

Regular Meeting of the Dorset Select Board

November 19, 2013 ~ Minutes

Present: Chris Brooks (Chairman), Marge Freed, Mike Connors
Absent: Michael Oltedal, Steve Jones
Also, present: R. Gaiotti (Town Manager), Bob Davidson, Kevin O'Toole, Ben Weiss, Kaye Manly, Ellen Maloney, Nancy Faesy, Andy Longacre, Dan Parson, Wendy Parsons, Don Haywood, Jim Mirenda, Clarissa Lennox, John LaVecchia, Chip Ams, Alan Calfee, Stephen Ludlam, Nancy Ludlam, Brent Herrmann, Bill Burns, Bob Gibney, Marilyn Kinney, Marilyn Hand, Walt Gilbert, Art Gilbert, Pam Gilbert

C. Brooks, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

M. Freed moved and M. Connors seconded to move to Executive Session at 6:31 p.m. to discuss contracts and legal matters. Motion carried 3-0. Executive Session ended at 7:20 p.m. with no decisions made.

Approve Minutes of October 15, 2013

M. Connors moved and M. Freed seconded to approve the October 15, 2013 minutes as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

Public Comment

None

Manchester Rescue Squad Update

R. Gaiotti noted that he has been in touch with the Manchester Rescue Squad and received an email from M. Casey answering the Select Board's questions from the previous meeting (email included in SB packet). B. Weiss presented an updated "*Request for Ambulance Funding from Supported Towns*" sheet showing each Town's allocations including Rupert and Pawlet. Dorset's share is 24.6% or \$16,007. It was decided by consensus at the last Select Board meeting (10-15-2013) and confirmed at tonight's meeting to include budgeting of \$35,500 as a line item under services for the Manchester Rescue Squad to be reviewed each year and would not include a yearly increase of 3% automatically.

Public Hearing: Town Forest Expansion

R. Gaiotti showed a Powerpoint presentation regarding the Owl's Head Project. The Town currently owns a 40 acre parcel atop Owl's Head peak which has no protected public access. This project is an opportunity to increase the Town forest, gain public access and protect valuable ecological and recreational assets. Applications will be submitted to the United States Forest Service Community

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cc: Listers, Planning, Zoning, Select Board, Town Clerk, Town Clerk, Foreman, and School Board
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Forest Grant and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (Land Conservation Grant). A fair market value appraisal will be done on the 200 acres. The Town Conservation Commission will develop a comprehensive property management plan to include recreational, as well as forestry aspects. If a Land Conservation Grant is received, a conservation easement would be placed on the property outlining property uses such as forestry management, biking, bird watching, cross country skiing, fishing, hiking, hunting, trapping, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, walking and wildlife observation. ATV use may be restricted to property maintenance and crossing the property to connect to other legal, abutting trails. A map along with historic, ecological and recreational features was presented mentioning the marble quarries (Gettysburg), rare/endangered plants, hiking trails, and Gilbert Lookout. The tax implications were outlined in the presentation and showed that a resident in Dorset owning a residence valued at \$350,000 may see a tax increase of \$0.74.

Questions about current access and parking were asked with R. Gaiotti explaining that access is through upper Black Rock Lane (private road) and parking is a privately owned log clearing. A. Gilbert noted that he personally supports this project and that Jim Gilbert had started working on protecting this area approximately 30 years ago and wanted to also convey his support. S. Ludlam asked what if there was no corridor between the Town owned parcel and the proposed parcel to be purchased. R. Gaiotti noted that a survey can be done and a possible conservation easement obtained. D. Parsons questioned how the purchase would be funded and R. Gaiotti responded that the Town is trying to get grant money and possible fundraising, if necessary. K. O'Toole commented that he has hiked the trails many times and feels that ensuring public access to the area is important as the views are spectacular. C. Brooks asked if you can hike the trails with your dog and R. Gaiotti replied no, if the Nature Conservancy is involved as they do not allow dogs or horses. J. LaVecchia asked if there was access available up Owl's Head Hill Lane and R. Gaiotti said there might be access near Raptor Lane behind J K Adams. D. Green asked if ancient trails have been lost already and R. Gaiotti said that he didn't know, but there are 7-9 miles of trails in Dorset with only a couple of entry points. It was noted that during the Dorset-Peru Forestry study some public access points were suggested that might be done when and if money becomes available. B. Burns asked about riding dirt bikes in the area and R. Gaiotti responded that depending upon the money received, conservation easements may prohibit this type of vehicle, but he would have to check to make sure. B. Burns expressed concern as he has had permission for many years from the current owner to ride his bike there, and would not like to lose this ability. R. Gaiotti stated that it would be important to identify the stakeholders and agree on a management plan for all uses. S. Jones asked who approves the management plan and R. Gaiotti replied that it would be presented at a public hearing and voted on by the Select Board. A. Calfee remarked that the Conservation Commission supports the project and appreciates R. Gaiotti's diligence. He also noted that if someone else purchases the property, it can be posted so that no one would be able to cross the land. R. Gaiotti noted that the procedure would involve agreeing on a contract price with the landowner and filling out grant applications so the proposal would ensue into early/mid-summer. B. Gibney stated, as a resident and realtor, that this type of project makes the Town attractive to tourists and homeowners and the economic impact of the expanded forest is a win-win situation. P. Gilbert commented that 25-30 people show up when A. Gilbert hosts hikes to this historic area. W. Gilbert expressed that he strongly supports this project to preserve the Town forest, trails, historic lookout and the Gettysburg Quarry. K. Manly also

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expressed her support for the project. D. Green asked if there were any down sides to owning the property and R. Gaiotti answered that the Town loses tax money and the land has to be managed. M. Cooper of the Dorset Conservation Commission stated that the Commission members are looking forward to putting together a management plan and helping with this project.

FY15 Budget

- Manchester Rescue Squad ~ decided in paragraph above
- Grand List Preservation ~ preservation of old grand lists (1875-1969) is being planned. Estimated FY15 cost is \$10,000 (1929-1945) with a total cost of \$24,895
- Outside Audit ~ requests for proposals for auditing services to be done
- Speed Sign ~ proposal changed to a portable sign to be moved around Town with AOT permission when needed. These signs supposedly curb speeding by 40% and would be a proactive plan for reducing speeding.
- Truck Replacement ~ the F550 dump/plow truck has reached the end of its useful life and anticipated replacement cost is \$7,500 to \$10,000
- Building Study ~ anticipated cost of \$7,500 to \$10,000 to consult with an architect/engineer regarding Town building ADA deficiencies and research usage of space options
- Town Event ~ discuss possible addition of a budget line item for a Town community event; sharing costs with the Dorset Chamber for one of their four events
- Capital Project ~ cold planing, culverts/drainage, new shoulders/curbing, handicap access for Church Street. Research options for the school walkway access to the back of the school and possibly work with the School on their deficient soccer field
- Within six years, the grader will need to be replaced and thought should be given to adding funds to the budget for this each year.

The Board reviewed the FY15 budget worksheet with mention of health care, audit costs, green space and streets. C. Brooks cautioned that it looks like a decrease in Town taxes for FY15, but there are allocations for new items and they should be looked at seriously as this adds to future years expenditures. R. Gaiotti responded that some of the items are one-time expenditures. C. Brooks mentioned that the Town shed needs maintenance and M. Connors mentioned a salt shed. R. Gaiotti noted that the type of construction needs to be looked at for a salt shed to estimate costs. C. Brooks suggested wood bins. It was suggested to move the SB meeting up one week in December and have a Public Hearing on the budget in January.

Finance Report

R. Gaiotti reported that they were approximately 40% through the year. A kitchen has been added to the middle room of the Town office and fencing and walkway have been done. The reimbursement deadline for summer recreation and the Emerald Lake bill are anticipated and the Dorset School allocation has been done. Also mentioned were the Fire District Dispatch, purchase of salt and winter sand and the new truck arrival.

Manager's Report

- Shoulders and grading completed on Danby Mountain Road
- Assistance for the Dorset school septic work has been completed
- Continued work on the Owl's Head Grant Project
- FY15 Budget
- Dorset Tractor Parade is scheduled for November 29th
- Winter Town newsletter to be issued soon

Approve Payroll and Accounts Payable for the Week of 11/19/2013

It was the consensus of the SB to approve the Payroll and Accounts Payable for the week of 11/19/2013 as presented.

Other Business

1. It was the consensus of the Select Board members to reappoint Dolores Marcotte as Town Health Officer for another term.
2. Suggestions for Town Report dedication are needed.

M. Freed moved and M. Connors seconded to move to Executive Session at 9:15 p.m. to discuss contracts and legal matters. Executive session ended at 10:20 p.m. with no decisions made.

M. Freed moved and M. Connors seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Aversano

Town of Dorset ~ Select Board

Date 11 / 19 / 13

Regular Meeting X

Special Meeting _____

(Please Print)

Testifying

Name	Address	Representing	(Yes or No)
Bob Davidson	314 Village St		No
Kevin O'Toole	PO Box 766 Dorset VT		No
BEN WEISS	154 SPRUCE LN DORSET	MANCH. RESCUE SQUADS	Y?
Hayden Manly	316 Church St Dorset		No
Ellen Maloney	3585 Mad Tom Rd		
Nancy Tussy	3284 Rt 30 Dorset		?
Andy Longacre	2533 Rt. 30 Dorset		No
Dan Pearson	2734 Mad Tom		NO
Wendy Parsons	2734 Mad Tom Rd		NO
Don Hayward	65 Bo/Lin Lane		NO
JIM MIZENIDA	1254 MAD TOM		NO
Cristina Hennoy	226 Lower Hollow	— NO —	No
John Lavecchia	29 Owls Wood Hill Ln So		
Chip Aaga	Box 441 Dorset	CC	NO
Alan Calfee	181 Maple Hill Ln	CC	No
Stephen Ludlam	140 Mad Tom RD		NO
Nancy Ludlam	140 Mad Tom Rd		
Brent Herrmann	746 Squires Rd Dorset		
Billy Burns	198 Steward Ln Dorset		
Bob Gibney	163 Danby Min Rd	Resident	Y?

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NAME	ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	TESTIFYING
MARILYN KINNEY	East Dorset	SELF	NO
Marilyn Hand	1705 Morse Hill Rd.	self	
Walt Gilbert	2279 Dorset West Rd.	self	?