

Regular Meeting of the Dorset Select Board

April 12, 2016 ~ Minutes

Present: Henry Chandler (Chairman), Megan Thorn, Jack Stannard, Liz Ruffa, Tom Smith, R. Gaiotti (Town Manager)

Absent:

Also, present: Sandra Pinsonault, Nancy Faesy, Bill Bridges, Jane Bridges, Adam Danaher, Joan Menson, Robert Menson, Tyler Yandow, John LaVecchia, Linda Sullivan, Allan Sullivan, Arnie Gottlieb, Edward Tanenhaus, Rosalie Fox, Marilyn Kinney, Kit Wallace, Scott Thompson, Brooks Addington, David Wilson, Danny Pinsonault

H. Chandler, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approve Minutes of March 22 and March 29, 2016

M. Thorn moved and J. Stannard seconded to approve the March 22, 2016 minutes as presented. Motion carried 3-0. (L. Ruffa & T. Smith abstained)

M. Thorn moved and J. Stannard seconded to approve the March 29, 2016 minutes as presented. Motion carried 3-0. (L. Ruffa & T. Smith abstained)

H. Chandler welcomed Liz Ruffa and Tom Smith as new members to the Select Board who will be filling the vacant positions until the next Town Meeting in 2017.

Public Comment

D. Pinsonault asked if the Select Board had changed the method for appointing members to the Town Boards and H. Chandler stated that was correct - the expiring and open positions for Town Boards will be advertised and then sitting members and new applicants will be interviewed and appointees nominated by the Select Board. D. Pinsonault expressed that it was difficult to get volunteers to serve on Town Boards and hoped that existing members would not be put off by the new process of being interviewed again.

Board Interviews

- Dave Wilson ~ ZBA ~ has been on the ZBA Board for 12-15 years and knows the Zoning Bylaws (ZBL). He feels that the ZBA Board is a diversified group who enforces the ZBL's for the applications that come before them.
- Bill Bridges ~ ZBA ~ has served on the ZBA Board for approximately 20 years and noted that the Board enforces the ZBL's as written. He noted that the Board has evolved slowly over the years and currently has a diverse group of volunteers who have different opinions, but usually can reach consensus on the issues before them. H. Chandler asked his opinion on creating a Development Review Board and B. Bridges responded that he sees advantages both ways.

- John LaVecchia ~ BCRC ~ spoke about what a tremendous asset the BCRC is to the Town with all their assistance in giving Towns a greater voice and with planning issues. Their services are invaluable and he felt it was important to have representatives attending their meetings.
- Arnie Gottlieb ~ DRB ~ is a relatively new resident of Dorset and was recruited by K. Wallace to serve on the Design Review Board (DRB). He has a lifelong affinity for art and architecture and felt it was important to maintain Dorset's Historic District. As an attorney, he felt he could offer his help with the updating of the District's ZBL's.

Review Board Appointments

- Brent Herrmann ~ PC ~ has served on the PC Board for eight years. H. Chandler thanked him for his service and asked him what he perceived as the strengths and weaknesses of Dorset. B. Herrmann replied that the PC was a good mix of people and felt one of the weaknesses was the disconnection between the two sides of Dorset. He felt that the Board is working on trying to resolve this and mentioned that the strength in Dorset could be its young people who want to continue to move the Town forward. M. Thorn asked if he thought J. Sullivan of the BCRC was helpful and B. Herrmann responded yes, very helpful. H. Chandler wanted to know what opportunities could be accomplished in the next four years and B. Herrmann hoped to continue working on the goals that the PC Board have been working on.
- Adam Danaher ~ PC ~ explained that his original application was for a position on the PC Board, but at that time, the position was filled and he was recommended to the ZBA. He has been involved with Town proceedings, but has not actually served on any municipal boards. H. Chandler asked what the important values of Dorset were and A. Danaher said that Dorset was a classical, rural Vermont small town which has been maintained and is not depressed. M. Thorn asked what he perceived as weaknesses in Dorset and if he could be objective. A. Danaher commented that the segregation between Dorset and East Dorset and possible school consolidations could be seen as weaknesses. He noted that he could be objective. T. Smith asked how the Town could make it easier for businesses in Dorset and A. Danaher replied that the biggest obstacle for businesses is hiring skilled labor and the lack of knowledge by people that businesses exist in Dorset. He added that lack of affordable housing for working class people was also a problem.
- Kit Wallace ~ PC ~ H. Chandler asked how her Pennsylvania background in large scale planning would work in a small town like Dorset and K. Wallace answered that her background was not that large scaled as it was project based – collecting data to understand the plan/project by identifying, analyzing and developing appropriate methods to handle the task. In answer to H. Chandler's question about Dorset values, K. Wallace explained that Dorset was the quintessential small town of Vermont with identifiable history, stunning landscapes, a strong Town Plan and ZBL's. Other values mentioned were the Dorset businesses and the Dorset School. It is a balance to preserve and change as circumstances vary. K. Wallace mentioned public safety (police, fire, water) along with affordable housing as some of the weaknesses. She felt there was an opportunity to work on the rift between people in the community.

- Scott Thompson ~ PC ~ is a local builder in Dorset who employs six people and specializes in residential construction and custom cabinetry. At his wife's urging and after a comment by his son about wanting to take over his business in the future, he felt he should volunteer to be on the PC to help with the future of the Town. He is a BBA mountain bike team coach and involved with the Humphrey Trail for mountain biking in Dorset. In answer to M. Thorn's question about objectivity, Scott felt he could be objective as he has to do so in his business all the time.

R. Menson requested that the SB consider making a regulation that any Town board members should be required to be Dorset residents. H. Chandler responded that it is statutorily allowed to have someone from out of town serve on certain Town boards and he wasn't sure that the Town could supersede the State. R. Gaiotti noted that there currently were no non-resident board members.

T. Smith moved and M. Thorn seconded to make the following appointments for the Dorset Town Boards:

Planning Commission (4 year term): Brent Herrmann, Adam Danaher, Kit Wallace & Scott Thompson

Design Review Board (3 year term): Arnie Gottlieb

Zoning Board of Adjustment (3 year term): Dave Wilson & Bill Bridges

BCRC Representative: (2 year term): John LaVecchia

Motion carried 5-0.

J. Stannard asked if each position on the PC Board was advertised and R. Gaiotti responded yes, all positions were advertised and H. Chandler noted that the notice was included in the SB packet.

Re-Adopt 2016 Local Emergency Operations Plan

R. Gaiotti explained the purpose of the local emergency operations plan to the Board. J. Stannard noted that in a 1973 flood anyone was allowed to do stream restoration and he hoped that current standards would require an expert to do so. R. Gaiotti noted that in emergency situations and for the safety of people, there is some flexibility for repairs. L. Ruffa asked if Dorset School, as the emergency shelter, is occasionally checked for readiness and R. Gaiotti responded yes, there are generator checks. M. Thorn moved and J. Stannard seconded to accept the Town of Dorset Local Emergency Operations Plan as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Finance Report

R. Gaiotti reported that the delinquent tax balance is \$368,688 as of April 12th and there are three possible properties which can go to tax sale. T. Smith asked what was the amount due for the

three properties in relationship to the total balance due and R. Gaiotti replied approximately one-third. The last property tax sale in Dorset was in 2008.

The Town is approximately 79% through the fiscal year with 76% expended. It was pointed out that this has been a “soft” winter leaving some money in the highway line items; that the administrative position is running over budget due to the change in personnel and zoning income has increased. It was the consensus of the SB members to accept the Finance Report as presented.

Manager’s Report

R. Gaiotti reviewed the April 12th Manager’s report mentioning:

- Highway: Ditching, cleaning, culverts, potholes, tree work, sweeping, road/storm events
- Dorset Water District ~ help to streamline grant application for asset management program.
- NED (Northshire Economic Development) – meeting on April 7th to review what Towns can accomplish together and alone with BCRC & BCIC input. T. Smith asked if minutes of the meetings were available and R. Gaiotti stated that he would post Bill Colvin’s information to the Town web site.
- Dorset marble sidewalk curbing project will start soon with excavation and jack-hammering. J. Stannard asked when East Dorset is scheduled for marble sidewalk renovation and R. Gaiotti responded that it was the goal of DMPA to do a section there next summer.
- The spring newsletter is in progress.
- A June 8th workshop planned by Nancy Faesy, the BCRC and the PC is scheduled to be held at the Dorset Playhouse from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. for a presentation by Julie Campoli.

Select Board working items (priorities and goals):

- **Public Safety & Water** ~ recommendations were given after the Dorset-Manchester Public Safety Study was performed regarding Public Safety (Police, Fire, EMS) and water services. T. Smith asked if there were minutes available from the East Dorset Prudential/Fire District as he has read the Dorset Prudential/Fire minutes on the Town web page. He thought it would be helpful to read the minutes to understand the mechanics of what is happening. J. Stannard offered to call T. Smith and S. Pinsonault replied that the East Dorset meetings were very quick and they have already made the changes necessary to the ZBL, but are waiting for the Dorset District to make their changes. J. Stannard commented that he thought this was done two weeks ago, but it was tabled. D. Pinsonault explained that the suggestion from the Dorset District was to submit both District’s budgets to the Town and have the Town equalize the amounts. He felt that this would tax East Dorset residents twice. R. Gaiotti explained the VLCT study to combine both Districts’ rates and contract with the Town. H. Chandler noted that if the Dorset District voted in to contract with an entity, they could contract with any entity and he was surprised they haven’t done this already. R. Gaiotti is helping with grant information for the Dorset Prudential Committee.

- **Policing & EMS** ~ Discussion ensued regarding police and EMS with R. Gaiotti explaining the options. S. Pinsonault mentioned that it was mentioned at the VLCT meeting that there is consideration of a bill for the legislature that would require a Town to have its own police department when it reaches a certain population. H. Chandler said that he wasn't sure he wanted to wait until the Prudential Committees finished their work before addressing law enforcement issues in Dorset. M. Thorn thought it would be helpful to see the Sheriff's proposal and T. Smith asked which option – State Police, Bennington Sheriff or Manchester Police – had the most merit. S. Pinsonault said that policing in Dorset changed after the death of Tom Marcotte (Bennington Sheriff's Dept.) as he lived in Town and was always patrolling all areas.
- **Economy & General Services** ~ R. Gaiotti mentioned that the Northshire Economic Development Study is available on the Town web site and that the appropriation from Manchester for the Partnership (former Manchester Chamber of Commerce) was denied. Also, the Manchester Chamber of Commerce declared bankruptcy today. L. Ruffa thought that the businesses in Dorset should have a physical place in Dorset to promote their businesses. T. Smith felt that the Gettysburg Quarry will be a huge plus for the economy and that Dorset shouldn't wait for things to fall into place, but keep momentum moving forward to help the community. H. Chandler noted that if Humphrey's Trail is a destination, then Gilbert Lookout will be too. R. Gaiotti commented that it was possible to use natural resources to bring people to the area. T. Smith stated that using a web page to list what is available to do in Dorset would be helpful advertising and promotion. M. Thorn said that the Dorset Chamber of Commerce has a nice web page and it would be nice to link web sites and even have an extra one listing trails, quarries, golf courses businesses, etc. - "Destination Dorset" – focusing on the quality of life in Dorset. R. Fox suggested having a gathering of volunteer marketing professionals, social networking professionals and the Dorset Chamber to brainstorm for economic development. H. Chandler asked if it was appropriate for the SB to promote or be involved with the Chamber and R. Fox responded that, if the SB was concerned for the revenue portion of the Town, then it would be reasonable to do so. T. Smith noted that it might be beneficial to have the Dorset Chamber try to fill the void. The lack of growth in the grand list was mentioned by R. Gaiotti who cautioned that if it changes dramatically for the worse, the Town will have to plan accordingly.
- **Public Works & Infrastructure** ~ a list of highway projects was provided along with planning for a new salt shed.
- **Planning & Zoning** ~ the BCRC will be reviewing the ZBL's for inconsistencies and also working with the DRB for updating their Historic District criteria. E. Tanenhaus questioned whether more stringent sanctions and higher penalties could be put in place for zoning violations as he felt there was no way to enforce the ZBL's. H. Chandler replied that there are penalties and fines set by the State and it was the ZA's job to enforce the regulations. It was the consensus of the SB members to pass along E. Tanenhaus' suggestion of increasing fines/penalties for ZBL infractions to the PC for their consideration. H. Chandler asked about the PC looking at 20% slope and lot size and R. Gaiotti responded that the discussion started after the NEDS meeting as there was discussion of needing affordable, workforce housing which is median plus income levels

such as teachers and nurses. When jobs are available in the area, mid-ranged priced housing is not available for people to live locally. A discussion followed covering the difference between professional workforce housing and affordable housing which is income sensitive.

Approve Payroll and Accounts Payable for the Week of 4/12/16

It was the consensus of the SB to approve the Payroll and Accounts Payable for the week of 4/12/16 as presented.

Other Business

- M. Thorn moved and T. Smith seconded to approve the driveway access permit dated March 16, 2016 for Charles Mauro, 1741 Upper Hollow Road, Dorset, VT as submitted to the Zoning Administrator. Motion carried 5-0.
- M. Thorn moved and J. Stannard seconded to recess as the Select Board and convene as the Liquor Control Board at 9:40 p.m. Motion carried 5-0. It was the consensus of the Select Board members to sign the liquor permit for the Inn at Westview Farm. M. Thorn moved and T. Smith seconded to adjourn as the Liquor Control Board and reconvene as the Select Board at 9:45 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.
- R. Fox suggested that, in light of the recent appointment changes in all the Town Boards, the SB may want to consider interviewing different lawyers for the position of Town attorney to assure that the Town has the best, similar in nature to the practice of selecting outside auditors. H. Chandler requested the topic be put on next month's agenda. S. Pinsonault explained the history of the Town auditors to the SB noting that the three positions had not been filled in many years and the Town has professional auditors for the financials. R. Gaiotti said that Mudgett was still under contract for one year and that an RFP would be done in November-December for the auditing contract.
- M. Thorn requested that microphones be placed on the table and it was the consensus of the SB to have GNAT supply table microphones.
- It was the consensus of the SB to have name tags created to be worn at the meetings.

T. Smith moved and M. Thorn seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Aversano

Town of Dorset ~ Select Board

Date 4/12/16
 Regular Meeting X
 Special Meeting —

(Please Print)

Name	Address	Representing	Testifying (Yes or No)
Sandra Pinsonault	1605 VT RTE 7	self	Yes
Marcy Paesop	3284 VT Rts 7	self	NO
Bill Budge	787 Box 763	self	yes
Jane Bridges	P.O. Box 763	self	No
Adam Danaher	91 Snow Rd.	self	no
JOAN MENSON	1131 RT 30	"	—
ROBERT MENSON	"	"	NO
Tyler Yandow	126 DORSET HOLLOW	Town	YES
John Lavechia	P.O. Box 172	self	Yes
Linda Sullivan	933 McNamee Trl	self	NO
Allan Sullivan	932 McNamara Road	Self	NO
Arnie Gougeon	P.O. Box 531	SELF	?
EDWARD TANENHAUS	P.O. Box 816	Self	?
Kosalia Fox	POB 1011 Dorset	Self	No
Thomas Kuntzer	312 LUSK RD	SELF	no
Kit Wallace	2173 Upper Hollow Rd	self	Yes
Scott Thompson	35 Scallop Dr.	Self.	Yes
Brooks Adlington	R Box 1008	PC	N
Dan D. Miller	Box 96 Dorset	ZOA	yes
Danny Pinsonault	Box 6 E Dorset vt	me	