TOWN OF CRAFTSBURY
REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025
7PM | CRAFTSBURY TOWN HALL

Present: Alison Blaney, Jim Jones, Bruce Urie | (Town Clerk) Michelle Warren | Tom Boyle (United Church of Craftsbury), Rudy Chase (NEK/CV Broadband), Sarah Mutrux (Rural Arts Collaborative), Colin Netzkley (Conservation Commission Chair), Steve Perkins (Town Highway), Craig Taylor (Craftsbury Energy Committee) Press | Maria Amador (Barton Chronicle); Audra Pitts (Newport Daily Express)

Meeting Agenda

Jim called the meeting to order at 7:11 PM

- **Action – Adjustments / Changes to Agenda**

  Rural Arts Collaborative; Update Weight Permits Signed

- **Approve March 12 and March 20 2025 Select Board Regular and Special Meeting Minutes**

  MOTION Alison motioned to approve the minutes of the:

  - March 12, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes; Bruce seconded. All ayed. Motion carried.
  - Thursday, March 20th, meeting; Bruce seconded. All ayed. Motion carried.

- **Craftsbury Letter – NEK/CV Support of BEAD Funding | Rudy Chase**

  NEK Broadband Board member and Craftsbury CUD Rep Mr. Chase shared proposed letter drafted to show Town support for NEK Broadband to apply for BEAD grant; does not obligate the Town to anything in anyway. A list of how broadband will benefit entities. It's basically asking for your signature as a support for NEK Broadband to apply for a BEAD (Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program) grant. What's the amount? Unknown. Includes all the Towns in the CUD - Communications Union District – in NEK; done based on residences and miles; won't necessarily come to the Town of Craftsbury to have to administer. It will be NEK Broadband and getting to the individual Towns; 51 involved out of 71 (involved in grant). The 44 miles will be in addition to the 16 miles previously done: roughly 60 miles. No questions. **MOTION** Alison motioned that Mr. Chase proceed with applying for the BEAD grant through the Vermont NEK/ Vermont Communications Union District; Bruce seconded. All ayed. Motion passed. Select Board members signed the letter.

- **MERP Update | Craig Taylor**

  Quick update and couple questions: Foundation Wall | structural engineer on March 14 surveyed foundation wall. Because of the freezing/thawing, stones are tipping in. Getting wall plumb would require rebuilding entire wall; recommend providing drainage off roof – French drain, moving water off instead of soaking into ground. Inside stone wall put concrete buttressing. Lot less intrusive solution. Paperwork returned from him by middle of month (before next Select Board meeting)

  Sequence: a) everything that has been planned has been approved by the Historic Preservation Commission; b) this is a bit of an addition; c) must be able to use MERP funding for this (will check) – should be able to given the work addresses requirement: "before doing insulation must fix wall"; d) must determine costs and obtain bids for the project; e) will return to Select Board and advise

  Basement Clean-up | Have a "clean-up" basement workday. Dumpster in back. Working group of five of us or more – volunteers. Old gypsum board, bats, etc; prepare to insulate; spray foam on inside. Bunch of records dating back to 30s to 60s, getting moldy; town bills and receipts,

interesting. Should these be boxed up and saved? To access the wall, must tear down walls around the tank. Basement will be nice. Will not be warm but will be insulated and air-sealed. First step is getting it cleaned. Solar Tracker Issues | Solar Array failed; tracker not putting electricity back on grid. Could be not transmitting data or not putting electricity back. Need diagnosis; cost around $400 last time. Want the go-ahead to get him up here and determine what's wrong. Haven't seen solar tracking since November/December; data stopped on December 16. Will advise before any additional costs.

- **Conservation Commission Update | Colin Netzly**

  Updated board on work and asked for guidance / direction. This year; lots of work. More engagement education; how-to program and raingarden. Tracking event in January; lots of walks, focus on naturalist. Japanese knotweed site. Elinor Osborn (unable to attend tonight) is heading up work; 200+ native plants – planting into erosion fabric. Contacting Town Road Crew to discuss mitigation of sand; lot of sand on fabric. Must clear before plants and then keep it off after plants are in. Seeking a grass strip along edge to mitigate soil loss. Main focus for spring and summer is more education. One member for board (one member short): have some who have shown interest. Trying to have a list of recommended appointments by next Select Board meeting? Any directions for Commission? Continue good work. Board thanked him for the update.

- **Cell Tower Regulations | Tom Boyle**

  Two issues: first) grass management / mowing - area of coverage. Roadside is overgrown; trees, stumps. Springtime growth now has it around 4 feet. Ditches: some we can maintain. Town does ditching. Ditching materials? If ditching planned for that area, quick pass on the three right hands when looking at cemetery could use some shovel work. How much would it cost? Worst stumps are at highest part of ditch. Not sure a roadside mower would / could handle. Do assessment and get back with us to determine. Will advise. second) listed as cell tower issue but repair of United Church of Craftsbury steeple - a project that will take a big hit to church finances; want to use Town as sponsor for fundraiser. Town Clerk Warren clarified: request is for Town to promote event on its social media and other sites, not sponsor. Cost estimate for steeple: $100K. The next part: re-evaluate the cell tower; looked at Town ordinance of 2006. Town ordinances superseded by State regulations. Revisit during presentation of Town Plan? Attitudes at church seemed to have changed.

- **Use of Common Request|**

  Vermont Queer Crafts – trying to find a new venue: 1800 people for a full day. Great space but lack the parking; would be fun event just do not have parking capacity. **MOTION** Alison motioned to deny the Common Use Permit request for Vermont Queer Crafts based on parking limitations; Bruce seconded. All ayed. Motion passed.

  Rural Arts Collaborative – Thursday May 29 | Party on Common Wonder Kids After School Program (collaborative project); sculptures. 77 children, their families, siblings. Children transported by bus. Discussed with Principal McCarthy. After-school event: 3-5 pm. A little overlap; check baseball schedule; do not use Dustan Field. **MOTION** Alison motioned to approve the Common Use Permit request for the Rural Arts Collaborative May 29 event; Jim seconded. All ayed. Motion passed.

- **Genny Tenny on Sunday, May 11 (or perhaps May 29) | Advise Susan Dunklee of Any Concerns**

  Annual organized run. Have set another day in case insufficient staffing. Asking of any concerns.

- **FEMA Update | Town Garage Bridge**

  Have proposal; engineer previously used. Design and assembling bids, permitting and construction phase. Since out of Hinesburg, need a local "clerk-of-works" contact to be paid by Town. Prevents

long drive for minor / routine checks. **MOTION** Alison motioned to submit the proposed plan for $78,056 to FEMA; Bruce seconded. All ayed. Motion passed. ($78, 056 paid 90% by FEMA and rest between state and Town).

- **Weight Permits Signed**

1. Agri-Mark
2. ALH Transit Inc
3. Barret Trucking
4. Blanchard Oil
5. Blow & Cote
6. Calkins
7. Camp Precast Concrete Products
8. Dale Percy
9. EC Morrison
10. Gosselin Water Wells
11. Grimes
12. GW Tatro Construction
13. Harrison Redi-Mix
14. Huntington Homes
15. Irving Oil
16. NA Manosh
17. Packard Fuels
18. RG Gosselin
19. Scott Brown Trucking
20. Structural Wood Corp
21. Suburban

- **Approve Liquor and Tobacco Licenses: Owen & Company LLC**

  MOTION Alison motioned to approve the liquor and tobacco license for Owen & Company LLC; Jim seconded. All ayed. Motion passed.

- **Committees**

  Add two people to Trails Committee: consider adding Julie Higgins and Matt Tytel to the Trails Committee **MOTION** Jim motioned to add the two recommended new members to the Committee; Bruce seconded. All ayed. Motion passed.

- **Clerk Report**

  P & L – quickly done; doing well compared to last year; with FEMA money. May use some for truck purchase. Taxes? Old? Two are unlikely; including the estate of deceased. Extra money coming in has been helpful; have not had to borrow any money. Truck is on schedule.

  Action – Approve Town Meeting Minutes | MOTION Alison motioned to approve the March 4 Town Meeting minutes; Bruce seconded. All ayed. Motion passed.

- **Review Contractor Letter – Bruce Urie**

  Sending letter to area contractors to obtain specs: in case of emergency need will have contractor details, e.g., proof of insurance, rates. In case of emergency, have this and the contact info available. **MOTION** Alison motioned to approve the letter as submitted; Jim seconded. All ayed. Motion passed.

- **Road Foreman Report**

  Truck ordered; all good with new hire.

- **Upcoming Projects to Keep on Agenda**
  - Schedule meeting with Kurtis
  - Unclaimed Parcels
  - Appropriation policy
  - Triggers for Opening the Emergency Shelter, Providing Assistance, Activating N2N
  - VT Route 14 - Slow Down Sign Request - Karen Lapoint
  - Down Sign Request - Karen Lapoint

- **Other Business & Walk-ins That Have Business to Come Before the Select Board**

  Grant funds available; residual. Slope stabilization opportunity. Tomorrow morning will be doing a walk along river bank.

- **Public Comment**

  Town Highway 19 – can a segment of it be added to road-erosion inventory? Already a part of it.

- **Decide Next Meeting Date & Adjourn**

  Next Regular Select Board Meeting: April 15 at 7 pm at Town Hall. **MOTION** Alison motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 pm; Jim seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Hudson, Select Board Clerk