

Regular Meeting of the Dorset Select Board

April 16, 2013 ~ Minutes

Present: Chris Brooks (Chairman), Marge Freed, Mike Connors, Michael Oltedal,
Steve Jones

Absent:

Also, present: R. Gaiotti (Town Manager), Michael Keane (Rail Study), Wendy Rae Woods
(Rail Study)

C. Brooks, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Approve Minutes of March 11, 2013 & March 25, 2013

M. Oltedal moved and M. Freed seconded to approve the March 11, 2013 minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

M. Freed moved and M. Oltedal seconded to approve the March 25, 2013 minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Comment

C. Brooks requested that R. Gaiotti inform D. Wilson about the response received from VTrans about the trees in front of Transtar, Ltd.

Passenger Rail Presentation

Wendy Rae Woods and Michael Keane, representatives of the Southwestern Vermont Rail Corridor Committee (SVRCC), were present to discuss passenger rail service. W. R. Woods commented that they are seeking support to embrace passenger rail service into Southwestern Vermont which will add weight to the application for funding. A two year study researched six alternatives for rail service in Southwestern Vermont and Eastern New York with two current studies for service to Rutland (Schenectady/Mechanicville/Hoosick Junction/N. Bennington/Manchester/Rutland) and re-routing the Ethan Allen line through Hoosick Junction/Bennington/Manchester/Rutland. C. Brooks noted that there are current charges and budgeted charges already, but what additional costs will be needed. M. Keane responded that it is estimated at \$120 million to be covered by Federal and State (Vermont & New York) funds. W. R. Woods stated that some of the benefits will be connecting people and localities, new businesses, business expansions, freight rail improvements, less impact on roads and vehicles, and less gasoline usage. There are many New York City residents who do not own automobiles who would use rail service and this could bring additional revenue to Vermont from tourism. S. Jones asked what determines the number of stops on a rail line and M. Keane responded that engineers determine the stops. Discussion ensued about routes, stopping points, regional approaches, spending money on roadway infrastructures for cars, and comparison to drive times versus rail times. M. Oltedal asked

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cc: Listers, Planning, Zoning, Select Board, Town Clerk, Town Clerk, Foreman, and School Board
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about the effect on Vast trails and and W. R. Woods responded that she did not think it would change the trails. W. R. Woods asked for support in favor of rail transportation giving the information for sending letters (see attached sheet for contact information).

Board Appointments

M. Freed moved and M. Oltedal seconded to re-appoint Bill Breed (PC), Danny Pinsonault (PC), Kay Manly (PC), Bill Bridges (ZBA), Michael Connors (ZBA), Malcolm Cooper (CC), and Alan Calfee (CC) to their respective Town Boards and term limits. The motion also included the re-appointment of David Wilson (ZBA) as long as he agrees to another term. Motion carried 5-0.

Dog License Letter/Update

It was the consensus of the Select Board members to sign the dog warrant allowing R. Downey to pursue the licensing of dogs in Dorset.

R. Gaiotti explained that S. Pinsonault has suggested trying to do a Town survey of dog ownership as many residents have dogs which are not on the Town records. This is a safety issue and should be addressed.

Finance Report

R. Gaiotti reported that the delinquent tax list is under \$300,000 now and is tracking lower than last year. The Select Board legal line item is over budget; a lot of it due to the Kelly Road legal matters. The Recreation fund will be fully spent and the Former Employee Health line item is a little over. C. Brooks asked how this line item will be affected with the new health care program. R. Gaiotti was not sure how it will work as you can only have Medicare insurance when eligible; there will be no more "filler" plans offered. Discussions with the VLCT and J. O'Dea will be needed on this topic. A grant was received to upgrade the radios which shows in the revenues.

Manager's Report

R. Gaiotti reported:

- The paving bids were very competitive with the low bid coming in at \$61 per ton. It should be possible to pave Morse Hill Road in its entirety and, if a grant is received, the upper portion on Danby Mountain Road.
- The Road Crew is working on clean-up for culverts, tree limbs and road aprons/Village areas.
- Documentation has been finalized for the Kelly Road project so that it can move forward and R. Gaiotti will report on the expenses.
- Build-out Study surveys from the PC have been mailed out to all households in Dorset and when compiled, a summary will be given to the SB.
- Consideration will need to be given to replacement of the wooden bridge located in Dorset Hollow within the next 10-12 years. All other bridges are in satisfactory condition.
- Grading of Danby Mountain Road will be done this week in preparation for the Tour of Dragons bike race.

- A ribbon cutting and photo session will be held at Emerald Lake on May 21, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. (to be confirmed)
- An application from Verizon for co-location on the Dorset cell tower has been received.
- The Forestry Service has completed the final assessment for the Dorset-Peru project and work will begin on the trails.
- The Wilson House has generously donated funds for a grill for the playground behind the Town office and for trees for the garden and Church.

Approve Payroll and Accounts Payable for the Week of 5/25/12

It was the consensus of the SB to approve the Payroll and Accounts Payable for the week of 4/16/13 as presented.

Other Business

1. R. Gaiotti will try to schedule with E. Dublois to be present at the May SB meeting.
2. An electronic recycling day will be held on May 4, 2013 at the Dorset School.
3. A hazardous waste recycling day will be held on May 11, 2013 in Arlington.
4. C. Brooks asked R. Gaiotti to follow through on the speed study for Route 30 near Transtar Ltd. R. Gaiotti noted that the State Police are patrolling the area and M. Connors said that, after driving through this stretch of road, he did not believe the speed limit needed to be lowered.

M. Oltedal moved and S. Jones seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Aversano

<p>Town of Dorset ~ Select Board Date <u>4/16/13</u> Regular Meeting <u>X</u> Special Meeting <u> </u></p>			
(Please Print)			Testifying (Yes or No)
Name	Address	Representing	
MICHAEL KEANE	436 MASTESON RD, NBVT	Rail Study	Y
Wanda R. Wood	135 Pine Rd. Dorset	Rail Study	Y

Southwestern Vermont Rail Corridor Committee (SVRCC)

Mission Statement

Southwestern Vermont Rail Corridor Committee is a coalition of citizens and community leaders committed to enabling environmentally sound economic development by restoring passenger rail service to promote sustainable growth, community connections, and increased opportunities for those who reside, work in or visit Southwestern Vermont.

We will inform and educate the public of relevant issues and benefits relating to passenger rail service.

We believe that passenger rail service in Southwestern Vermont is an important means of developing our local economy in a way that embraces our Green Mountain ethic of preserving our environment and supporting Vermonters for generations to come.

Here's What You Can Do To Help:

1. Write your local newspapers expressing your support.
2. Participate in the NY-VT Track 3 Study by attending the public meetings held in 2011-2012.
3. Let your state and federal representatives know you support passenger rail service!

Contact:

U.S.Senators Bernie Sanders & Patrick Leahy:
<http://sanders.senate.gov/comments/>
<http://leahy.senate.gov/contact.cfm>
Congressman Peter Welch:
www.house.gov/formwelch/issue_subscribe.htm
Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin:
GovernorVT@state.vt.us
Local Delegation to Transportation Committees:
rhartwell@leg.state.vt.us - SENATE
tcorcoran@leg.state.vt.us - HOUSE



Email us at:
svrcc2010@gmail.com

AND Check out the
Track 3 Study Progress at:
www.ny-vt-passengerrail.org

Talking Points

1. A national network is being developed and promoted by our federal administration and private business.
2. Rail passenger service is environmentally-friendly, saves scarce fuel and doesn't break your wallet.
3. Vermont has been given priority in developing supporting corridors for improved higher speed rail.
4. Station locations are identified in North Bennington and in Manchester.
5. Avoid highway hassles! Rail passenger service allows you to work while riding or just sit back and relax enroute to your favorite destination.
6. Rail passenger service will help cement a partnership with tourism and commerce and encourage smart economic development.

PLEASE JOIN US
In Making Passenger Rail in
Southwestern Vermont
a Reality Once Again!
802 345 5155