

Minutes
West Rutland Selectboard Public Hearing
Vermont Community Development Program Scattered Site Grant 2022
Monday, September 12th, 2022 @ 5:30 pm

Present: John Harvey, hearing officer, Chet Brown, John Center, Mary Ann Goulette, Melanie Paskevich and Aaron Johnson

John Harvey opened the hearing at 5:30pm with introductions. Melanie Paskevich, NeighborWorks Director of Operations gave a summary of the \$450,000 grant proposal. The funds will be used for 27 low-income single family home repairs and 3 rental unit repairs serving Addison, Rutland and Bennington counties. The repairs may include health and safety modifications, efficiency measures, handicap accessibility, lead based paint removal, homeownership services, program management and general administration. NeighborWorks and the Town of West Rutland have partnered on these types of projects for over twenty years.

Aaron Johnson of the home repair program discussed the types of projects such as heating and electrical upgrades and the availability of contractors. Many projects are partnered with Efficiency Vermont and the VT Center of Independent Living.

No other comments or questions. John Harvey closed the hearing at 5:52pm.

Minutes
West Rutland Selectboard Public Hearing
Sidewalk Scoping Study Alternatives Presentation
Monday, September 12th, 2022 @ 6:00 pm

Present: John Harvey, hearing officer, Chet Brown, Nick Notte, John Center, Mary Ann Goulette, Sean Barrows, Steffanie Bourque, Mike & Donna Sabotka, Mike Moser and Peter Kulig (in person). Daniel Biggs, Jack Greshober and Bethany Yon from Weston & Sampson (via zoom)

John Harvey opened the hearing at 6:00pm with introductions. Jack Greshober presented the group with a recap of the project's purpose and need statement and input from the previous public hearing. Four potential sidewalk alternatives were presented: sidewalk w/ curb and green space, sidewalk w/ integral curb, sidewalk at grade, sidewalk w/ retaining wall. A preferred alternative was evaluated and recommended for each of the seven segments based on the best fit of that project area. Segment 7 Dewey Avenue looked at both sides of the street but preferred the north side because of less impacts. A preferred alternative was recommended but that does not preclude a different option or a no build option.

Comments regarding the width of the road and the turning radius of the fire trucks. Next steps are a VTrans review, final report and cost estimates.

John Harvey closed the hearing at 6:19

Minutes
West Rutland Selectboard Meeting
Monday, September 12th, 2022
6:00 pm

Present: Chet Brown, Nick Notte, John Harvey and John Center

Others Present: Mary Ann Goulette, Mike Moser, Steffanie Bourque, Donna and Mike Sabotka, Peter Kulig and Sean Barrows.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:20pm by John Harvey with the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda Approval: Motion by Chet seconded by Nick to approve the agenda with the addition of Recreation Facilities Grant Application under action items. Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes Approval: Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to approve the minutes of August 8th, 2022. Motion approved.

Public Concerns: Mike Moser asked if we had an update on the skatepark. Not at this time. Mike and Donna Sabotka are concerned on the speeding traffic on Main Street. The speed limit was changed to 25mph but cars are still racing through. Discussion on additional sheriff patrol, warning lights (similar to Woodstock) and Omya trucks.

Action Items:

- a) **Resolution for VCDP Grant Application** – NeighborWorks is applying for a Vermont Community Development Program Grant for \$450,000. NeighborWorks and the Town of West Rutland have partnered on these types of projects for over twenty years. The funds will be used for 27 low-income single family home repairs and 3 rental unit repairs serving Addison, Rutland and Bennington counties. The repairs may include health and safety modifications, efficiency measures, handicap accessibility, lead based paint removal, homeownership services, program management and general administration. Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to sign the Resolution for VCDP Grant Application Authority. Motion approved unanimously.
- b) **Marbleway Path Design Proposal: Fuss & O’Neil** – Rather than sending out a traditional RFP, the planning team chose a firm from the Vtrans at-the-ready consultant services. Fuss and O’Neil submitted a proposal for design services for \$123,573.81. The dollar amount is higher than our estimate but this is a multi-year project and Vtrans said it was in line with other proposals this year. We may need to ask for more grant money once we clear right of way. Our match is 20% or \$24,715. Chet seconded by John Center to proceed with awarding the design work for the above referenced project to Fuss & O’Neill and have the Town Manager sign the contract documents after Vtrans review. Motion approved unanimously.
- c) **Listers: Errors & Omissions** – The listers needed to correct a name on parcel ID 240240318 to Melissa James based on the deeded record. No change in value. Motion

made by Chet seconded by Nick to move the name change on Parcel ID 240240318 to Melisa James as per the listers request. Motion approved.

- d) **Set Water & Sewer Rates** – Based on this month’s water readings, Mary Ann suggested the following increases: Water Base \$8, Water Bond \$8.50 (for the pleasant street project) and Sewer Fixed \$12 for a total increase of \$28.50. The \$140 sewer bond is paid off and no longer billed. Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to approve the semi-annual water and sewer rates at \$123 water base, \$108 water bond and sewer fixed at \$220 for a total of \$451. Motion unanimously approved.
- e) **Recreation Facilities Grant Application**- John Center recused himself from the discussion. The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center wants to install a sculpture trail near their sculpture garden. The total cost of the project is \$30,000 for design and construction. They have already raised \$10,000 in donations and grants. This 50/50 grant would fill in the missing gap of \$15,000 with a town contribution of \$5,000. Mary Ann will prepare the grant and gather letters of support. Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to apply to the Recreation Facilities Grant for \$15,000 to construct the sculpture trail at the Carving Studio and Sculpture Center. Motion approved.

Discussion Items:

- a) **Rutland Town Fire District** – Mary Ann, Seth, John Center and John Harvey met with the Rutland Town Prudential Committee and Mark Youngstrom to voice any outstanding concerns with the ‘potential merger’. The Town still has concerns on the condition of their assets. It was agreed that we could look at a warranty period, the Fire District will also provide a valve exercising report and a hydrant testing. Still need to calculate the additional cost of maintenance, pressure reducing valve and meter installation.
- b) **Town Manager Report**
 - a. **OMYA Truck Traffic** – We continue to experience Omya truck traffic on the Whipple Hollow Road. Mary Ann met with the OMYA team to discuss the impact to our roads. Omya is trying to address the problem with specific instructions for the truck carriers and signage. However, since March 2109, they are no longer paying for 10 hours of sheriff patrol in West Rutland. Pittsford’s police issued \$120,000 in truck fines last year. Discussion on our increasing maintenance costs and bridge replacement. Nick made a motion to send a letter to OMYA regarding maintenance costs and impact fees for Whipple Hollow Road. Motion seconded by John Center. Motion approved.

Board Member Concerns:

John Center – Westway Mall is adding lighting in the parking lot. Need to look at retention of our volunteer fire department.

Adjournment: Nick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm and Chet seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Goulette