

Royalton Selectboard Meeting – Public Hearing Minutes

August 26, 2008

5:00 PM, Knight's Opera House

Selectboard members present: Ernie Amsden, Peggy Ainsworth, John Dumville, Peg Trombly, Larry Trottier

Public present: Carol and Perry Hodgdon, Danielle and John Michael Taylor and their young children Emma and baby John

Meeting called to order by Chair Larry Trottier at 5:00 PM. The purpose of the meeting was to have an on-site meeting to review the discontinuance of the road north of the Hodgdon property on Post Farm Road where it enters the Taylor and Cleland properties. Trottier wanted to go on record that he has had equal business dealings with both the Hodgsons and Bensons so feels he can be impartial in discussions on the Bloss-Ballou Road issue. He if he had doubts he has turned to Peggy Ainsworth to answer questions.

Trombly made note of the email of August 25, 2008 from Will Flender to the Royalton Selectboard that the page reference for the original road should be Page 363 and not Page 344 in the Town Road records of 1786-1813.

At 5:13 the meeting recessed so the group could go to the area in question. The Selectboard members rode as a group in Trottier's vehicle. They proceeded to the site via Gee Hill Road, arriving at 5:34. The group parked just below the former Wallen House now owned by the Taylors. On site for the meeting were the Selectboard members and the Hodgsons and Taylors. Perry Hodgdon did not feel the section of road under discussion should be called the Bloss-Ballou Road which was on the opposite side of Post Farm Road. After reviewing a diagram of the section of road under consideration, and a discussion that there were no indications of the road on the land, all were in agreement that any portion of the so called Bloss-Ballou Road north of the Hodgdon line, as laid out May 8, 1804 in the Town Road Records of 1786-1813 on Page 363, should be discontinued.

The on-site meeting recessed at 6:00 PM to be reconvened at 7:00 PM at the Knight's Opera House. The Selectboard members then drove up Slack Road to see the recent driveway access that had been permitted and then drove up Royalton Hill to review Access Permit 08-13 of Larry Brothers. No action was taken.

Respectfully submitted,
John Dumville, Clerk

Royalton Selectboard meeting reconvened at 7:00 PM at Knight's Opera House.

Selectboard Administrative Assistant Nathan Cleveland to take over keeping minutes.

Royalton Selectboard Meeting
Knight's Opera House
Minutes

August 26, 2008 meeting

Selectboard Present: Larry Trottier, Peg Trombly, John Dumville, Peggy Ainsworth, and Ernie Amsden

Public Present: Jon Ranney, Frank Berk, Phil Gates, and Nathan Cleveland

Public Hearing on Discontinuing a Portion of the "Bloss – Ballou Rd." (North of the Post Farm Rd.)

L. Trottier called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Public Hearing on Discontinuing a northern portion of the "Bloss – Ballou" Rd.

Hodgdon Trust is opposed to calling the discontinuance of the road as the "Bloss Ballou Rd." and reference the title used in the paragraph of the notice for discontinuance of a portion of the "Bloss – Ballou Rd."

No objection to discontinue the portion of the Bloss-Ballou rd.

L. Trottier asked N. Cleveland what action the Selectboard needs to take. He replied that no action needs to be taken on the 26th and the public hearing will remain open until Sept. 9.

EC Fiber Network – Signing of Contract

L. Trottier welcomed Jonathan Ranney to the meeting.

J. Ranney was present to answer any questions concerning the Contract for the EC Fiber Network prior to the signing of the contract by the Royalton Selectboard.

J. Ranney noted that every household and business will be hooked up and the project will begin in Hartford, VT and will expand from there. Discussion continued on the reasoning for connection to the network and the timeframe that the project will take to complete. F. Berk asked when the contract needed to be signed by the Selectboard. It was noted that the contract had to be signed by the 9th of September. F. Berk noted that he spoke with attorneys after the meeting on August 12, 2008. Noted that the project was a very large project and the other attorneys involved with Towns that are signing the contract have reassured him of the entire project. Nothing at the August 12th, 2008 meeting between EC Fiber Network officials and the "Member Town's" gave F. Berk a bad feeling. The entire process made sense. Discussion continued on the network installation.

F. Berk recommended signing the agreement.

J. Dumville made a motion to sign the agreement. E. Amsden seconded the motion. L. Trottier asked for further discussion and hearing none called the motion to a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

N. Cleveland was asked to contact J. Ranney to notify him that the contract was approved.

Central Air at the Royalton Academy Building

J. Dumville noted that the civics club was willing to pay for central air for the large meeting room on the first floor.

E. Amsden made a motion to authorize N. Cleveland to call companies to provide estimates for a central air system at the RAB. P. Trombly seconded the motion. L. Trottier asked for more discussion. Hearing no further discussion, he called the motion to a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Roberts Road.

L. Trottier noted that Roberts Road had washed out and the Road Crew did a nice job fixing the road and put in drainage swales. These drainage swales were taken out by Michael Branch. L. Trottier noted that this was not the first time that Mr. Branch had altered the Town's Right of Way. He outlined the options the Town had to deal with this problem. Options include speaking with a lawyer or ditching the road on both sides. This issue has happened in the past and the board has spoken with Michael Branch in 2006. **The Selectboard asked N. Cleveland to look for the past meeting minutes dealing with the prior drainage situation concerning Michael Branch on Roberts Rd.**

Update on High School Gym Addition

J. Dumville asked F. Berk how the High School Gym project was going. F. Berk noted that the bids came in under estimates for the project and that the School was hoping to see construction start as early as the week of September 1st.

Road Access Permit #08-13

J. Levassuer was here to discuss any questions that may have come up with the I. Brothers access permit application #08-13. She noted that the Bylaws for the Planning Commission were reviewed by the Planning Commission at the Aug. 25 meeting. The By-Laws were amended and need to be passed on to the Selectboard for their approval at the next meeting.

J. Levassuer wanted to make the Selectboard aware of the access possibly being an ancient road. Ancient roads committee has not had time to review or take action. The road was reviewed on the Town Highway map and the road has not been pinpointed as

what survey goes with this possible road. Believe the possible ancient road goes from the Back River Rd along the brook and was laid out so to avoid crossing the brook, and the snowmobile trail may presently follow it. This is not something that the Planning Commission wants to bring up to prevent an access. J. Levassuer outlined possible options if the rd was classified as an ancient rd. She noted that researching the road to see if it had been re-engineered to go a different direction and at the time would have been given up by the Town.would alleviate any possible concerns. Discussion continued on the possible ancient rd. located at the l. brothers access.

E. Amsden asked if it would be prudent to notify L. Brothers of the possibility of the ancient road.

L. Trottier asked if it is possible for a member of the Ancient Road Committee to research the road, or if we should allow the road to not be identified as an ancient road.

J. Levassuer noted the problem was the research would take some time to complete.

Ancient Rd meets next week. Sept. 2-9th. Would like to see what the other committee members would suggest. Noted that this road is not like the "Bloss ballou rd." and that there were no residents to her knowledge on the rd and was curious if the snowmobile club knew of any rd existing in the past. L. Trottier noted that the club to his knowledge normally goes to the land owner to ask permission.

N. Cleveland was asked to share the info with L. Brothers the applicant listed.

L. Trottier noted that access permit Scoskie 08-12 was on Dairy hill. P. Trombly noted that she would like to review the accesses before taking action on them. SB would like to take action at Sept. 9th 2008 meeting.

Transfer Station - Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP)

A Motion to suspend the SB meeting and convene with the public hearing on the Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) was made by P. Trombly and seconded by E. Amsden. L. Trottier asked for further discussion and hearing none called the motion to a vote. The Motion carried unanimously. Time 8:00 PM

L. Trottier welcomed Phil Gates to the meeting.

P. Gates asked if there were any questions for him concerning the SWIP. J. Dumville asked for an update as he was unable to attend the Joint meeting held with the alliance towns. P. Gates noted it was more educationally based than the original plan but was an updated version of the original plan. One such update is the requirement to reduce solid waste through recycling. Discussion continued on the SWIP as well as the Recycling ordinance that the Town of Royalton adopted in 1991. E. Amsden would like to update the recycling ordinance and keep the document in a current state that will apply in a reasonable manner and will allow for technology improvements.

It was noted that Chris Young had voiced a complaint of the hours of operation at the transfer station.

P. Gates noted that the hours were changed and it was done to give employees the benefit of a weekend day off.

E. Amsden was authorized to meet with Neal Fox and express concerns about the recycling ordinance and the hours of operation.

E. Amsden noted that the operations hours seem to be set to benefit commercial haulers. He also objected to the fact that haulers have keys to the landfill.

J. Dumville made a motion to adopt the Solid Waste Implementation Plan as proposed. E. Amsden seconded the motion. L. Trottier asked for further discussion and hearing none called the motion to a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

L. Trottier thanked P. Gates for the time and effort that he has put into the SWIP for the past 17+ years.

P. Gates noted that updating the recycling ordinance would require many man hours and would possibly require the assistance of an outside firm.

P. Trombly made a motion to appoint D. Brandau for a four year term. The motion was seconded by J. Dumville.

E. Amsden asked n. Cleveland if he has a way of updating the town appointments for different commissions.

L. Trottier asked for further discussion and hearing none called the motion to a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Structure of Administrative Assistant hours and Operations procedures

The possibility to restructure hours for the Selectboard's Administrative Assistant in an effort of possibly getting past minutes to the Selectboard in a timelier manner as well as following up on directives from the board was discussed.

Review of Purchase/Build options for the Town Offices

Discussion continued on the possibility of purchasing the Knight's Opera House or building new on the Dow Property/Hope Property. P. Trombly noted that it was quite obvious that building new would be more cost efficient. E. Amsden noted that the Knight's Opera House has historic value and is worth preserving but that it is not big enough for our intended use. By using the entire building the historical theatre part would be lost. A minimum of 2500' square feet would meet our immediate needs and the Town would require more space in the near future. Discussion continued on the Knight's Opera House. J. Dumville noted that he felt that we should review the report that was previously done on the Knight's Opera House.

P. Ainsworth asked if part of due diligence could be the past structural report.

1. the price has not changed concerning the structural report, and
2. the cost of the building as offered by the owners would not allow the town to move ahead.

Discussion continued on the options and the cost of estimating the cost of renovations, and purchase of the building.

J. Dumville expressed a wish to identify the square footage needs of the town offices.

P. Ainsworth noted that she believed that the board had researched enough and that the board had spun our wheels enough. It was time to move forward.

J. Dumville made a motion to contact the engineering firm that previously identified the structural deficiencies and get a cost estimate. E. Amsden seconded the motion. Passes unanimously and ask N. Cleveland to look at the square footage of the new building and present to the board at Sept 9th.

Asked N. Cleveland to look into available grants.

Personnel Policy

P. Trombly asked if this policy was for people that report directly to the Selectboard or for all town employee's. E. Amsden asked if we should ask Theresa Harrington of suggestions.

Discussion continued on the who is covered by our policy and if the policy would cover all of the employees including appointed officials such as the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer.

Make Priority to review personnel policy and possibly schedule a special meeting.

Accounts Payable (A/P)

AP – Reappraisal contract Motion by P. Ainsworth, second by P. Trombly to enact our payment option with Real Estate Assessments of Vermont for falling behind required completed inspections of 200 parcels per month. Completed parcels as of August 26, 2008 is 265 parcels for July and August, and the payment will be adjusted to reflect \$21.50 X 265

E. Amsden asked if the Health officer was deposed in court would they be paid? N. Cleveland was asked to speak with the health officer.

A motion was made by P. Ainsworth to adopt editing for Personnel Policy editing corrections without changing the text, except emergency callout suggested changes numbered 1, 3, 4, 5a, 6c, 9 as changed. P. Trombly seconded the motion. L. Trottier asked for further discussion and hearing none called the motion to a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Ask Listers if Gordon is done w/ updating maps. And if the maps are being completed.

Motion to adjourn at 10:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Nathan P. Cleveland

