

TOWN OF CRAFTSBURY

REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023
7PM | CRAFTSBURY TOWN HALL

Present: Susan Houston, Jim Jones, Bruce Urie | Town Clerk Michelle Warren | GUESTS: Ollie Burruss, Gina Campoli, Laura Fox, Amelia Fritz, David Koschak, Bru Mille, Steve Perkins, Linda Ramsdell, Wendy Turnbull

Meeting Agenda

Jim Jones called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

- **Action – Adjustments / Changes to Agenda**

None.

- **Action – Approve Select Board Regular Meeting Minutes of November 7, 2023.**

Susan Houston motioned to approve the November 7 regular meeting minutes; Bruce Urie seconded the motion. No further discussion. **All aye. Motion passed.**

- **Discussion – Freedom and Unity Task Force Report | Wendy Turnbull & Bru Mille**

Two Freedom and Unity Task Force members thanked Town Clerk Michelle Warren for her assistance. Lots learned. Had different expectations: facilitating community discussions around Town meetings vs Australian ballots. Task Force and community discussions revealed more ideas and an energy emerging. Recordings of these meetings available. Task Force role: to generate ideas from Craftsbury residents and bring to Select Board for a collaborative approach going forward. Task Force not here to make recommendations to public. From among the group discussions/survey results: about six topics repeatedly surfaced: need a process for determining which of those to focus on - perhaps create small sub-committees of the task force to explore and execute. High interest in: community volunteerism; exploring the expansion of Select Board; combining a generational training with Select Board as part of civics education and community engagement; Craftsbury Community Month event; Craftsbury Community University - citizens share among community members their skills; Town "Operators Manual"; enhancing/improving Town meetings with additional support from Task Force (child care) to assist / ease burden for Town Clerk, etc. What's next? Report out to the community. Discussion: what can be done; goals statements; quick objectives to work on before next Town Meeting (not much time) but interim steps that can be taken; grant money still available (a bit under \$4500) can be used to assist with mock town meetings, getting more people to attend Town Meeting Day. Australian ballot? Hybrid ballot and Town meeting? Same people who attended the two meetings are the same who come to Town Meeting; again have 100 people making decisions that affect 900+ people. Difficult to go back once go full Australian. Should the Task

Force be maintained? Will discuss later; continue as existing Task Force, review the survey and Town input results, decide as Town Meeting Day nears.

- **Discussion – Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP) | Alison Low**

Postponed until Alison Law can provide information. Linda Ramsdell is interested in relation to housing. Possible day meeting.

- **Discussion – Rural Arts Greenspace | Amelia Fritz**

The Rural Arts Collaborative board seeking to transfer ownership of [Greenspace property](#); acquired the property in January 2016 when known as WonderArts; had quite a different focus for use and purpose: quite a bit of programming for children; a small bus for transportation to summer camps, etc. Was used well. More recent years: community pizza nights. Since COVID, disruption in REACH afterschool program deflated it. Last August, needed someone to take over the afterschool program; created a pilot afterschool program for Craftsbury children. Now have a district contract to run three after-school programs in Craftsbury, Hardwick and Wolcott. Challenge for staff. Spread too thin; unable to spend the time, energy, money on maintaining property and creating creative programming for it. Have approached various groups, including the Saplings, trails/conservation groups. One suggestion: housing use - 12 units - unsuitable for the property to have that many units. Would be ideal if Town bought it. Purchase price-TBD. Discussion: property history (was a gift, originally); summer camp use; boundaries. The Planning Commission states a good time to consider (with Town Plan update). Property under some sort of Wells Fargo Bank community development program. Hope to have a plan by spring. Select Board asked to be kept informed as discussions continue.

- **Action – Right of Way Fire District #2 | Gina Campoli**

Recap of water on the Common discussions; contaminated well. Summer spent drilling holes but found nothing; this year, hit gold - ~ 47 gals/min. Need to connect to pump house. Due diligence requires easements for pipes. Cross Sterling land and Highway 1. Bond/grant requirements include documentation of ownership. Lawyer drafted the Line License. What does Town want? Discussion: water main size, location (primarily all on Sterling property except one small part); hydrant. QUESTION: Can the fire department tap into it? Not known but will find out and get back with Select Board. Line from well to pump house would have lot more water. **Bruce moved to allow the Craftsbury Fire District #2 to lay water line along Town Highway #1; Susan seconded. All aye. Motion passed.**

- **Action – Decide Payment Options for Grader (2023, 4.5% or 4.75%)**

Bruce motioned that the Town finance the grader at 4.5% - Preservation Fund – (\$25K out of Equipment Fund); Jim seconded. No further discussion. All aye. Motion passed.

- **Action – Ice Skating Rink on the Common**

Susie motioned to approve use of the Common for ice skating rink with the caveat that no Fire District #2 water is used until approved by the Fire District; Jim seconded. Discussion: Fire Dept. committed to delivering one load. No further discussion. All aye. Motion passed.

- **Action – Letter of Support: General Store Expansion | Susan Houston**
For records purpose: Susie and/or Bruce signed it (copy attached).
- **Action – Use of Common Permit | December 2**
Already approved for birthday party use; permit signed. Susie will notify permit holder.
- **Discussion – FEMA Update | Bruce Urie**
Contact on vacation past two weeks; damage numbers must be finalized by December 12. Bruce will have for December meeting. Damages numbers will be finalized on the 12th and uploaded to the Town website. Will not include bridge re-building or any mitigation. Discussion: why post to website? Freedom and Unity group link from its webpage? Money shown vs what is actually obtained (what is billed versus what is actually received). Add a caution note: numbers are not definite; subject to FEMA approval (not *free* money but a reimbursement program).
- **Committee Reports**
 - *Energy Committee – Action Item:* Add Bill Day (see bio); awaiting bios for Jamie Milholland and Susan Frey (NOTE: Catherine Cusack, Vince O’Connell, Matt Moody and Paula Davidson all resigned from the Energy Committee.) **Jim motioned to appoint Bill Day to the Energy Committee; Susan seconded. All ayed. Motion passed.**
- **Clerk Report**
 - P&L – copy reviewed. As of today.
- **Taxes Report**
Reported
- **Road Foreman Report**

Rock placements; reset weight limit signage (stand those back up/state signage); equipment functioning.
- **Upcoming Projects to Keep on Agenda**
 - Town Dedication
 - Community Development Position
 - Test Pits at Gravel Pit
 - Triggers for Opening the Emergency Shelter: Providing Assistance, Activating N2N
 - Group Process: Throw Up Class 4, TH 23, Bruce Awaiting Word from VTrans
 - VOREC Grant: Upgrade Sterling Trailing; Parking Signage - Gina Campoli
 - Appreciation Certificates
 - Act 172 Municipalities: Assessing Spaces and Needs

- **Other Business & Walk-ins With Business to Come Before the Select Board**

Unclaimed piece of land (parcel); may have resolution.

- **Decide Next Meeting Date & Adjourn**

Next regular meetings: December 5 and 19. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Victoria Hudson".

Victoria Hudson
Select Board Clerk