

Minutes of the May 14, 2012 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, Abbie Sherman, Kevin Dirth, Kristen LaFromboise, Molly LaFromboise, Geneva Gaiko, Ola O'Dell, Valdis Rubenis, Laura Rubenis, Ellen Nobile, Lawrence Nobile, Rosalie Benson, James Hill, Guy Best, Newt Whitcomb, Lisa Campbell, Mary Russ, Toni Deslaurier, Willow Griffith, and Amy Danley-White for the "Herald of Randolph."

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Neal Fox, the Board first reviewing and approving the weekly payroll and payables. Chairman Fox invited public comment on any item of interest to the public, this being the first item on the order of the agenda. With none forthcoming, he turned to a review of minutes for previous meetings. Since Bill Hall was unable to attend the current meeting due to illness, it was agreed that a determination of wording for the minutes of April 9, 2012 would be tabled until all three members could be in attendance. Joe De Freitas made the motion to approve the minutes of April 23, 2012 inclusive of the minutes of the continued meeting of April 25, 2012; this motion was seconded by Neal Fox and thus carried. Since the next scheduled meeting of the Board (May 28, 2012) falls on a holiday, it was agreed that the Board would meet briefly on May 30, 2012 at 6:00 PM prior to meeting in joint session with the Royalton Selectboard.

The Board next reviewed and placed on file minutes of certain Town or regional committees. These consisted of: (1) Development Review Board minutes of May 1, 2012, (2) Recreation Committee minutes of April 30, 2012, and (3) Local Emergency Planning Committee #12 minutes of April 19, 2012. No action was required or taken regarding these items.

Delbert Cloud provided the Board with an update on the progress being made in restoration of Town infrastructure damaged by Irene. At this time he also noted the training program being promoted by the Local Emergency Planning Committee #5 for citizens who are interested in helping in emergency response matters, both in terms of readiness planning, or actually assisting at the time of future disasters; effort is being made to assemble informed and capable "Community Emergency Response Teams" in all communities. The first of the training opportunities for this purpose is to be at the Barre Auditorium on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Cloud also sought and obtained the Board's concurrence that the potential of clearing additional debris from stream channels in conjunction with the NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection program should be pursued, this being proffered in a letter from that program dated April 25, 2012. It is also noted that FEMA will ask the Town to consider eliminating the bridge on Old Route 12 which was badly damaged by Irene, in lieu of incurring the enormous expense associated with repair/replacement of that structure; this matter will need to be evaluated in more detail at a future time when further information is available.

At 6:40 PM, Chairman Fox welcomed Dr. Kevin Dirth, Whitcomb Jr.-Sr. High School Principal; Kristen LaFromboise, School Board Chair; and Molly LaFromboise, representative of the Seventh Grade student body. Molly LaFromboise first approached the Board, to deliver a donation to the Town of Bethel Irene Recovery Fund in the amount of \$512.50, this being in addition to a previous donation in the amount of \$1,300.00, both amounts being 50% of the proceeds from sale of a book written by the students to document the Irene occurrence. Amidst applause from the public present, Chairman Fox thanked Miss LaFromboise and the student body for its civic contributions.

Discussion then turned to the use of the school property as a disaster relief shelter. It was acknowledged by all that the facility is uniquely suited for the purpose, and that it would be in the public interest to use it for the purpose discussed. Various needs of the facility itself were identified (generator, showers, etc.) as well as certain needs relative to supplies (cots, food, etc.) necessary for operation at the times of disaster. Joe De Freitas suggested that the Red Cross should be asked to do a "walk through" at some point, to ensure that it would meet criteria whereby all costs and liabilities would be assumed by that entity. It was agreed that Dr. Dirth would bring the subject before the full School

Board, to make sure everyone shared the same concepts. This discussion concluded at 7:12 PM.

Per schedule of the agenda, Chairman Fox then opened a public forum for input on the public's thoughts on use of the former Town gravel pit on Peavine Boulevard as a shooting range by individuals. At Chairman Fox's request, Delbert Cloud explained the present Ordinance whereby restrictions are placed on the discharge of firearms at certain locations in Town. Newt Whitcomb said he considers there to be a difference between sighting in a gun for hunting and just shooting. Rosalie Benson said she has tried to be tolerant but would like to see limits on when shooting occurs, hopefully to exclude shooting on weekends. Ola O'Dell said she is still troubled by the noise. Jim Hill spoke of an instance where he had to request someone to stop shooting at around 10:30 PM, this in his estimate being far later than reasonable. Chairman Fox asked Mr. Hill if he knew the person doing the shooting (no), observing that many people shooting at the pit are from out of Town. Mr. Hill offered additionally that he doesn't believe some shooters realize there are houses so close by at the top of the hill, and that shooters have fired into the air as evidenced by shot pellets he has found by his house; he does not believe limits are workable and that shooting at that location should be simply banned, possibly even on a "Town-wide" basis since "times have changed." Lawrence Nobile noted that full clips are rapidly fired many times, indicating to him that it is simply recreational shooting not associated with sighting in a gun. Valdis Rubenis confirmed that the River Street residents are greatly impacted by the noise; he also shoots but does not use rapid-fire weapons. Guy Best suggested that there could be health risks associated with accumulations of lead, particularly in proximity to the Town well. Ola O'Dell said she considers the nearby Peavine Park to be a family park and that shooting guns so close by is of concern. Noting that no additional comments seemed to be forthcoming, Chairman Fox suggested that it might be appropriate to schedule another hearing. Laura Rubenis questioned the need for another hearing; Chairman Fox noted that the Board does need to consider such matters as enforcement, and would like to have participation of the third Board member in forming any decision. Discussion on this subject concluded at 7:45 PM.

Chairman Fox then welcomed Lisa Campbell, to discuss a tree planting plan for Peavine Park. Mary Russ of the White River Partnership explained where the plantings would be done, and that the trees and labor to plant them would be available at no cost to the Town. There would need to be an agreement by the Town that the plantings would not be removed for at least 20 years. Willow Griffith also explained a plan she wished to pursue, for plantings at other location(s) on the White River streambank. Since the usual process is for the Town's Parks and Public Places Committee to consider such plans and present recommendations to the Selectboard, the Board asked if the Town committee has been consulted. Lisa Campbell assured the Board that the committee has been contacted and has approved the plans, although several members of the committee are no longer interested in serving actively. Neal Fox noted that there seem to be several people in attendance that would be willing to serve on the committee, and that the Board would be willing to make new appointments. He made the motion that the Selectboard accept the committee's recommendation for the proposed plantings, this being seconded by Joe De Freitas and thus carried.

The Board then returned to the order of the agenda, next reviewing a draft of the Town's "Basic Emergency Operations Plan." It was agreed that the updating is complete for the 2012 format. It was further agreed that the regional planning commission, who assists in development and filing such plans with emergency management officials, should be asked how it can state that "this document is labeled "For Official Use Only" and is not to be released by TRORC to the public" when the Town has learned to the contrary that TRORC released the most recent plan to the public.

Having already addressed the matter of stream debris, the Board next reviewed hydraulic evaluations for certain waterway crossings, and acknowledged receipt of the "Calendar Year 2011 Bridge Inspection Summary Reports" received from the Vermont Agency of Transportation.

The following communications were then reviewed and placed on file: (1) a notice of HUD public hearings regarding certain disaster assistance funding to be received by the State of Vermont, (2) notice from the Vermont Water Supply Division that the Town has received a waiver for synthetic organic chemical testing, (3) an April 23, 2012 letter from Richard I. Burstein Esq. re. an erosion problem at a property on North Main Street, (4) notice of an emergency management workshop in Rutland on May 21, 2012, and (5) the regional planning commission newsletter for April 2012.

A request from Suzette Ducharme for permission to use Town sidewalk space on Main Street for "Flea & Antique Marketing" on certain dates was reviewed and found acceptable on a trial basis.

By motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Neal Fox and thus carried, a second class liquor license and tobacco license was approved for Sambor Enterprises LLC.

With no further business to attend, the motion to adjourn was made at 9:10 PM by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Neal Fox and thus carried; the next meeting will be at 6:00 PM at the Bethel Town Office on Wednesday, May 30, 2012.

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Neal Fox

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Joe De Freitas

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Bill Hall