

## Townshend Select Board Meeting Minutes - June 19, 2006

### Present

Berenice Brooks  
Alene Evans,  
Henry Martin, chair

Jeffrey Russ  
Irvin Stowell  
Select Board

### Participating Members

Kimberly Liebow & Carolyn Laning, Auditors; Sean Yancey, Mark Donahue and Fredrick Hege (Sarah Gustamachio, journalist student)

The chair ***called the Meeting to Order*** at 7:00 PM and recognized ***Participating Members***:

Sean Yancey, owner of the now closed Townshend Country Inn is in the process of converting the 57-seat restaurant building into 3 apartments. This renovation requires amending the property's ACT 250, so he presented the Municipal Impact Statement for Board completion and approval.

Sean reviewed and explained the Board's copy of the permit and plans - one apartment already exists in the Carriage House, 1<sup>st</sup> floor plans show the construction of a wall to create 2 (3 bedroom) apartments; will create another apartment upstairs; property was inspected and approved the present septic capabilities and water source with a 3,000 gal cistern (pump located under the present restaurant kitchen); he has sprinkled the building, provided egress windows on the back, magnetic doors and a fire alarm; he needs to update his neighbors of this change. The chair asked if the Board had any other concerns, hearing none *Martin moved to sign the ACT 250 Impact Statement, seconded Evans, signed by the Chair.* (Yancey left at 7:25 PM)

Kindle Farm School's, Assistant Director, Mark Donahue spoke of the school needing additional, temporary classrooms, which initiated them into investigating, prefabricated YURTS (copied for Board review). Kindle Farm is applying for a short ACT 250 amendment process which includes a Municipal Impact Statement.

Donahue provided the information to Martin's request for more structural detail, size, visual impact, etc.

20-foot diameter circular constructed on a platform, beige lattice walls (folding plastic), pine beams inside, capped by a green dome ceiling; gas heated no water, all constructed to code. State is already familiar with this type of structure as they were used at Sharon Academy.

The property plans shows a second Yurt, which is located in Newfane on the second tier of the hill. Marquis has assured them that it was far enough away from septic and water lines and Kindle Farm is exploring the possibility of relocating the driveway to protect the student traffic. After complete discussion *Martin moved to approve and sign Kindle Farm's Municipal Impact Statement, seconded by Evans, unanimously carried by the Board.* (Donahue left at 7:35 PM)

Auditors, Carolyn Lanning joined Kimberly Liebow at 7:40 PM to address problems/issues in the 2005 town report/budget. They have been unable to find the original documents to explain how these financial pages were prepared. Laning found the publisher's time line to be so limit, she did not have enough time to review their draft before it was printed and the Treasurer informed her that the publisher did not print her e-mailed reports. The Board will instruct the Treasurer to provide the Auditors with those reports.

The Board's financial concerns, responded Martin, were numerical transposition, typographically errors; the \$1,100+ Town Clerk Office salary surplus still remains unresolved; excessive accounts payable. Evans spoke to the Auditors that it was great to get along with everyone, but it is their job to audit all of us. (Auditors left at 7:55 PM)

Fredrick Hege presented a complete draft copy of the Townshend Elementary School / Select Board meeting minutes. He also delivered a message from its chair, Kathleen Hege re: connecting into the Elementary School's present septic system. The State person, to whom she spoke to, has no record of Valley Cares Inc. inquiring for inclusion onto the system and Grace Cottage Hospital would have to comply to all of the new septic laws which means that they would literally have to start all over again, from scratch. The Town and School can say no to anyone who might want to be added on to the present system.

Martin, rep. to Valley Cares (VC) Board, believes this to be a moot point. Presently VC needs additional land for its back up/replacement septic system, which the State could variance. VC is hopeful that this new area will be far enough from the DeWitt & Jacobs' water source supply thus eliminating VC to acquire a highway access permit to provide water to them. This information answered Stowell's concern on the status of their highway access applications. Martin continued VC rep. Marchant informed VC that an expandable platform that could be purchased to facilitate fire ladders to reach the windows on higher building, lessening the requirements to obtain a ladder fire truck.

F. Hege furthered with a School Board update on their position to the Fair Day Auxiliary's letter requesting access and power from the School. In previous years Fair Day personnel allowed everyone access to walk thru the building; last year the Fair personnel took additional electricity from the School for the Moon Walk; this year the School will only provide a short electrical extension cord and has asked that the Fair's BBQ area be relocated because students track, onto the carpets, the improperly disposed of grease.

**1a. Town Clerk and/or Treasurer:** no report at this time

**1b. Highway foreman:** was not present due to a previous engagement. At this time Stowell spoke about his requests of the road foreman that were not timely responded to:

- take down the weight limit signs, suppose to be done by May 15<sup>th</sup>
- Common benches not yet put out, supposedly some had to be repaired
- No action or work started on the Better Back Road grant — Plumb Rd clay bank
- Not seeing any specifications for the new truck or on paving.

Martin said he'd talk to the road foreman.

The Board just received correspondence from Charles Murray, which he requests a resolution to drain water off the road/driveway (Gale Rd, W. Townshend). Stowell was aware of the situation and agreed that he and road foreman, Bostrom would meet with Murray.

The Board became aware of a man who wants the Town's old culverts, as he has taken them from Brookline and Newfane. Members discussed who and how to get rid of them. Finally, the Board's consensus was to ask the road foreman to handle disposing of these old culverts.

**1c. Board of Health:** no report at this time

The chair moved to approve the **Minutes of June 5, 2006**, seconded by Stowell (correct Trooper Hopkins name), *unanimously carried by the Board.*

Martin moved to **Pay Bills and Sign the following Orders**, seconded by Evans

SM06 — 12	\$11,643.79 plus B&B's total \$10,961.99	12 A	\$162,356.91 (handwritten)
SMPR06 - 12	\$ 1,823.50	12 A	\$484.00 (handwritten)

Road Com Orders wk/ending

unanimously carried and signed.

#### **4. Old Business**

**Vermont State Police (VSP)** —Martin spoke of his conversation with Trooper Hopkins' conversation where he asked that the VSP have the money (\$9,000) in hand to provide law enforcement services; the contract would be forthcoming. He also provided Martin with contact names and phone numbers. Evans added that Trooper Hopkins had left an inaudible message on her answering machine. Members' remembered Trooper Hopkins mentioning that VSP "draws down" off their contract and discussed how to rectify the situation, the VSP payment of \$9,000 was added to an order and informed the Treasurer that the forthcoming contract would substantiate this request (each member will see a copy of the contract upon its arrival).

**Common** —Electricity kept tripping off during the Alumni festivities, reported Martin. It's supposed too replied Russ. Martin continued on his conversation with Fair Day Auxiliary chair, Stan Holt, their Fair Day electrician said that the Common needed a ground fault, costing \$268. Russ' request, that he be allowed ask another electrician to look at the situation and get it done, was approved.

Fountain: W. Joyce stopped by to ask Martin should he be buying another gallon of the basin sealer, which would bond it to be watertight. Stowell added don't use "Thermo seal" as paint won't stay. Russ asked who painted the fountain; isn't there a fountain or common committee to handle this project?

**Road Striping** —Stowell again has left phone messages to fax a quote to stripe Grafton Rd. As yet, no response.

**Town Hall handyman** — Board is still in search of an individual.  
Repairing roof — the Board instructed their clerk to phone each of our resident roofing contractors, who have inspected the roof, requesting that they submit a bid, by July 3<sup>rd</sup>, to repair the slated roof.

**WCSD unpaid invoices** —Evans believes that the Town should offer to pay a percentage of the outstanding amount. Because she believes it would be hard for them to define and document their work. Martin agreed that Evans set up a meeting, which he would attend (this Friday afternoon would be fine for him) to resolve these outstanding invoices.

It has come to Martin's attention that the Sheriff's Department is refusing to come to Townshend or to Grace Cottage Hospital. He assumes because there is no signed contract.

**Cell Tower** —Verizon is not interested in installing any in town towers, reported Martin.

- Windham Regional Commission's response to the State's Project Review of Valley Care's application —*no board action taken*

### **5. New Business**

- Brooks announced that John Nopper will be attending the July 3<sup>rd</sup> 7:00 PM
- After having a casual conversation with Triple T Trucking Disposal, Russ believes it's time that the town starts thinking of a different manner in which to dispose of its household waste; like Jamaica and Wardsboro only has to provide an attendant.
- Martin reported that the Board did meet with the Townshend Elementary School Board (6/19/06 minutes attached) discussed their roof and the septic system and its pending need for repairs.
- Martin stressed that its time to start putting on our thinking caps, because, in the near future, the Town will need to address a village wide septic system.

### **6. Other Business**

St of VT's Wastewater permit process — 30-day in-house to amend Charles Murray's prior lot size.  
VLCT's — June newsletter and Legislative Wrap-up

**7. Executive Session** - none at this time

**8. Time of Next Meeting** —July 3, 2006

*Brooks moved to **Adjourn 9:00 PM**, seconded by Stowell, unanimously carried by the Board.*

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Davis, clerk for the Select Board