

Town of Huntington — Selectboard Meeting

Monday, September 22, 2014—7:00 pm

Town Office (downstairs)

RECEIVED 
 DATE October 9, 2014

APPROVED MINUTES

<p>Agenda</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highway Department <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bridge 8: Project Review Sign-off and Agreement ○ Bridge Street Resident Feedback ○ General Updates • Public Comment • Administration & Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Warrants & Minutes ○ Selectboard opening ○ Other/New Business: Correspondence (Fence Viewers); Communications; Meeting Schedule Review; Other • Commissions-Boards-Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planning Commission – Appointment/Re-appointment of Zoning Administrative Officer ○ Town Hall Committee – VT Housing & Conservation Board Grant; Draft Easement ○ Finance Committee – Update on Capital Plan
<p>Members present:</p>	<p>Jim Christiansen (Chair), Dori Barton (Vice-Chair), Doug Graver, Roman Livak, Nancy Stoddard</p>
<p>Staff/Officials present</p>	<p>Barbara Elliott (Town Administrator), Heidi Racht (Town Clerk)</p>
<p>Others present</p>	<p>Ruth Blodgett, Terry Boyle, Kerry Cullinan, Barbara Felitti, Linda Fickbohm, Andrew Hendrickson,</p>
<p>Call to order</p>	<p>Christiansen called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.</p>
<p>Special Recognition</p>	<p><u>Doug Graver</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Selectboard thanked Doug Graver for his many years of service to the Town and presented him with a card, certificate of appreciation, and a beautiful framed photograph taken by Selectboard member Roman Livak of Camels Hump as seen from Shaker Mountain, overlooking the Miles farm.
<p>Highway Department</p>	<p><u>Bridge 8 (Main Road, just south of Moody Road) Conceptual Plan Sign-Off</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional written public comment was received since the 09/15/14 public meeting that was held to discuss the conceptual plans. • Kerry Cullinan (Main Road resident) attended to request the Selectboard delay sign-off on the bridge conceptual plans for one month in order to allow Cullinan to assess whether or not residents support Alternative 3A (which includes widening the deck by 2 feet and modifying the bridge alignment by extending the bridge span) or if they support Cullinan’s preference for Alternative 1 (which calls for only replacing the bridge’s superstructure and maintaining the current width and alignment). Cullinan stated that if the bridge alternative decision is presented as a matter of cost, he believes the majority of townspeople would oppose Alternative 3A (estimated total project cost of \$3,065,000, with a Town estimated share of \$153,250) and they would support Alternative 1 (estimated total project cost of \$580,000, with a Town estimated cost of \$14,500). Selectboard noted that the Alternative 1 cost

<p>MOTION: BRIDGE 8 CONCEPTUAL PLAN SIGN-OFF</p>	<p>Cullinan proposed that during the one-month hiatus, he would circulate a petition at Beaudry's store for people who prefer Alternative 1 to sign, calling for the Selectboard to reverse its approval of Alternative 3a. He would provide copies the VTrans cost matrix for the 7 alternatives they presented in the Scoping report last April. Cullinan also stated that he believes the current narrow width and curved alignment is safer than the scoping plans for Alternative 3A approved by the Selectboard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Selectboard had unanimously voted on May 5, 2014 to authorize the State to proceed with developing the conceptual plans for Alternative 3A following a public meeting held on April 7, 2010 and an invitation for written public comment to be submitted prior to May 5. Based on the Selectboard's May 5th authorization, VTrans proceeded with development of conceptual plans for that Alternative 3A. Public meetings held prior to the conceptual plan public comment meeting on September 15, 2014 on the Bridge replacement were held on July 20, 2008, January 13, 2010, and April 7, 2014. • Barton stated that a lot of townspeople trust the Selectboard to do 'due diligence' in examining the details and analyzing information before making decisions. She asserted that the VTrans scoping report cost matrix does not include all information considered by the Selectboard such as flood resiliency and environmental issues. Providing the petition and cost matrix would not present the full data that had been presented at the numerous public meetings and contained in the other reports reviewed by the Selectboard. • Graver noted that the Selectboard had exceeded the statutory requirements for warning the bridge public meetings including writing letters to residents in the area and posting notices on Front Porch Forum, and that the press had written about the meetings in the Times Ink. • The Selectboard opted to move forward with the process rather than to delay the project or consider reversing their decision from last May (under which the State has been working for nearly 5 months). • MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONCEPTUAL PLANS: Livak moved and N. Stoddard seconded that the Huntington Selectboard authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign the "Project Review Sign Off" form for the Bridge 8 (Main Road, just south of Moody Road) Conceptual Plan developed by VTrans for Project # Huntington BF 0211(32) noting that the Selectboard has no comment on the content of the plans or on the constructability of the project as designed. Passed unanimously with 5 members present and voting. <p><u>Bridge 8 (Main Road, just south of Moody Road) Finance, Right-of-Way & Maintenance Agreement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elliott reported that the contract being presented is the standard VTrans bridge agreement. Once it is signed, the Town will be 'back billed' for our 5% portion of the engineering costs incurred to date and that going forward we will be billed on a regular basis for the Town's share of the project costs. • MOTION TO SIGN THE BRIDGE AGREEMENT: Livak moved and N. Stoddard seconded that the Huntington Selectboard sign the Bridge 8 (Main Road, just south of Moody Road) Finance, Right-of-Way and Maintenance Agreement presented by VTrans for Project # Huntington BF 0211(32). Passed unanimously with 5 members present and voting. <p>Bridge Street Resident Feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elliott reported that 2 residents responded to the letter we sent asking for feedback on the recent resurfacing work completed on Bridge Street. Both
<p>MOTION: BRIDGE 8 FINANCE, ROW & MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT</p>	<p>(This section is merged into the previous row's content for better readability and to avoid redundancy.)</p>

	<p>residents shared accolades for the Road Crew on the work that had been performed and reported that the new surface seems to have resolved the problems. Another resident also stopped in the office to share positive feedback.</p>
Public Comment	No members of the public attended to present general public comment.
<p>Administration & Planning</p> <p>MOTION: AMENDED MINUTES 09/08/2014 & 09/15/2014</p> <p>MOTIONS: FENCE VIEWER RESIGNATION & APPOINTMENT</p> <p><i>Follow-up: Elliott to prepare appointment paperwork</i></p> <p><i>Follow-up: Elliott to send letter</i></p>	<p>Warrants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 warrants were signed as presented. <p>Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOTION: Livak moved and N. Stoddard seconded to approve the amended minutes of September 08, 2014 and September 15, 2014. Passed with 4 Selectboard members voting in favor (Barton, Christiansen, Livak, N. Stoddard) and one abstention (Graver, who had not been able to attend the 9/15 meeting). <p>Selectboard Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elliott reported that the Selectboard opening has been posted on the Town website and Front Porch Forum; at Beaudry's Store, the Library and the Town Office; and emailed to the Town Clerk's email distribution list. To date, one letter of interest has been received. Responses can be submitted to Elliott through midnight Sunday, October 5. The Selectboard will make the appointment as the first order of business at their October 6, 2014 regularly scheduled meeting, at which time the new member will be sworn into office. <p>Fence Viewer Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elliott reported on the current status of a Fence Viewer issue raised by a resident in an email request. According to State statutes, and in consultation with our attorney, it was clear that the boundary issue addressed in the email is a matter for civil court and does not fall under the jurisdiction of either the Selectboard or the Fence Viewers. <p>Fence Viewer Resignation & Appointment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doug Graver (who is moving out of state) submitted his resignation as Fence Viewer for the Town of Huntington. • MOTION: Livak moved and Barton seconded that the Huntington Selectboard reluctantly accept Doug Graver's resignation from his appointment as a Fence Viewer for the Town of Huntington. Passed unanimously. • MOTION: Livak moved and Christiansen seconded that the Huntington Selectboard appoint Nancy Stoddard to serve the remainder of Doug Graver's appointed term as a Fence Viewer (effective until the Selectboard's next annual organizational meeting, to be held in March 2015). Passed unanimously. • Elliott will prepare the appointment paperwork for the October 6, 2014 Selectboard meeting. <p>Noise Ordinance Issue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elliott received correspondence from a resident inquiring about what recourse is available in the event one feels one is being wrongly harassed for polluting the air with noise. Elliott noted that the Town's Noise Ordinance is specifically written to establish standards of acceptable noise and to give recourse to those who feel those standards are being violated. No complaints of violations

<p><i>In response to the Noise Ordinance question</i></p>	<p>of the Town's noise ordinance have been registered with the Town from this neighborhood.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Selectboard requested Elliott send the draft response she had prepared along with a copy of the Town's Noise Ordinance to the correspondent.
<p>Commissions-Boards-Committees</p> <p>MOTION: REAPPOINT EDMUND HANSON AS ZONING ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER.</p>	<p>Planning Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request to Re-appoint the Zoning Administrative Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The Huntington Planning Commission submitted a letter to the Selectboard unanimously requesting the re-appointment of Ed Hanson as the Town's ZAO for a 3-year term under the same contract agreement. • MOTION TO APPOINT ZONING ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: Livak moved and N. Stoddard seconded that the Huntington Selectboard accept the unanimous recommendation as presented by the Huntington Planning Commission to reappoint Edmund Hanson as Huntington's Zoning Administrative Officer for a three-year term, and that the Selectboard sign an extension of the current contract agreement with Edmund Hanson for an additional term of September 22, 2014 to September 22, 2017. Passed unanimously with all members present and voting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Livak noted that concerns he had were addressed in the letter of recommendation submitted by the Planning Commission. ◦ Barton questioned why other applicants were not solicited as part of an open RFP process, and recommended that in the future this be done for all paid appointed positions. <p>Town Hall Committee (THC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB) grant easement: The Selectboard and Town Hall Committee (THC) engaged in dialogue regarding the implications of and constraints imposed by the proposed VHCB easement. It was acknowledged by Graver that this is a difficult issue, where some people may be livid if we move forward with the easement and others may be heartbroken if we do not. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Selectboard members stressed how impressed they have been with the work and dedication of the THC. ◦ The THC noted that while the purpose of the easement is historic preservation, the grantor is clearly focused on having the building in use. They noted that the Town Hall is an asset that the Town owns and has neglected. They believe that if the Town does not sign the easement, it will send a message to grantors that will make it extremely difficult to get future funding. ◦ Selectboard members raised concern over potential risks to property tax payers; the impact potential maintenance costs could have for taxpayers; what would happen if the Town were not financially able to maintain the building; and the potential salability of the building in the future if it is constrained by an easement. Interest in being able to sell the building in the future to a non-profit organization was expressed. ◦ A key factor articulated by N Stoddard (Chair of the Finance Sub-Committee) is that, through the work recently completed on the capital plan, it is clear that the Town faces significantly more capital expense over the next 7 years than we can fund through property tax increases, loans and/or bonds. She stated that at the present time, the Town has exceeded our debt limit. She stated that it is essential to understand how the cost of the Town Hall fits in with the combined priorities of all the other Town departments.

