

**MINUTES - SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2011**

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Barnet Town Clerk's Office.

Board members present: Selectmen Theodore Faris, Jeremy Roberts, and Gary Bunnell.

Meeting Chair: Co-Chair Theodore Faris presiding as Chair for this meeting.

Others present: Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, Mona Marceau, Kevin Morrison, and Tina Morrison.

Note: Numbered headings correspond to agenda printed in advance of meeting. Items appear in minutes in order discussed at meeting. Order of discussion is occasionally out of sequence with agenda numbers.

1. Approve minutes of regular meeting held September 12, 2011

Bunnell noted that in the draft minutes Kevin Morrison is listed twice as an attendee. Motion made by Roberts to approve, with amendment as noted by Bunnell, the minutes of the regular meeting held September 12, 2011. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearance(s) by member(s) of the public

All present members of the public appeared to discuss agenda item number four.

4. Discussion regarding Harvey Mountain Road culvert

Mona Marceau appeared to ask several questions regarding this matter as discussed at the 12 September 2011 meeting, at which she was not present:

- When was the hydrology study ordered?
 - o Faris responded: The week prior to the September 12 meeting.
- Is it the Board's policy to order a hydrology study for all culvert replacements? Why is this not mentioned in Selectboard meeting minutes elsewhere?
 - o Faris responded: Not all culvert replacements require hydrology studies: only those that involve a larger replacement culvert. These studies are provided through the Agency of Transportation at little or no cost to the Town.
 - o Roberts responded: Often the requirement of a larger culvert is at the behest of the Agency of Transportation. This occurs in the case of grant work. In these cases the decision may not appear in meeting minutes because the study is conducted as a matter of course.
- Is it the Board's policy to not read aloud letters submitted to be read at meetings?
 - o Roberts responded: The failure to read Ms. Marceau's letter was an unintentional oversight. It is the Board's practice to read aloud letters submitted to be read at meetings. In this case, although all the Selectmen read the letter themselves, Roberts accidentally neglected to read it aloud. Roberts apologized to Ms. Marceau for his error.

Kevin Morrison appeared to inquire regarding the progress of the improvement of this culvert:

- Is the ditch work begun on Harvey Mountain Road last week now finished?
 - o Bunnell responded: This work is not finished.
- Is the current plan to install a 36 inch culvert or to wait for the hydrology study before commencing with this?
 - o Faris responded: The hydrology study is not complete; currently the process is delayed because Agency of Transportation resources are deployed in southern Vermont for flood response. Road Foreman Timothy Gibbs has ordered a 36 inch squash culvert as a safeguard against this delay. The Board prefers to wait for the hydrology study, but if one is not forthcoming will install the 36 inch culvert before winter.

3. Appearance by Transfer Station Attendant Shirley Warden regarding Transfer Station matters

Warden appeared to discuss several matters of concern that she noted while working at the Transfer Station on the previous Saturday:

- The Transfer Station building is sitting in water. It appears that mold and rot are becoming a concern.
 - o Roberts indicated that he will visit the Transfer Station to evaluate this situation.
- It is difficult to measure construction debris on a cubic yard basis: most pricing is a fairly inaccurate estimate. Also, many customers seem to not realize that they must pay to dispose of this material in the large canisters.
 - o Faris responded: In general the Town is able to recoup its Transfer Station expenses with the current pricing. There are few complaints regarding the current pricing. The Board is content to allow for estimation by the attendants and to rely on customer honesty with regard to payment for disposal.

5. Correspondence from Board of Listers regarding Grand List errors and omissions

Faris read letter requesting approval to address an error relating to the property of the Conant Family Trust. The purchase of an abutting property caused the necessity that two previously separate parcels be combined for the purpose of Current Use.

- After brief discussion the Board agreed to grant this approval.

6. Correspondence from Trustees of the Barnet Public Library regarding maintenance of library building

Faris read letter listing several items of routine maintenance required at the Library building.

- After brief discussion this letter was referred to Roberts to follow-up on these maintenance items. Roberts discussed correspondence with Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt of a date later than the Trustees' letter, which concerned the condition of the Library's boiler. Plumber Chad Dunbar made a service call to inspect the boiler when the furnace was reported as not functioning last week. Dunbar's opinion was that faulty gaskets were causing the boiler to leak. Dunbar indicated that repairing the boiler would prove costly and that it would be more cost-effective to replace the boiler. Roberts suggested that, given the expense of such replacement, the Board should obtain opinions and quotes from several local plumbers in addition to Dunbar. Roberts also suggested that the Board seek the opinion of Librarian Sherry Tolle.
 - After brief discussion the Board agreed to pursue Roberts's recommendations with regard to the boiler.

7. Correspondence from Barnet Public Library regarding Trunk or Treat event at Harvey's Lake Public Beach

Faris read letter from Librarians Sherry Tolle and Dylan Ford requesting use of the Harvey's Lake Public Beach parking lot for the second annual Trunk or Treat event from 5 to 8 p.m. on October 31, 2011.

- After brief discussion the Board agreed to permit this use of the Beach parking lot.

8. Correspondence from State of Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding Standard Subgrant Agreement for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster relief payment

Faris read cover letter and reviewed attached Standard Subgrant Agreement. Town Clerk Heisholt noted that the agreement looked acceptable with the exception that the State share of the eligible costs was quoted as 12.5%, whereas it should be 15%.

- After brief discussion Board agreed to not sign the agreement as currently drafted. Board also agreed to delegate the Town's signatory of this document, upon receipt of a draft revised to include a 15% State share, to Town Clerk & Treasurer Heisholt.

9. Correspondence from Better Backroads regarding 2012 Vermont Better Backroads Small Grants Program

Faris reviewed document detailing two grant funding categories for projects to improve water quality and create savings in maintenance costs.

- After brief discussion, Board agreed to refer this correspondence to Road Foreman Timothy Gibbs.

10. Highway Access Permit applications

Reviewed two applications presented but not acted on in previous meeting:

- Annie Boone-Crane, Despins Lane: Reviewed notes and recommendations of Road Foreman Gibbs. Gibbs indicates that the driveway is not long enough to meet the Highway Access Ordinance’s requirement of twenty feet of level ground.
 - o After brief discussion, this application was referred to Road Commissioner Gary Bunnell.
- Peter Wagner, Darling Lane: Reviewed notes and recommendations of Road Foreman Gibbs.
 - o After brief discussion, Board agreed to approve this permit.

11. Other business

- **Town Garage fuel pumps.** Roberts indicated that he would be at the Town Garage the following day, September 27, to install power for the fuel pumps.

12. Outstanding check warrants

Reviewed and signed all outstanding check warrants.

13. Discussion regarding legal proceedings (possible executive session)

- Motion made by Roberts to enter executive session. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:45 p.m. Attendance in executive session: Bunnell, Faris, Roberts, and Town Clerk Heisholt.
- Motion made by Roberts to exit executive session. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 8:01 p.m.
- Board agreed to request that Town Agent Jay Abramson attend the next Board meeting.

14. Adjournment

Motion made by Roberts to adjourn. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____
Town Clerk