

**Selectboard Meeting**  
**October 26, 2016 – 7:00 pm**  
**Town Hall Building, Huntington Center**  
**UNAPPROVED**

Present:

- Selectboard Members: Dori Barton, Andrew Hendrickson, Chris Norton, Roman Livak
- Please see separate sign-in sheet, which lists the 46 individuals, representing 21 committees, departments, offices etc., plus State Senators Claire Ayer and Representative Theresa Wood.

The event began at 7:00 pm.

**Welcome & Introductions**

- Selectboard Chair Dori Barton thanked everyone in attendance – and recognized all the hard work of the Town’s board, committee and commission volunteers, providers of various services for members of the community, and employees.
- Barton introduced the Selectboard and State legislators in attendance. While Selectboard members served an appreciation dessert to attendees, Barton summarized highlights submitted by a handful of committees, commissions, boards, departments and individual Town Officials. The Selectboard also held special prize drawings to recognize teams, individual contributors, and attendees.

**Highlights from the past year**

**Cemetery Trustees – Cemetery Advisor: Spencer Hill**

- The Cemetery Trustees believed the previous new cemetery section at the top of the hill would last forever – however it’s already sold out. As a result, the Trustees and Cemetery Advisor have laid out 2 new sections, one for cremations and one for burials, with plots which are now for sale.

**Conservation Commission – Co-Chairs: Sherri Lynn & Rebecca Ryan**

- Stormwater Efforts:
  - The Huntington Conservation Commission worked to obtain a grant for \$10,000 to design a project to prevent stormwater pollutants from entering the Huntington River at the site of the Town Garage. HCC partnered with the Friends of the Winooski and town officials/employees on the grant.
  - The Selectboard has approved the plan and HCC is in the process of applying for a grant to implement the project. The project will consist of swales to absorb pollutants and disperse the stormwater instead of allowing it to enter the river directly.
  - Vermont is working to clean up the waters entering Lake Champlain by providing funding for projects that will aid the cleanup effort. All towns are asked to monitor stormwater and identify sources of pollutants in our watersheds that eventually lead to Lake Champlain. HCC members are proud that Huntington is doing our part to improve water quality in the Winooski watershed.
- Town Forest Planning:
  - HCC held a public forum attended by 20 community members on April 28th to begin discussion on the future of the Huntington Town Forest. In early November, HCC will collect views about the future of the town forest through a brief web survey. Hard copies of the survey will be available in locations like the town offices, library and Beaudry’s. The HCC will look at all responses and make recommendations based on this public input to the Selectboard for further consideration.
  - The impetus for opening discussions about the town forest came about for several reasons. First, the (HCC) worked last year with local and state cross country ski associations to improve access in the winter to the forest – including an easement through the forest for Catamount Trail Association. Second, the HCC learned about other land parcels that offered multiple uses for the community from conservation to recreation. Lastly, HCC was approached by an adjacent landowner interested in purchasing the town forest property from the town. The public forum indicated that people for the most part value the Huntington town forest for its conservation use.

### **Development Review Board (DRB) – Chair: Joe Perella**

- The DRB has been busy this year with subdivisions, variances and condition use hearings. The group has been meeting at least monthly and feels fortunate that members continue to sign up for additional terms even though the workload increased dramatically from when they operated under the old “Zoning Board of Adjustment” model. This new planning model has enabled the Planning Commission to focus more on actual planning.

### **Energy Committee – Chair: Ross Ogilvie**

- June 2016: Solar presentation – Building Energy, Suncommon & a local company to speak about solar installs and CSA programs and VEC to discuss community group net metered projects.
- March 2016: Sponsored the PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) informational meeting in February and the article at Town Meeting to make it possible for Huntington to join this affordable loan program for installing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. By becoming a PACE district, we are positioned to be able to join the program if there are people in town interested in participating.
- December 2015: Provided information on the Carbon Pollution Tax.
- September 2016: From Woodlot to Winter Warmth – forum of 30 people discussed burning firewood with loggers Mark & Hendy Moulton, forester Andy Carlo, Fire Chief Tate Jeffrey, and resident Dave Cozzens speaking about his former indoor wood boiler and his new outdoor wood boiler.

### **Fire & First Response Department: Chief Tate Jeffrey; Assistant Chief Mike Ramsey**

- Demand for Huntington’s volunteer firefighters, volunteer backcountry rescue team, and volunteer EMTs continues to increase. In the past month alone they have participated extended forest fire fighting on Robins Mountain and Stage Road in Richmond – both located in incredibly inaccessible spots. They’ve been out on numerous calls to assist injured hikers; they responded to automobile accidents, carbon monoxide alarms, calls for medical assistance, and more.
- The crew was pleased that the Town supported their request for a new fire truck, which ensures that we have a reliable ‘first engine out’ vehicle to respond to emergencies.
- Members attend weekly training and work sessions on Monday nights in addition to responding to calls 24/7— and both the Fire Department and First Responders are always looking for more volunteers.

### **Library Trustees & Staff – Chair: Paula Kelley**

- Thanks to Anne and Dave Cozzens, there are now two large new bookshelves plus a 'New Books' book cart set up at the Library.
- The finishing touches on the office shelves have been completed.
- The Library continues collaborations with community entities to sponsor both speakers series and music programs (such as HCC, HHCT, Don Sheldon) in addition to being the location of the ever popular Planet Huntington.

### **Lower Village Traffic Calming Committee – Co-Chairs: Helen Keith & Dean Grover**

- Tests have been conducted in the Lower Village with more tests to come next spring/summer. We have gotten excellent feedback on the Village Green reconfiguration and the speed feedback radar sign.

### **Planning Commission – Chair: Everett Marshall**

- The Planning Commission has been working on updating the Town’s planning and zoning regulations – combining the Flood Regulations, the Subdivision Regulations, and the Zoning Regulations into one document called the Land Use Regulations. They have been sponsoring public informational meetings on the various sections of the document.

### **School Board for Brewster-Pierce Memorial School – Chair: Andrea Olgilvie**

- BPMS School Board’s single biggest accomplishment was to follow through on researching, analyzing and deciding on a replacement HVAC system for Brewster-Pierce and bringing the bond to the voters. Dealing with ventilation issues and repairs of the heating system have been put off for several years and the Board finally

took decisive action this year toward providing a healthy, comfortable learning and work environment for BPMS students and employees for the next 30 years.

**Town Clerk – Heidi Racht**

- Heidi received the national designation of Certified Municipal Clerk in September 2016 – an effort that required attending numerous courses, completing community service, having necessary experience, and participating in the 3-year clerk institute program.
- Elections have been really busy. We have an increase of 70 voters; a total of 170 people have been added to the check list and 100 people have been dropped off our list. This overall net increase means that 15 voter signatures are now required on petitions.

**Town Hall Committee – Chair: Aaron Worthley**

- The Town Hall Committee is excited to say that the building is now open year round!
- The most recent construction phase, that included insulation, weather proofing, and refurbishing the heating system is complete.
- The Town Hall is now available for rental and Town activities. The new rental agreement and pricing has been approved by the Selectboard. The TH Committee kept the rental fees for Huntington residents very reasonable so to be an affordable resource for everyone. There is no charge for Town or Town sponsored activities. The hope is that Town Committees and groups will use the space for meetings, hearings, fundraising activities, etc. The TH Committee will be sending you, or your Committee Chair an e-mail with details on how to reserve the building.

The event concluded at 8:19pm

10/26/2016: Meeting date

11/02/2015: Draft minutes published and posted on the Town website

Xx/xx/2015: Minutes approved by the Selectboard

Xx/xx/2015: Minutes forwarded to Town Clerk for recording & posting on Town website.