

Royalton Selectboard
Knights Opera House

April 12, 2011

Public Present: Jo Levasseur, Ralph Hein, Ronald Cavanaugh, VLS student liaison Falko Schilling, Erin and Lars Lillenthal, Stuart Levasseur, Police Chief Robert Hull, Administrative Assistant Nathan Cleveland

Selectboard Present: Chairman Larry Trottier, Ernie Amsden, Joan Goldstein, and Phil Gates

Regrets: Peggy Ainsworth

Chairman L. Trottier opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Public Comments

Chairman L. Trottier asked if there were any public concerns. No concerns were raised.

Appointments

Ralph Hein: Community Garden

Discussion ensued on the proposed community garden as presented by Mr. R. Hein.

A motion was made by J. Goldstein and seconded by P. Gates to approve the use of the Hope Property on S. Windsor Street for the purpose of community gardens contingent upon approval of a management plan and a cost estimate on needed supplies. Motion passed.

Jo Levasseur, Chairwoman, Royalton Planning Commission: Proposed Land Development Bylaw

Ms. J. Levasseur discussed the proposed Land Development Bylaw that the Royalton Planning Commission has drafted with assistance from the Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Planning Commission. She noted that a survey of town residents was used in an effort to address land use and future development in town. She gave an overview of the process that must be followed if the Selectboard voted to approve the Proposed Land Development Bylaw. This process, she noted was similar to the adoption process used to adopt the Town Plan. The process involves holding multiple public hearings including one conducted by the Royalton Planning Commission as well as two public hearings conducted by the Royalton Selectboard prior to a town wide vote which she proposed to be held at the 2012 annual town meeting. Discussion ensued on the Proposed Land Development Bylaw, and it was noted that should the Selectboard choose to support the proposed Land Development Bylaw it would be reviewed by the VLCT prior to holding any public hearings.

Chairman L. Trottier expressed his appreciation for the time and effort that the Royalton Planning Commission has put into the draft of the proposed Land Use Bylaw. Mr. Cavanaugh expressed concerns with parts of the bylaw but also noted that there were some needs for such a development bylaw and that he hoped that the voters would have an opportunity to weigh in on the bylaw prior to adoption. Chairman L. Trottier noted that public opinion would be heard during the three public hearings that are required prior to a formal town wide vote.

Frank Berk, Royalton Town Agent: Crawford Property

Mrs. And Mr. Lillenthal representing the Cascadnac Fish and Game Club were present to start a dialog with the town concerning the annual fundraising event that has been taking place on the property in September. The fund raising event includes skeet shooting and other target shooting events. Mr. Lillenthal noted he hoped that if the town were to purchase the property there may be a way to accommodate the annual event put on by the Cascadnac Fish and Game Club. He also noted that as the town progressed with their plans to purchase the property and the use of the land changes, the Fish and Game Club would be willing to assist in any manner possible. Chairman L. Trottier thanked Mr. and Mrs. Lillenthal for bringing their concerns to the Selectboard's attention. The subject was tabled until the end of the meeting.

Selectboard Minutes of March 8, 2011 and March 22, 2011

J. Goldstein asked that it be noted in the minutes of March 22, that the Selectboard had recommended to Mr. Michael Kennedy that he present his proposed Joseph Smith historical museum to the Royalton Planning Commission.

A motion was made by J. Goldstein that was seconded by E. Amsden to accept the minutes of March 8, 2011 and March 22, 2011 with the addition of recommending presenting the Joseph Smith historical museum to the Royalton Planning Commission to be added to the March 22, 2011 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

VLS request to use the SORO Village Green

The Selectboard reviewed a written request from VLS student representatives of the Reproductive Justice Group to use the South Royalton bandstand and green on April 14, 2011 to hold an event to recognize the prevalence of sexual assault and remember the survivors and victims who have suffered from it.

A motion was made by J. Goldstein and seconded by E. Amsden to approve the use of the South Royalton Village Green on April 14, 2011 by the VLS Reproductive Justice group. Motion approved.

Committee and Commission Appointments

The Selectboard appointed J. Goldstein and L. Trottier to represent the Selectboard in interviews for commission or committee appointments. These interviews will be conducted in late May 2011, and early June 2011. Formal appointments will be made in July 2011. Mr. D. Brandau and Ms. A. Gravel will represent the Royalton Planning Commission in interviews for vacancies to the Royalton Planning Commission.

Pre – Disaster Mitigation Plan

The Selectboard asked to table the agenda item until the additions made to the Pre-Disaster Mitigation plan are accepted by the Regional Planning Commission.

Sewer Department

P. Gates updated the Selectboard on the ongoing sewer study. It was reported that camera work will be performed on the back business alley (private road behind the Chelsea St. business block), South Windsor Street and the alley beside the old school gym to determine the condition of the sewer lines and check for unauthorized connections (roof drains and sump pumps). The camera work will be contracted to the Vermont Rural Water Association (VRWA) and requires

that the town sign a standard contract that releases VRWA from liability associated with any damage to the sewer lines being worked on. P. Gates also noted that there has been a large amount of grease accumulating in the wet well at the pump station behind the South Royalton school. This issue may result in onsite review of businesses to determine if grease traps are being used and cleaned on a regular basis.

A motion was made by J. Goldstein and seconded by E. Amsden to sign the contract with VRWA to perform camera work/inspections. The motion passed with P. Gates abstaining from the vote.

Accounts Payable and Payroll

The Selectboard reviewed and approved accounts payable vouchers and payroll as prepared by the Town Treasurer.

Town Clerk's Office

The Selectboard reviewed a liquor license renewal application received from Fitz Vogt Enterprises.

E. Amsden made a motion that was seconded by J. Goldstein to approve the Liquor License renewal application received from Fitz Vogt Enterprises. The motion passed unanimously.

Highway Department

Excess Weight Permits

The Selectboard reviewed excess weight permit applications.

E. Amsden made a motion that was seconded by P. Gates to approve excess weight permit applications received from Arthur Whitcomb, Harvey's plumbing and Excavating LLC, Camp Precast Concrete Products Inc., Gillespie Fuels and Propane Inc., W.B. Rogers Inc., Cardinal Logistics Management Corporation, Winterset Inc., Romano Trucking Inc., C. Hill Trucking, United Natural Foods, and Manning Pulpwood Sales Inc. The motion passed unanimously.

Bridge and Road Standards

The Selectboard reviewed the revised Bridge and Road Standards pursuant to Act 110 of the 2010 Vermont legislative session.

A motion was made by J. Goldstein and seconded by P. Gates to approve the revised Bridge and Road Standards. The motion passed unanimously.

Annual Financial Plan – Town Highways

Administrative Assistant N. Cleveland presented the Annual Financial Plan for the Highway Department as required by title 19 V.S.A. Section 306 (j).

J. Goldstein made a motion that was seconded by E. Amsden to approve and sign the Annual Financial Plan for Town Highways. The motion passed unanimously.

Towing Policy/Traffic Ordinance

Discussion ensued on addressing issues that have developed concerning enforcing the no parking ban in the South Royalton Village area. Currently the ban is in place from 2:00 a.m. until 6:00 a.m. 12 months of the year. Administrative Assistant N. Cleveland explained that towing

companies have been towing vehicles without authorization from town officials. Discussion ensued on how to clarify the town's no parking ban. Due to concerns with unauthorized towing, tow companies have been put on a rotating list. When a vehicle needs to be towed the first company on the list is contacted by a town official to have the vehicle towed. If another vehicle must be towed the next company on the list is contacted and the first company moves to the bottom of the list. No tow company will be able to tow more than two vehicles in one night, unless other companies are unavailable. It was also discussed how to clarify this parking ban for the public. Administrative Assistant N. Cleveland noted that at a previous meeting he had suggested placing a sign on roads leading into the South Royalton Village that would notify the public that if vehicles were parked in the village between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. they would be subject to being towed.

E. Amsden made a motion that was seconded by P. Gates to purchase for towing signs to be placed on South and North Windsor Street, Oxbow/Pleasant Street, and Chelsea Street. The motion passed unanimously.

Mill Road

Administrative Assistant N. Cleveland updated the Selectboard on the permitting process for the reconstruction of the Mill Rd. bridge and retaining wall project. Doubois and King, Inc. has submitted applications for a stream alteration permit from the state of Vermont and a permit from the Army Corps of Engineering. Construction will begin June 20, 2011 which will also be the date that the road will be closed. Discussion ensued on the project and it was noted that there will be a notice of the pending road closure posted in the Randolph Herald the first two weeks of May and a public hearing on the project will be held in conjunction with the Selectboard meeting on May 24, 2011.

Crawford Property

Town Agent F. Berk was present to discuss the potential purchase of the former Crawford Autoland property.

J. Goldstein made a motion that was seconded by P. Gates to enter into executive session to discuss the negotiation of real estate purchase options. The motion passed unanimously.

Entered executive session at 9:35 p.m.

Exited executive session at 11:00 p.m. with no action taken.

Additional Business

Administrative Assistant N. Cleveland presented a petition to discontinue a portion of the so called "Bloss Ballou Rd." that runs through property owned by the Hodgdon family. The petition was received by the Town Clerk at 8:10 a.m. on April 12, 2011. The Selectboard asked that Administrative Assistant N. Cleveland contact the town's attorney to confirm the procedure that must be followed to act upon the petition. It was noted that a site visit and public hearing must be held prior to any decision being made on the petition to discontinue the road.

Adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Nathan P. Cleveland