

Town of Craftsbury Selectboard Minutes

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July 1, 2014

Agenda:

- Approval Select Board Minutes
- Sterling College Updates —Matthew Derr
- Break-Ins — Michelle Guenard
- Village Re-Designation Update — Sung-Hee Chung
- New Open Meeting Law Regulations
- Dog Policy Draft
- Updates:
 - Beach Clean Up/Mark Off Swimming Area
 - Ancient Road Clean Up – Angela Ross
 - Brush Mowing Bids
- Committees/Commission Reports
- Road Foreman’s Report
- Clerk Report
- Other Business:
 - Drug Policy Draft
 - Japanese knot weed
 - East Hill Preschool funding

The Selectboard met at the Craftsbury Town Hall on Tuesday, July 1, 2014 at 7 PM. Selectboard present were Bruce Urie, Susan Houston and Jim Jones. Yvette Brown (Town Clerk), Michelle Warren (Clerk of Selectboard), June Cook (Hardwick Gazette), Matthew Derr (President, Sterling College), Lt. Walt Smith, Scott Vogel, Michelle Guenard, Farley Brown, Jody Stoddard and Sung-Hee Chung were also present.

Approval Select Board Minutes:

Jim made a motion to approve the June 24, 2014 minutes as printed, Susan seconded, approved.

Sterling College Updates —Matthew Derr:

Matthew explained to the Selectboard that Sterling College was committed to growth and sustainability. The strategic plans includes growth from 100 to 150 students over 5 years. This past year they committed time and resources to create a campus master plan that:

- 1) Has buildings that fit in, not to look like a typical campus. They also created a Sterling College sign that was a replica of their original sign.
- 2) Did not include building new classrooms. They are creating new areas for agriculture, draft horses, gardening, micro dairy and more. They have partnered with Tom Stearms and Andrew Meyers who repurposed the South House and lease it back to the college.

Matthew also informed the Selectboard that the Parsonage was donated to Sterling College. They are in the process of lining up contractors for repairs so it can be set up for 2 faculty apartments.

Sterling College was given a \$350,000 restricted gift toward the purchase Penny Schmitt’s property. Closing is scheduled for tomorrow.

- 3) Matthew also explained Sterling College is committed to getting away from using fossil fuels. The Public Service Board has allowed 10 more solar trackers at Sterling College, which will then cover 100% of Sterling College's electricity.

Sterling is also offering a variety of different programs, including short courses such as artisan cheese, rock climbing, canoeing, cycling and more. Open House is scheduled July 12, but only 30 people are expected and parking will be on Sterling College's campus, which won't interfere with Antiques & Uniques.

Break-Ins — Michelle Guenard:

Michelle G. explained that there has been several Craftsbury break-ins recently, including Mill Village Road and Wylie Hill Road. Because only a few things were stolen at each place, many people have been reluctant to call police. Lt. Smith, from Derby's State Barracks, said it's important to let them know about break-ins, so they can find a pattern and hopefully apprehend the thief. The amount of Vermont State police coverage coincides with the amount of calls received as well. Since January 2014, the State Police has responded to 38 calls in Craftsbury in which 4-6 were property/crime related, 3 simple assaults, 9 citizen arrests, 1 sex offender check, 9 motor vehicle incidents, 2 welfare checks, 4 911 hang ups and a few traffic stops. Bruce noted that was typical for Craftsbury. They cover over 30 towns in Northern Vermont. They would also be interested in calls, or even letters exposing known heron dealers in the area, which can be anonymous. Lt. Smith explained that some towns, even small towns had police coverage such as Lyndonville (population 1207), 3 person police force; Hardwick population 3,010), 7-9 person police force; Canaan (population 1,078) and Brighton (population 1,260) share a 1 person police force; St. Johnsbury (population 7,571), 10 person police force. Farley asked if Lt. Smith thought there was a pattern with the break-ins, he said not yet, most were unoccupied camps, with doors kicked in. Scott said his mother was fearful if the person would try and break in again. He will try and put more troopers in the area to deal with the situation. There were concerns if recent offenders have returned to the area, Lt. Smith mentioned that Vermont offenders are registered on the Department of Corrections website. A community watch was discussed.

Village Re-Designation Update — Sung-Hee Chung:

Sung-Hee explained that with help from NVDA's Alison Low and Craftsbury Outdoor Center's Andrew Dougherty, all of the requirements for Craftsbury's Village Center Re-Designation were completed as necessary. Both Craftsbury Village and Craftsbury Common were renewed for Village Center Designation for the next 5 years. Sung-Hee noted she had spoken to Pete's Green and they didn't think it would be necessary to put their new processing building in Village Designation. June asked if East Craftsbury was in the Village Designation, Bruce said no. Since Craftsbury Community Care Center was built in the 1990's, CCCC's director didn't think it would be needed.

Michelle will put the Village Designation information on the Selectboard webpage.

Dog Policy Draft:

The Selectboard will wait to finalize the Dog Policy, until they speak with Chris Masse.

Open Meeting Law:

The Selectboard discussed what other towns were doing regarding the new open meeting laws.

Updates:

John Stoddard has started cleaning up the Town Beach, weed wacking and setting up a garbage can. The Selectboard agreed to pay John \$20/week. Logan Jones is working on painting the milk jugs and will mark the

Town Beach's swimming area soon.

Bruce spoke to Wayne Mutrux who has agreed to help this summer with mapping for the ancient road clean up.

Jim said Brian Sanville is still planning to mow Craftsbury's roadside in July.

Committees/Commission Reports:

Yvette said she is still working on getting together the Recreation Committee.

Susan said the Conservation Commission is working on updating the shoreline brochure and cover letter. Michelle offered to help design it if needed. Bruce said that the DEC is also working on shoreline literature, may want to check into that first, make sure not duplicate mailings. If they do a mailing, they can mail through the Town Clerk's office.

Michelle gave the Selectboard a copy of the recent Website Committee minutes. She offered the Selectboard a sample letter to send out to the local committees/commissions explaining the new open meeting law changes. Michelle will send Bruce the letter via email and he will get them sent out to the Town's committees/commissions.

Road Foreman's Report:

Steve was absent, no report given.

Clerk Report:

Yvette reported that the tax bills have been sent out. Non residential education tax rate for Craftsbury is 1.4863, homestead education tax rate is 1.8756.

Yvette said that many of the fluorescent bulbs in the meeting are blown and she would like them replaced before elections in August.

Dan McClure has given the Town map drawers. Yvette said she is running out of storage space, and is looking for another safe. Yvette mentioned that Jean Sour called, and she would like the Selectboard to call her about selling her land. Bruce said he would contact her.

Other Business:

- The Selectboard will review the drug policy later.
- Sung-Hee Chung said that with volunteers from the Outdoor Center & Hardwick's Heartbeat, they were very successful eradicating a large section of Japanese knotweed along the Black River. She has been in touch with DEC's Ben Copans to see if they can help stabilize the rapidly eroding stream bank.
- The Selectboard discussed the East Hill Preschool funds. The Selectboard agreed that the appropriations payment is only processed for the current year. If not taken in that year, it gets rolled over into the general fund. East Hill Preschool was allocated \$3,000 for 2014.

The Selectboard Meeting adjourned 9 PM. Next meeting is scheduled 7 PM on Tuesday, July 15, 2014 at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Warren". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue ink color.

Michelle Warren, Clerk of the Select Board

Upcoming Project Considerations:

- Speeding concerns on the Common
- Dog ordinance discussion
- Ancient roads
- Sidewalk between IA & Academy buildings
- Telecommunication ordinance amendment
- Wastewater feasibility study
- Emergency Management Plan discussion
- Town Hall Relocation possibilities
- Brainstorm needs of Town Hall interior
- Conservation Commission Position
- Big Hosmer Pond Meeting