

Westfield Selectboard Minutes
July 9, 2018 – 6 p.m. – Town Offices

- **Town officials present:** Selectboard members: Yves Daigle (Chair), Jacques Couture (Vice-Chair) and Anne Lazor; Town Clerk, LaDonna Dunn; Assistant Town Clerk, Heather Johnson; Treasurer, Mary Lou Jacobs; and Planning Commission Chair, Pat Sagui.
- **Citizens present:** Sandy Snyder

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Yves called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. **Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda:** Sandy Snyder requested adding *Concern Regarding Flooding* as Article 5A.

3. **Approve Minutes of the June 11, 2018 and June 28, 2018 Selectboard Meetings:** There was a motion by Jacques and second by Anne to approve the June 11, 2018 and the June 28, 2018 Selectboard minutes with one correction to each set of minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

A. Business/Discussion from the Minutes: None

4. **Planning Commission Update-Pat Sagui:** Pat completed the first set of edits to the Town Plan. The Road Commissioner and the Principal of the school have approved their sections. The county forester is working on updates. The deadline has been extended until June 11th for the community survey. We may reach 100 respondents. NVDA has funding available to help write the energy section. Alison Low from NVDA is working on updating some of the statistical data. The Planning Commission has a meeting with Alison Low on Wednesday, July 18th at 5:30 p.m. Pat encouraged the Selectboard to attend. Pat learned the average home electric bill in Westfield is \$100. She spoke about the Coop Community Solar Project which Vermont Electric Coop (VEC) customers can buy into. Pat said VEC is preparing a proposal for the town, showing what the rate of return over and above the cost of electricity would be by participating in this program. The average return on investment is 5%, if the money is put up front. Pat will bring the quote to the Selectboard when it is available. There was a motion by Anne and second by Yves to study the possibility of participating in the Coop Community Solar Project. Motion passed unanimously.

5. **Discuss Feasibility Study for Scenic View:** A meeting date has been set for Wednesday, July 11th at 1:30 p.m. with representatives from Rural Edge, NVDA and town officials to discuss the options available to turn Scenic View into affordable senior housing.

5A. **Flood Concern-Sandy Snyder:** Sandy Snyder, a Kettle Farm Road resident, said people have been taking advantage of riding four wheelers around her property and the adjoining properties. Many of the saplings have been cut creating erosion on the nearby property owned by the Buchner's. Sandy expressed her concern that the volume of water on her land is up and she wonders if a water vein could open up because of the playing on the land. She wondered if this were to happen could it cause flooding in the village. Yves questioned if this was a town matter or rather a property owner matter. Jacques felt if there was a lot of sediment going into the brook then it would concern the town. Sandy encouraged the Selectboard to walk around her land to see if they felt there was a water problem. Anne suggested Sandy ask the county forester to take a look at her land. Yves thanked Sandy for her input. No action was taken.

6. **Set Municipal Tax Rate:** The state budget passed. Westfield's education tax rates will be \$1.2866 for the homestead (residential) rate and the non-residential rate will be \$1.4711 per \$100 of assessed value. Mary Lou presented the Selectboard with her calculations for the municipal tax rate. There was a

motion by Jacques and second by Anne to set the municipal tax rate at .5582 per \$100 of assessed value. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Roads:

A. Missing Road Signs (Kettle Farm Rd., Kingdom Mountain Rd., stop sign at Route 100/Buck Hill and yield sign in front of David Wursthorne's house): Tabled until Eric Kennison is present.

B. Status of Radar Signs for VT Route 100-Mary Lou Jacobs/Eric Kennison: Mary Lou learned we need to complete a traffic study at both ends of the village on Route 100 to submit with the state application for the radar signs. She has contacted the Sheriff's department for scheduling.

C. Update on Road Erosion Inventory for MRGP-Eric Kennison: Tabled until Eric Kennison is present.

D. Status of Grants-in-Aid grant on Ballground Rd.: Tabled until Eric Kennison is present.

8. Library Update: As a follow-up to last month's discussion, Yves reported Milton Willis asked him to pick up the cabinet at his home that was in need of repair. Yves returned the cabinet to the Library, putting it in the basement. Yves thought it would cost at least \$150 to repair the cabinet. After a lengthy discussion the Selectboard felt the cost of repairing the cabinet was not worth the investment. There was a motion by Jacques and second by Anne to not repair the cabinet and authorization for the Librarian to sell it at the next library garage sale. Motion passed unanimously. Yves reported the bathroom will eventually need to be made handicap accessible. Yves said the other VLCT insurance inspection repairs have been completed.

9. Treasurer's Report:

A. Approve Warrants Dated 6/13, 6/20, 6/28 and 7/5/18: There was a motion by Yves and second by Jacques to approve the warrants as listed. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Monthly Financial Update: Due to unanticipated budget changes, Mary Lou reported we may need to borrow \$10,000 from the credit union savings to cover expenses until tax money starts coming in. There was a motion by Jacques and second by Anne authorizing Mary Lou to transfer the money if necessary and repay it as soon as possible. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Review PILOT Estimate Payments: \$29,423 Current Use due in October and \$3,210 for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT).

10. Recycling Update: The recycling tires have been going to Hardwick but Yves recently learned they are no longer accepting tires. They will now be going to NEKWMD.

11. VLCT Inspection Update: Yves said there was nothing new to report other than what was discussed earlier.

12. Sheriff's Report for May: The report reflected 13 patrol hours and \$296 in fines for May. There has been a problem with speeding and residents have reported squealing tires around town. Mary Lou will call the Sheriff's office and ask them to be alert.

13. Sign North Hill Cemetery Deeds for Nathan & Lisa Deslandes, Ronald and Huguette Chasse and Michael and Mary Lou Jacobs: The Selectboard signed the deeds which will be recorded in the land records.

14. Other Business:

A. Dry Hydrant in Alpine Haven: LaDonna reported there has been an inquiry about putting in a dry hydrant at the Birch Street pond in Alpine Haven. The property owner asked about the possibility of a tax credit. LaDonna suggested he come to a future Selectboard meeting to discuss the idea with the Selectboard. There was a motion by Yves and second by Jacques to look into a grant for a dry hydrant in Alpine Haven. Motion passed unanimously.

15. Adjourn: Following a motion by Anne and second by Jacques, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: _____
LaDonna Dunn, Town Clerk

Westfield Selectboard Approval: Date: _____ with _____ changes

Yves Daigle, Chair

Jacques Couture

Anne Lazor