

ROCKINGHAM SELECTBOARD SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, August 9, 2016

Present: Lamont Barnett, Ann DiBernardo, Stefan Golec

Absent: Joshua Hearne, Peter Golec

Also Present: Willis Stearns, II, Municipal Manager; Kerry Bennett, Recording Clerk; Deborah Wright; Joel Love; Laurie Rowell

Press: Matt Farkas, FACT8; Joel Slutsky, The Shopper; Maddi Shaw, Brattleboro Reformer; Tory Jones Bonenfant, Eagle Times

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Lamont Barnett

Additions to the Agenda for Routine Administrative Matters and/or Pressing Matters that will require ratification at a future meeting: None. Laurie Rowell stated that she had an item to add to the agenda. Barnett noted that this was not for the public to add items but for the Manager to add items needing to be addressed immediately. Barnett stated that Rowell could bring up her issue under Public Comment.

Approve Minutes of August 2, 2016: *Ann DiBernardo made the motion to approve the minutes of August 2, 2016 as printed. Motion was seconded by Stefan Golec. Motion passed by unanimous vote of those present.*

Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda (3 minutes per person):

- Laurie Rowell stated that she was present as the attorney for Amy Robillard, former owner of 38 Green Street, and has sent a letter to the Town's attorney. Rowell asked that this be placed on the next agenda and Barnett agreed.
- Joel Love stated that he has had a conversation with the Secretary of State's Office regarding the first order of business "Additions to the Agenda for Routine Administrative Matters and/or Pressing Matters that will require ratification at a future meeting" and was told that this was pushing the edges of the open meeting law.
- Deborah Wright noted that it was brought to her attention by a citizen that all the plaques that were on the Vilas Bridge have been removed by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation and the Town does not know where they are stored, what the condition is of these and believes that the community should be the caretakers. Wright asked that the Board, as elected officials, contact, as quickly as possible, the NHDOT and ask that these be returned to this community. Wright noted that the plaques on the 4% of the bridge owned by Vermont are also gone. DiBernardo asked how Wright knew that NHDOT had these. Wright stated that someone had contacted the NHDOT, talked to the Walpole Highway crew and also Dan Scully, the architect from Keene, NH also has some knowledge of these. Barnett stated that this will be put on a future agenda for discussion.

Agenda:

1. Public Hearing – Town Plan Technical Update: The public hearing was opened at 6:07 p.m. by Chairman Lamont Barnett and asked Stearns if he had any comments on this item. Stearns stated that the document made available this evening included the minor changes that were approved by the Board at the last meeting, i.e. addition of the Downtown Designation and Saxtons River Village designation language and maps. Stearns noted that the plan was presented July 27, 2016 through the Windham Regional Commission in a public hearing and was presented twice by the Rockingham Planning Commission and the Selectboard is

required to hold 2 public hearings. Stearns noted that any substantial changes would require that the process start over.

Deborah Wright noted that the cover of the Plan does not show the correct dates and still show the 2011 dates. Wright also noted that there are a lot of action steps in the document but the Board does not seem to refer to the Town Plan when action is taken. Wright gave an example that in the document 1/10 of the sidewalks in the community are to be done each year so that when 10 years has passed they have all been redone. Wright asked that the Selectboard consider including with the goals and plans that the action steps be considered when this type of thing comes up. DiBernardo stated that this particular goal seems lofty. Stearns stated that this would require approximately 2 miles of sidewalks be done each year – 17 miles in Bellows Falls and 2 miles in Saxtons River. Patrick Moyna, Vice-Chair of the Planning Commission, was present representing the Planning Commission and stated that the Commission realizes that there are a lot of goals that need to be revised and part of doing a technical plan is meeting certain criteria to have it submitted to the State by a certain date. Moyna did note that going forward there will need to be revisions to this plan. Moyna also noted that the Town is looking at possibly separating the Zoning Board and the Planning Commission so that there is sufficient time to go through and revise the plan and get a more cohesive plan.

There were no further comments and Barnett closed the public hearing at 6:13 p.m.

Other Business:

- Stearns stated that the above ground Bartonsville Bridge debris is scheduled to be hauled back on Friday. However, the trucker has indicated that it is not possible to deliver the debris to the designated area. The owner of the debris will be Susan Hammond and if she is unable to find a location would the Board give permission for it to be stored at the Town pit. Barnett asked if there was a reason this item could not wait until the next meeting on September 6. Stearns stated that this is scheduled to be picked up this Friday. Stearns stated that he could grant this permission himself but in light of the circumstances felt the Board should weigh in on this. Barnett stated that Stearns has made the Board aware that should another site not be available it may need to be stored at the Town pit. DiBernardo stated that she has land in that area and may be open to discussing this. DiBernardo also stated that Hammond does not want it placed in an alternate location and wants it kept out of the public view. Barnett noted that should it be necessary to put this at the Town pit then the Town would be storing personal property at a town-owned location. DiBernardo stated she guessed so and asked Golec if he was OK with this. Golec stated that he was. Barnett noted that it was the consensus of the Board that it would be OK to store this at the Town pit.

Adjourn: *Stefan Golec made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Motion was seconded by Ann DiBernardo. Motion passed.*

Attest: _____
Kerry Bennett, Recording Clerk