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Town of Huntington Selectboard Meeting

Monday, October 16, 2017

6:30 pm –Selectboard Public Input & Regular Meeting, Community Church Annex

APPROVED MINUTES

<p>Agenda</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentation & Public Comment on Friends of Gillett Pond and Richmond Land Trust Application for Conservation Funds ● Public Comment ● Aegis Renewable Energy Solar Project ● Highway: Driveway Application; Water Quality Meeting; Municipal Roads General Permit Meeting; Project, Budget & Grant Updates; Other/New Business ● Administration & Finance: Warrants; Minutes; Correspondence & communications; Upcoming calendar; FY 2017-2018 Q1 Budget Status; Other /New Business ● HR Sub-Committee: Personnel Policies & Procedures Manual review
<p>Selectboard Attendees Selectboard Absent: Staff Present Others Present</p>	<p>Dori Barton (Chair), Andrew Hendrickson, Roman Livak, Nancy Stoddard Dan Rissacher Barbara Elliott (Town Administrator) Patty Beaupre, Nils Behn, Jere Berger, Ruth Blodgett, Terry Boyle, Jeanine Carr, Ryan Elliott, Alison Forrest, Dan Goodyear, Barrett Grimm, Adam Haskins, Marc Heath, Lucinda Hill, Wally Jenkins, Duncan Keir, Megs Keir, Paula Kelley, Jenna Koloski, Kathie Kretzer, Ken Kretzer, Tristan Leggett, Brett Lindemuth, Bronwyn Low, Sheri Lynn, Aimee Motta, Ross Ogilvie, Wright Preston, Heidi Racht, Judy Rosovsky, Rebecca Ryan, Jeannette Segale, Joe Segale, Casey Severance, Mark Smith, Barb Winters, Aaron Worthley, Rob Zimmerman</p>
<p>Call to Order</p>	<p>Dori Barton called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm.</p>
<p><i>PUBLIC INPUT MEETING PORTION OF THE SELECTBOARD'S AGENDA</i> <i>Friends of Gillett Pond (FoGP)/Richmond Land Trust (RLT) Application for Conservation Funds</i> <i>to help support the replacement of the Gillett Pond Dam</i></p>	
<p>Public Input Agenda Item: Welcome & Opening Remarks</p>	<p><u>WELCOME & PROCESS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Barton welcomed attendees, introduced Selectboard members and presented the process flow for the public input agenda item. ● Barton stated the Selectboard will vote on the application and funding

	<p>amount at the Board’s 11/06 meeting. The Selectboard will receive written public comment through Wednesday, October 25, however public comment will not be entertained regarding this agenda item during the 11/06 Selectboard meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies of the FoGP & RLT application for conservations funds to help support the cost of replacing the Gillett Pond dam, Criteria for Use of the Conservation Fund, and a one-page brief history of the Conservation Fund were made available to attendees. • The Huntington Conservation Commission (HCC) supported the Gillett Pond project and application, however they recommended funding \$50,000 rather than the full \$100,000 requested. <p><u>QUESTION OF POSSIBLE CONFLICT OF INTEREST</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elliott stated that concern was raised regarding a possible perception of Conflict of Interest for 2 Selectboard members, and response she contacted a Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) staff attorney. VLCT raised no specific red flags regarding the members’ connections to FoGP, however they recommended those connections be disclosed. • Elliott outlined for attendees that up until 2 years ago Stoddard was an active participant in the ad-hoc FoGP effort, but she had not been active with the group for the past 2 years; and that while Barton is not a member of the FoGP ad-hoc group her husband, Aaron Worthley, has been an active participant. • Elliott asked if any attendees had a concern regarding conflict of interest regarding either Stoddard or Barton. No attendees expressed concern.
<p>Presentation by Friends of Gillett Pond (FoGP) on their Application for Conservation Funds</p>	<p><u>PRESENTATION:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rob Zimmerman, project lead for FoGP and Aaron Worthley, an active participant in the effort, presented a history and historical timeline of Gillett Pond; the State’s mandate that the dam must either be torn down completely or replaced; the coming together of community members interested in saving the pond by raising funds to purchase the land on which the dam sits and to rebuild the dam itself; and logic for their request for \$100,000 in Huntington Conservation Funds. • This presentation can be viewed at http://gillettpond.org/hcf. • The total dam replacement project will cost \$700,000. The Richmond Conservation Commission has allocated \$150,000 to the project. • Their response to points of concern raised by HCC included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leveraging of funds: Based on input from conservation project fundraisers, FoGP can expect to leverage approximately 3-5 times the amount of funds received from the Conservation Fund. If \$50,000 is allocated, then FoGP will have to leverage the funds 14 times, instead of 7.5 times if the full \$100,000 is allocated. ○ What if the dam is not fixed: If the dam is not completely replaced, it must be removed. The State has not issued a deadline but this is

	<p>a time sensitive project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What if another project, such as a more accessible Town Forest, arises: There will still be over \$100,000 in the fund, with \$16,000 more added each year. Those funds can also be leveraged. ○ The dam is not located in Huntington: Voters at the 2015 Town Meeting passed an article stating that Conservation Funds can be used for Gillett Pond projects, even if those specific projects are not located in Huntington.
<p>Status of Conservation Funds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elliott updated attendees on the status of Conservation Fund (as prepared by the Town Treasurer): \$224,427.72 – balance as of October 16 <u>- 23,500.00 – promised for Town Hall grant matching funds</u> \$200,927.72 – remaining funds available <u>+ 12,000.00 – balance due from General Fund this Fiscal Year</u> \$212,927.72 – anticipated balance, without interest accumulation, if no projects are funded this fiscal year
<p>Written Comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elliott distributed copies to Selectboard members of all written comments that had been submitted regarding the FoGP/RLT application. She also summarized those comments for the meeting attendees. Those submitting comments were: Maggie Mae Anderson, Jennifer Esser, Helen Keith, Brett Lindemuth, Melinda Moulton, Rick Moulton, Seidl-Goodyear Family (Amy, Dan, Celia & Helen), Margaret Taft, and Cheryl & Ben Willoughby. ● Comments included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Apprehension and caution about the project based on concerns about: the dam’s negative impact on water quality and wildlife management; the dam being outside of Huntington; the precedent that might be set by funding a project outside of Huntington; whether the contribution will actually leverage additional funds (as opposed to hoping it will leverage funds); the high cost of the project itself; why FoGP selected the particular engineering firm they used; whether the project was put out to bid; and that no single project should take such a large portion of the fund’s resources. ○ Does not support the project and no funds should be expended. ○ Does not support the project and thinks if it is funded, a smaller amount of money would be more acceptable. ○ Appreciation for the project: 4-season day & nighttime community recreational opportunities; variety of activities the pond offers; easy accessibility because the road runs alongside the pond; scenic beauty; opportunities for wildlife viewing; proximity to Huntington; it is the only flat water located within 25 minutes of Huntington; and the project’s alignment with the original intent and current criteria for use of Conservation

	<p>Funds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support for the application with no dollar amount specified. ○ Support for the full \$100,000 requested by FoGP/RLT.
<p>Public Input on FoGP/RLT Conservation Fund Application</p>	<p><u>A summary of points raised in oral comments at the meeting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Apprehension/caution about the project based on concerns about: who would own the project and be responsible for liability (answer was RLT would own at a liability cost of about \$285/year); the pond not being a natural resource because it is created by a man-made dam; would a flat dam rather than a weir be more cost effective and truer to the original dam; what happens to the money if the dam isn't built (it gets returned to the Town); the river should be returned to its natural river state; dams are dated technology and we are in a new era of dam removal because it restores rivers and is an effective way to save taxpayer money, revitalize communities & help the environment; Johns Brook is in an artificially-induced, semi-permanent state of hyper-flooding; it would be better to restore Johns Brook to its freest, healthiest, and most natural state. ○ Does not support project and no funds should be expended. ○ Does not support project and thinks if it is funded, a smaller amount of money would be more acceptable. ○ Appreciation of the project: the recreational opportunities; the history of the dam; that the dam is in Richmond so they can be responsible for the upkeep; it is a great recreational and health opportunity for kids and those who may have physical limitations; community collaboration between Richmond and Huntington; simplicity of the opportunities it offers; proximity to Huntington; educational activities that occur at the pond for Huntington students; that there are no power boats on the pond which makes it perfect for canoeing and kayaking; while there are many opportunities to explore woods and forests in Huntington the pond is the only flat water around; there are many trails in Huntington such as Catamount, CHNSA, and Audubon; that spending \$100,000 still leaves \$112,000 for a forest or other conservation project; timeliness and time constraint (need to act now to save the pond); there are fewer funding opportunities for ponds and lakes while there are many more opportunities for trails and biking; that the location issue of being outside Huntington was resolved at the 2015 Town Meeting; it's a valuable scenic resource; it offers a great natural science opportunity; it's a great place for fostering community—seeing people you know and meeting new people. ○ Goals: would like to see the Town sponsor a regatta and swimming lessons; have the town explore energy potential of the dam such as micro-hydro opportunities; if the pond is kept a

	<p>pond through Conservation Funds, the Town needs to implement more formal recreational uses of the resource (for all people regardless of income).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support for the application with no dollar amount specified. ○ Support for the application and thinks the HCC recommendation of \$50,000 should be awarded. ○ Support for the application and believes a compromise of \$75,000 would be more appropriate, especially because Richmond's population count is twice that of Huntington and they are contributing \$150,000 from the Richmond Conservation Fund. ○ Support for the full \$100,000 requested by FoGP/RLT.
<p>Conservation Fund Application Next Steps</p> <p><i>Follow-up: Elliott to put out FPF notice on written comments</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Barton reiterated that written public comments will be accepted through Wednesday October 25. Elliott will put an announcement on Front Porch Forum about how to submit written comments. ● The Selectboard will receive a packet of all written comments on Thursday October 26 so that members have an opportunity to fully consider every comment. ● The Selectboard will vote on the application and application amount at their Monday, November 6 meeting – however the Selectboard will not be entertaining public comment on this item at that time.
<p>REGULAR/STANDARD PORTION OF THE SELECTBOARD'S AGENDA</p>	
<p>Public Comment <i>(on issues other than the Conservation Fund application)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No members of the public offered public comment (other than comments shared as reported above).
<p>Aegis Renewable Energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nils Behn, Aegis CEO & President, located in Waitsfield, gave an overview of his company's solar project in Vermont Electric Coop (VEC) territory. VEC municipal/large business customers are eligible to save 10% on electricity costs. Our municipal buildings are on Green Mountain Power. Huntington Energy Committee (HEC) Chair Ross Ogilvie was in attendance and asked Behn if there would be a possibility for Aegis to explore opportunities for a project in GMP territory with HEC. Behn and Ogilvie will set up a meeting.
<p>Highway</p> <p>MOTION – DELFRATE RD DRIVEWAY PERMIT <i>(passed)</i></p>	<p><u>Driveway Application – Delfrate Road</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elliott requested the Selectboard consider the driveway application submitted by Adam Haskins for a driveway cut on Delfrate Road pending agreement by the Fire Chief and Road Foreman. ● MOTION – DRIVEWAY APPLICATION: Livak moved and Stoddard seconded to approve Adam Haskins' driveway permit application pending the Fire Chief's and Road Foreman's approval. Passed unanimously with 4 members present and voting.

<p>Follow-up: Elliott to contact HCC</p> <p>MOTION – LETTER OF COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT MRGP (passed)</p>	<p><u>Water Quality Public Meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barton, Stoddard and Elliott attended a 10/3/17 public meeting on water quality issues sponsored by the HCC. CCRPC (Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission) and DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) representatives were on hand to gather public input about local water quality issues. They are looking for potential water quality projects and opportunities for workshops. One idea floated was the possibility of offering workshops on how to take care of your driveway in ways that will protect water quality. Elliott will contact HCC to ask if they are taking the lead on following up on the ideas discussed. <p><u>Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barton and Elliott attended a 10/10/17 workshop by DEC MRGP project manager Jim Ryan regarding the upcoming permit requirements. Elliott distributed a summary of the draft MRGP and implementation timeline. Road Foreman Alger will be attending the workshop on 10/17/17. Elliott reported that CCRPC has prepared comments regarding the draft permit to submit to DEC prior to their 10/27/17 public comment deadline. Concerns raised in the letter have been vetted by CCRPC groups: Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC), Executive Committee, and Board of Commissioners. Elliott prepared a draft letter for Selectboard consideration, endorsing the CCRPC comments and stressing concern regarding the \$2,000 annual permit fee; the requirement that all “Very High Priority Road Segments” be brought up to standard within 5 years, yet the Town has not had an opportunity to analyze our inventory status; and concern regarding establishing a minimum number of segments to bring up to standard each year, yet the Town has not had an opportunity to develop an implementation plan and therefore is unable to determine if this requirement will allow the Town to address the segments with the greatest problems in priority order. MOTION – MRGP COMMENTS TO DEC: Stoddard moved and Hendrickson seconded that the Selectboard approve and sign the letter as presented regarding public comment on the draft MRGP. Passed unanimously with 4 members present and voting.
<p>Administration & Finance</p> <p>MOTION – MINUTES (passed)</p>	<p><u>Warrants</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 warrants, as presented, were signed by the members present. <p><u>Minutes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOTION – MINUTES: Stoddard moved and Hendrickson seconded to approve the revised draft minutes for the 9/25/2017 Selectboard meeting as presented and the draft minutes for the 10/02/2017 Selectboard meeting as presented. Passed with 3 members voting in favor and one abstention (Livak).

	<p><u>Correspondence & Communications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Notice of Reservation of Rights:</u> Elliott reported that VLCT has issued the Town notice of a potential reservation of rights for pending Economou Road litigation, based on a new motion filed by the plaintiff. The Court has yet to determine if the motion will be considered. VLCT will continue to pay the legal fees associated with the suit, but cautioned the Town that should a judgement be made for injunctive relief or eminent domain, liability may not be covered by our policy. <p><u>Upcoming Calendar</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fri. 10/20: Entire Camels Hump Road corridor is officially 25 mph • Wed. 10/25: Deadline for the public to submit written comment on the Conservation Fund application submitted by FoGP/RLT. • Sat. 11/4 @8:30am: Selectboard Budgeting & Strategic Planning • Mon. 11/6 @ 6:30pm: Public Hearing on Town Plan map amendments, followed by a Selectboard Meeting • Mon. 11/20 @ 7pm: Selectboard Meeting • Mon. 12/4 @ 7pm: Selectboard Meeting • Mon. 12/18 @ 6:30pm: Public Hearing on the Land Use Regulations (combining the Zoning, Subdivision & Flood Hazard Regulations into one comprehensive document), followed by a Selectboard Meeting <p><u>FY 2017-2018 Q1 (first quarter) Budget Status Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elliott presented a summary of the Q1 revenue and expense status. She noted that the Town Treasurer uploads new budget status reports on the Town website after each Selectboard meeting.
<p>HR Subcommittee</p> <p><i>Follow-up: Elliott to update Personnel Policy Manual with SB comments</i></p>	<p><u>Personnel Policies & Procedures Manual Review</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Selectboard completed the review of the current manual. • Elliott will incorporate the Selectboard’s comments into an updated draft. VLCT has offered to review the manual after the Selectboard/HR Subcommittee reviews the final draft, and Town Auditor Lucinda Hill has also volunteered to work with HR Subcommittee Chair Stoddard.
<p>MOTION: ADJOURNMENT <i>(passed)</i></p>	<p><u>MOTION:</u> Livak moved and Stoddard seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 pm. Passed unanimously with 4 members present and voting.</p>
	<p>10/16/17– Meeting date 10/19/17 – Draft/unapproved minutes distributed and posted on website. 11/06/17 – Final/approved minutes approved 11/09/17 – Approved minutes to Town Clerk for recording & web posting</p>