

**Minutes  
West Rutland Selectboard Meeting  
Monday, April 10th, 2023  
6:00 pm**

**Present:** Chet Brown, Nick Notte, John Harvey, Dick Daley and John Center

**Others Present:** Mary Ann Goulette, Sean Barrows, Jim Flint, Mike Moser, Mark Shea & Brianna Franzoni (RCSWD), Ian Marcus (Granite Renewables), Tim Upton (VHB). Melanie Paskevich, Nancy Gilman, Heather Starzynski & Aaron Jones (NeighborWorks of Western Vermont)

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by John Harvey with the pledge of allegiance.

**Agenda Approval:** Motion by Chet seconded by Nick to approve the agenda with the deletion of the Girl's Basketball Proclamation and addition of Rutland County Solid Waste District Outreach program. Motion approved unanimously.

**Minutes Approval:** Motion made by Nick seconded by John Center to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 13, 2023. Motion approved.

**Public Concerns:** None.

**Final Public Hearing:** John Harvey, Selectboard Chair opened the hearing for 2019 VCDP Scattered Site Grant and 2020 VCDP Housing Stabilization Grant – Melanie Paskevich, Neighborwork's director of operations introduced their team: Heather Starzynski, executive director, Nancy Gilman and Aaron Jones program managers. The Scattered Site program ran from 4/1/20 until 3/31/23 with \$1.3 million in funding with a goal of 85 projects. They completed their goal with 85 comprehensive home repairs in Rutland, Addison and Bennington counties giving \$204,000 in grants and \$310,000 in lending capital. Projects examples are boiler replacements, electric panel, septic and well replacement. These projects are necessary for healthy and safe homes. The Housing Stabilization program helped to council 269 customers with mortgage and utility payments and budgeting. They utilized \$208,000 of the \$425,172 and were unable to complete the program due to a staffing shortage. Neighborworks thanked the town for their support with these necessary programs. No other comments were received and the hearing was closed by John Harvey, the Selectboard Chair.

**Action Items:**

- a) **Granite Renewable Project Presentation** – Ian Marcus, CEO of Granite Renewable introduced himself and Tim Upton, with VHB and shared their plans to potentially purchase a 35 acre parcel on Pleasant Street to develop a battery energy storage system (BESS). BESS enables electricity from renewable energy resources to be stored and released when customers and the grid need it the most. The battery is lithium ion similar to a laptop or cell phone battery. The project is anticipated to be 50-100MW / 200-400 MWh. The project is located within the industrial zoning district and maybe considered under a conditional use for a renewable energy resource. Construction timeline is

approximately 2025 and will need a permit from the Public Service Board. They will potentially interconnect with either a GMP line or direct to the VELCO substation. Questions regarding fire safety, noise and aesthetics. More information to come.

- b) **Rutland County Solid Waste District Recycle Outreach** – Mark Shea and Brianna Franzoni shared information about a USDA grant to help households in rural communities learn the benefits of recycling and composting. There will be information mailed to each household with a survey and helpful information. They hope to be present at the Townwide Yard Sale with handouts and products. Discussion on what residents currently use for garbage service. It was indicated approximately 50% of the Town uses the Center Rutland facility. Mark will issue the Town a report in the fall.
- c) **Award Bid – Young’s Brook Dam Removal Engineer Support** – The Town is managing this project for the State and landowner. The engineer designed the project and the funding is secured. We need to hire an engineer to oversee the project, prepare permits and construction documents. We received two bids: SLR at \$55,420 and Otter Creek Engineering at \$57,285. SLR has completed the design, is the lowest bid and has the most experience in the State with dam removal. The cost estimate was \$35,000. Mary Ann will try to rework some numbers with the award. Chet made a motion to award the bid to SLR with Mary Ann to rework some dollars. Seconded by John Center. Motion approved unanimously.
- d) **Approve Liquor Licenses** – All the licenses are online and the town clerk approves them. Motion made to approve the 2023 liquor licenses for: Walgreen’s - Second Class: Walgreen’s – 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and outside consumption; Sweet Caroline’s – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Motion made by Chet seconded by Dick to approve all the liquor licenses as presented.
- e) **Appoint Planning Commission Member** – Jeff Biasuzzi submitted Jim Flint’s name as the newest planning commission member. Jim and his wife Barbara moved to Town several years ago and both have been very active volunteers in Town. We thanked Jim for his interest and willingness to serve. Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to appoint Jim Flint to the Planning Commission for a 4-year term. Motion approved unanimously.
- f) **Appoint Alternate Zoning Administrator** – It was suggested to have an alternate zoning administrator in case there is conflict of interest with the current zoning administrator as he has some ties to real estate in the State. Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to appoint Mary Ann Goulette, Town Manager as the Alternate Zoning Administrator if needed to avoid any conflict-of-interest issues. Motion approved unanimously.
- g) **Approve Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement for the Public Works** – This agreement is similar to last years and is between the RRPC and area municipalities to be able to request and receive aid. Motion made by Nick seconded by Dick to adopt the 2023 Mutual Aid Agreement for Public Works Departments. Motion approved
- h) **Approve LEMP** - The plan is similar to last year with some updates on contact information. The Local Emergency Management Plan is part of the Vermont Emergency

Management requirements. Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to adopt the 2023 LEMP Plan. Motion approved unanimously.

- i) **Adopt NIMS** – Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to adopt NIMS National Incident Management System and have Mary Ann Goulette sign the document. Motion approved.
- j) **Approve Financial Policies** – Having some policies in place spelling out good financial practices was recommended by the State Auditor. Mary Ann has submitted the accounting, auditing and reporting policy and the balance budget policy using templates provided by VLCT. Motion made by Dick seconded by Chet to approve the financial policies as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

**Discussion Items:**

- a) **H480 Bill** – There is a bill H480 that will give the State tax department control over the reappraisal system. Our listers have shown concern over conflict of interest, the State's ability to handle the extra workload and the higher costs associated. Lisa and VALA have been working closely with VLCT and offering testimony.
- b) **Town Manager Report** –
  - a. **Marble Street Parking Lot** - We have a first draft of the municipal parking lot for Marble Street. It will have 20+ spaces, a handicap space and a charging station with solar lighting. Mary Ann will meet with the adjacent neighbors.
  - b. **Memorial Day Parade** – planning is underway. We are looking for volunteers for traffic control etc.
  - c. **Grant Awards** - We received two grants: Downtown Transportation Fund Grant for \$172,091 for the Elm Street sidewalk replacement. Transportation Alternative for \$60,000 for the Tri Town Loop with Proctor and Pittsford.

**Board Member Concerns:**

John Center – Suggested we ask the sheriff to bring over the speed radar signs.

Chet Brown – the path near Boardman Hill at the recreation area is under water. Is there a blocked culvert. Yes, it is the State's property and we have asked them several times in the last year to remedy the situation. There is a new district manager and Mary Ann has invited him over for a site inspection.

**Adjournment:** Nick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm and Chet seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Goulette