2023, “now is the time to start thinking about your future in solid waste and how we can be helpful in whatever direction you choose to go.” One challenge with current site, it cannot be certificated for trash that remains overnight, which, if possible, would/could assist with staffing shortage. “This district has survived for 35 years without changing its borders,” Susan Alexander said. “It has been solid and well-aligned for 35 years.” She explained that the district operates as a “municipality” under charter from legislature: it can write ordinances, tax people, etc. Staffing issues have resulted in some closures, cut in hours. Craftsbury community engagement is

high: calls about dumping, etc. LRSWMD to have conversation with property owner. Craftsbury doesn't have a spot for a larger, secure facility. Select Board to address this issue and get back with LRSWMD by December.

- **Action – Old Home Day Music/Alcohol Decision**

Select Board discussed decision made regarding alcohol at events on the Common. Nathalie Jonas and Kris Coville answered questions about the Old Home Day and WonderArts events. **Bruce motioned to allow the Old Home Day Dance and WonderArts events to move forward with their events with alcohol cash bars, ending at 9 pm; Susan seconded. All ayed. Motion passed.**

- **Action – Community Development Block Planning Grant for Craftsbury Saplings**

Craftsbury Saplings Board Member Seth Hayden discussed relocation plans for [the community children's center](#). Saplings Executive Director Melissa Jacobs was unable to attend. Town support is required for the block grant process. Discussion ensued; huge demand for childcare (wait list); group seeking planning block grant (\$65K), conducting fundraising capital campaigns, other grants, discussions with Craftsbury School Board regarding partnership, assistance of grant work with Town Clerk. **Susan motioned that the Select Board approve the pre-application for the community development block grant for the Craftsbury Saplings; Bruce seconded. No further discussion. All ayed. Motion passed.**

- **Action – Permission to Ask Structural Engineer to Review Two Smaller Garage Sheds for Solar**

Kevin Gregoire was unavailable. No action taken. Topic tabled for further discussion.

- **Action – Basement Insulation Decision**

Kevin Gregoire unavailable; topic tabled for further discussion in lieu of energy grants information provided by Representative Katherine Sims. No action taken.

- **Discussion – ARPA Committee Informational Meeting July 27th – Wednesday**

Craftsbury must – by November 6 – decide on ARPA application form contents; recommendation that Select Board attend the July informational meeting to discuss ideas and application process.

- **Discussion – NEK Communications Union District**

NEK CUD alternates Brian Machesney and Katherine Sims noted a short filing time frame for completing necessary paperwork to make use of the Broadband Preconstruction Grant Program's two-for-one [matching grant opportunity for CUD](#). Paperwork must be filed no later than September 15. Will be used to expand broadband in Craftsbury. What's required: letter of town support/application/signatures. Possible fast-tracking of ARPA cable project funds. [CUD: a non-profit municipal entity](#) establishing broadband in Vermont to two or more underserved or unserved towns; its operations are funded through grants, donations, loans but zero taxes. Vermont is seeking to "incentivize this investment." The complete proposal will include a map of existing and proposed broadband expansion areas.

- **Committee Reports**

- Neighbor to Neighbor – still looking for one more member.
- Conservation Commission – June Cook is resigning from Conservation Commission; Big Tree contest planned; will have float in parade on Old Home Day; Mill Village weed control this Saturday.
- ARPA Working Group – set aside discussion.
- Planning Commission – grant signed for Village Plan; four focus groups planned. Select Board should plan to attend at least one. Upcoming August 6 group planned (August 6 – 9 am). Will be added to next Select Board meeting agenda.

- **Clerk Report**
 - *P&L – over-budget items for this year; small towns running over budgets; must determinate overages to ensure a balanced budget; tax receipts currently above total shown last year at this time
 - *Primary Election – will see how we do; box was put in
 - *Jan-June Budget – reviewed
 - *Gravel and Sand Rate – continue for further information
- **Road Foreman Report**

Road Foreman Steve Marckres is back: hauling sand and gravel, roadside mowing. A FPF notice regarding town roadside mowing to be done by Susan; residents must notify town if if/when they do not want mowing.
- **Other Business & Walk-ins With Business to Come Before the Select Board**
 - **Discussion** – September 10 Date: Susan discussed the tentative date and celebration plans for the Samuel Crafts Canal. A chance to learn a bit about the history of the property, state archeology. Samuel Crafts – was town clerk from 1799 to 1829 and his father, Ebenezer Crafts, founded the town by settling here in 1791 – [dug the canal in the early 19th century](#) to divert water from Heart Pond to Little Hosmer Pond to increase flow to the mill in Mill Village.
 - **Discussion** – Concern: Susan asked whether discussions to discuss emergency, active-shooter plans with the school district should be scheduled. Bruce said the school district is working on drills and emergency plans. Susan said collaboration among the town, schools and law enforcement would assist in providing better protection for community. Discussion ensued.
- **Decide Next Meeting Date & Adjourn**

Next meeting: 7 pm Tuesday, August 2, 2022, at Craftsbury Town Hall. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Victoria Hudson
Select Board Clerk