

**TOWN OF CRAFTSBURY
REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING**

**Tuesday, February 7, 2023
7 PM at Craftsbury Town Hall**

Present: Jim Jones, Bruce Urie, Susan Houston | Trish Allen (reporter with the Chronicle);
Susan Clark (author of *Slow Democracy*); 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

Agenda change: move Susan Clark Discussion to top of agenda items.

- **Action** – Approve Minutes of January 17, 2023 Meeting

Bruce Urie motioned to approve the January 17 meeting minutes as submitted; Susan Houston seconded. All aye. Motion passed.

- **Discussion** – *Slow Democracy* Author Susan Clark – Town Democracy

Ideas for promoting community sustainability and citizen participation in Craftsbury.

- What more can communities do to encourage/promote participation. Hold a couple of gatherings - April or September.
- Have two conversations: first, gathering as many people as diverse as possible: do a presentation on the lay of the land; basics of how town government works - very small beginning piece.
- Next would be polling the people; leading to rich conversations - can also benefit from and avoid the over-use/relying on the face-to-face; some people cannot attend meetings; elitism; fewer voices.

The process involves various steps, e.g., Visioning -- what do I want my town to look like?; a Solutions Committee; College and other group collaborations. Ms. Clark would facilitate. She said Craftsbury is "doing remarkable, ground-breaking work...for a small little town." Discussion of community/individual-identified values, preferences based on benefits of quantity, quality. Governance of work: leadership. From a practical matter, a two-part conversation: timing - too far apart, people forget. Hold two sessions in one month. Having these types of specific conversations is "groundbreaking in Vermont." Possible ideas for the follow-up meetings: a small planning group holding subsequent meetings; how to inform those who typically do not participate about what is being considered? Childcare during meetings? Offer off-site at nearby facility. Benefits of having child/youth involvement: page program promotes interest in town governance early in life. Select Board looking to hold Town Democracy presentation after Town Meeting with the idea of appointing a small planning group for September gatherings.

- **Action** - Approve Animal Control Ordinance
A final draft was circulated. **Bruce motioned to adopt the animal control ordinance as presented; Susan seconded. No further discussion. All ayed. Motion passed.**
- **Discussion** – Update Jeff Montgomery
Painting project – Jeff and Bruce meeting postponed to later this week; will obtain quote then.
- **Discussion** – Annual VTrans Meeting
Bruce will advise of potential dates available after Town Meeting Day. Have four or five forms.
- **Discussion** – Grant Writer Position
Bruce in discussions with Greensboro, which has advertised for a grant writer: if they get good quality candidates, Craftsbury will meet with Greensboro Select Board and screened candidates. Glover still considering. Could be a full-time position shared among three towns. An ad for a full-time position distributed: proposals are due March 2. Ideal to have someone who could research grant opportunities and prepare the related documentation when desired. Various town grants available, aside from the highway grants. Grant writer could also act as project manager.
- **Weight Permits**
 - Bourne’s – Jim signed
 - Gosselin Water Wells – Bruce signed
- **Committee Reports**
 - Recreation Committee* – Seeking a new member; needed.
 - Planning Commission* – February 15 public meeting; 6-6:30 pm at Town Hall. Consultant DuBois & King, Inc. holding public presentation about the Village Plan concepts. Public invited. Overview of the presentation into a sticky-notes ideas generation/sharing.
 - Conservation Commission* – Will advertise on FPF.
 - Energy Committee* – Continued great work in serving people with windows and firewood; lots more logs captured for next year’s firewood project obtained from State Parks. About 24 cords: most of the winter wood that has been saved has gone to people who are requesting it. A little bit remaining. Been very successful; a nice team effort.
 - ARPA Working Group* – Library project/micro grid project moving forward. Craftsbury Historical Society has \$5K for new windows and meeting this week to secure more funding for window project; ARPA money already being used.
 - Neighbor-to-Neighbor Group* – Two members want to renew commitment: three-year terms.
 - Mental Health Group* – Work progressing on obtaining children’s books; subcommittee working on bring up something for Valentine’s Day – rock painting.
 - Antiques & Uniques Committee* – Much appreciation expressed to the volunteers who have stepped up to help ensure this year’s event is a go and a success; now has co-chairs. Reviewing

tents, costs, festival layout map, mobile hotspots for internet/wi-fi, food, music, sponsorship form, antiques list, etc.

- **Clerk Report**

- YTD January 2023 – road grant discussion
- GNF – Good Neighbor Fund account (\$40K+) just heard this week; \$26,447 received (the final payment which was unexpected).
- Delinquent Taxes – not as much received as last year

- **Road Foreman Report**

Plowing when can; sanding when can.

- **Upcoming Projects to Keep on Agenda**

- Triggers for Opening the Emergency Shelter, Providing Assistance, Activating the N2N Group
- Process: Throw Up Class 4, TH 23, Bruce Awaiting Word from VTrans
- VOREC Grant: Upgrade Sterling Trailing; Parking Signage - Gina Campoli to Update (Feb)
- Common Fence Cemetery
- Appreciation Certificates
- Electricity on the Common
- Act 172 Municipalities
- Assessing Spaces and Needs

- **Other Business & Walk-ins that have business to come before the Select Board**

None.

- **Decide Next Meeting Date & Adjourn**

Next meeting scheduled for 7 PM on the fourth (not third) Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at Town Hall. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Victoria Hudson
Select Board Clerk