

March 08, 2021

Selectboard Meeting

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Pat Harvey, Frank Severy

Guests: Asia Kennett, Amy Wildt, Kathryn Schenkman, Martha Slater, Lois Bond, Jeff Gephart, Tony Goupee, Jim Bowen, Nancy Woolley, Julie Smith, Kristen & Troy LaPell, Joan Allen, Orca Media, Kirk White, Kevin Dougherty, Sandy Haas, Vic Ribaud

Doon called the meeting at 6:01 pm

Doon read the State statute guidelines for holding a proper meeting electronically and confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

Prior Meeting Minutes: Doon moved to approve the 2-22-2021 SB minutes. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted. Doon moved to approve the 2-22-2021 Informational Hearing Minutes. Pat noted on Article 16, a correction on Franks statement "Selectmen have control" to "do not have control". Pat noted also on Article 31, Martha made a statement and a miss-spelling for "now" to "know". Doon moved to approve with the modifications. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted. Doon moved to approve the February 25 Informational Hearing Minutes.

Discussion about Scholarships: Amy Wildt proposed the Martin Farms and Kirkpatrick Senior Scholarships be included with the rest of the scholarship to be sent out to all the seniors. She noted a committee of one school board member, one selectboard member and one alumni representative to review the applicants and award the scholarships. Amy noted the Kirkpatrick scholarship is \$1000.00, which is a line in the town budget and the Martin's Farm award was \$100 in the past. She noted the Martins Farm scholarship resides in a cd in its original amount of \$2000.00. She noted the requirements on that scholarship is the award is presented on the interest of that cd. She noted the value of the cd is \$4,623.24. She noted she is asking the selectboard to allocate an amount for the award of the Martin's Farm scholarship. Doon asked Frank if he would still like to administer the awards. Frank agreed. The board decided to keep the amount the same at \$100.

Joan Updates: Joan noted the town did receive the \$170,658.01 from VTrans, which is only a little more than half of what they owe us for remainder of Bethel Mountain project. Joan noted the funding request for the application for standby generator for the town office was submitted to the Department of Homeland Security. She noted response to the application may be summertime before we know if we have been approved for that grant.

Park Use Application: Doon noted he was in favor of the Farmers Market continuing to use the park. He noted last year with the lay out for the social distancing and use of more into the park, it may have helped with the grass. Frank noted the grass was lined last fall along the front alongside Route 100. Frank noted it will be fertilized in the spring and if we can stay off of that area as much as possible it will help. Asia noted that Beth Frock has officially resigned as co-manager. She noted she will be flying solo this year. She noted she will continue the setup the same as last year even if the guidelines are lifted. She noted there will not be activities and

events this year. She noted this year she will have insurance this year to cover the market. Doon moved to approve the application. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Approval for 2nd Class Liquor License and renewal for Tobacco License for Skip Mart:

Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Appointments for Town Positions: Doon moved to approve the appointments of town positions which are attached. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

High School Building: Doon invited Vic and Kathryn to discuss about their report from the committee. Vic noted after attending the Budget and Finance committee for the past 5 years, every year the topic always comes up with the older and shrinking population, it gets harder and harder noting what we can do to turn it around and generate more people and revenue for the town. He noted the opportunity before us to develop the high school site would be greatly beneficial. He noted there are a lot of unknowns. He noted there is an ambitious group of volunteers that are working on the vision for the multipurpose facility that would be greatly beneficial for the people who live here as well as attract and retain new people in town. Problematically, he noted they are looking at creating a maker's space using the shops and art room facilities and coupling that with business incubator to help draw people who want to get started with a business at a low cost and develop physical products. He noted it would also house a childcare center. He noted there is a subgroup that is very enthusiastic to see a licensed childcare center. He noted they are also looking into an adult daycare center for the senior citizens. He noted there is also an art and learning program that would help bring together existing artists and artisans to develop and use new programs. Vic noted the building will need a lot of work. He noted the study the school commissioned to turn the school into a modern accredited school building is way beyond what they are discussing for this purpose. He noted the group is applying for a planning grant, which would provide funds to do a facilities space and improvement assessment as well as a business plan. He noted we currently have a timing problem. The school board is pushing the selectboard to decide now. He noted if they had more time to do the work that is envisioned in the grant for planning purposes they could prepare better moving forward. Kathryn noted one of the most recent decisions was to turn off the power and the heat as of July 1. She noted it is difficult to proceed with plans and an abandoned building. She noted that Pat, Vic and herself met with Nathan Cleveland to discuss all of this and what to get together for the planning grant. She noted with the planning grant it would allow them to do the analysis that needs to happen on many levels including the space plan, the environmental review and help develop the business plan and within that a marketing analysis. She noted it would give the selectboard hard factual information in terms of what the risks are and what the strengths are. She noted the selectboard needs to have more harden facts information. She noted after reading through the planning grant the optimal way of proceeding was to do the planning grant before acquisition takes place. She noted she suggested to Nate if the Town of Rochester making some good faith gesture to the school board. She noted for instance, the Town of Rochester offering to cover the electric and heat for the next year which will be nominal since there is no use of the building in the next year. She also noted the planning grant will also include funds for the environmental review. She noted there is an underground oil

storage tank. She noted there is no way of knowing what shape that tank is in for leakage. She noted in a lot of ways its an advantage for them to work with us. She also noted in the planning grant is a hearing for the whole town so information can be discussed openly. She noted there has been an outreach of support and volunteering. Long discussion ensued. Decision to put information out to the public. Doon asked Martha if she could write up an article. Nancy thought it would be great if Martha could attend the committee meeting. Vic noted it would be held on March 23 at 6:30 via zoom. Attached is the project description to date.

Library Updates: Tony noted there will be a trustee meeting at 5:45 pm on Tuesday evening.

Energy Coordinator Updates: Jeff noted he received information from Amy Wildt on the energy consumption data costs for the school building and was waiting for feedback from Bonnie Bourne on the coding for the separate RSUD school costs.

Kirk White: Kirk noted he wanted to be available if anyone has questions and can contact him with any concerns.

Doon moved to close the selectboard meeting at 7:30 pm to move into executive session on personnel discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith

Town of Rochester Elected Officials

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Moderator	Dan McKinley	2022
Selectboard:	Doon Hinderyckx, Chair	2022
	Frank Severy	2023
	Patricia Harvey	2024
Town Clerk	Julie Smith	2022
Town Treasurer	Julie Smith	2022
Listers:	Caroline Meagher	2022
	Louis Donnet	2023
	Jessica Arsenault	2024
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Rebecca Klein	2022
Library Trustees:	Barbara Shenton	2022
	Jolanta Labejsza	2023
	Kelly Kelly	2024
	Anthony Goupee	2025
	Sandy Lincoln	2026
Trustees of Public Funds:	Ann Pierce	2022
	Michael Harvey	2023
	Barbara Dehart	2024
Cemetery Commissioners:	Michelle Schnabel	2022
	Thomas Paquette	2023
	Nancy Woolley	2024
	Marvin Harvey	2025
	Joe Schenkman	2026
Justices of the Peace	Kevin Dougherty	Feb. 1, 2023
	Brenda Goupee	Feb. 1, 2023
	Michael Harvey	Feb. 1, 2023
	Joan "Java" Hubbard	Feb. 1, 2023
	Rebecca Klein	Feb. 1, 2023
Board of Civil Authority	Town Clerk, Selectboard, Justices of the Peace	Term Expiration
Windsor-Rutland Rep. Windsor County Senators	Kirk White Alison Clarkson Richard McCormack Alice Nitka	

Appointments

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Asst. Town Clerk/Treasurer	Kristen LaPell	2022
Selectboard Clerk	Julie Smith	2022
Administrative Asst. to Selectboard	Joan Allen	
Law Enforcement	Windsor County Sheriff's Dept.	Contract
Constable	Dillon Dudley	2022
2 nd Constable	Daniel Labejsza	2022
Planning Board & Board of Adjustment	David Curtis	2022
	Rebecca Klein	2022
	Dan McKinley	2023
	Sandy Haas	2024
	Julie Martin	2024
	Christine Meagher	2025
	Greg White	2025
Doon Hinderyckx		ex officio
Zoning Administrator	Doon Hinderyckx	2022
Fire Chief (elected by Fire Dept)	Terry Severy	2022/12
First (elected by Fire Dept)	Raymond Harvey	2022/12
Second (elected by Fire Dept)	Kevin Dougherty	2022/12
Fire Warden	Ray Harvey	2022/6/30
Water Commissioners	Selectboard	2022
Sewer Commissioners	Selectboard	2022
Road Commissioner	Doon Hinderyckx	2022
Road Department:	John Champion, Foreman	
	Dana Spalding	
	Ted Smith	
Sewer Plant Operator	Terry Severy	
Assistant	Cody Bowen	
Water Plant Operator	Terry Severy	
Assistant	Cody Bowen	
On-Site Wastewater Officer	Doon Hinderyckx	2022
On-Site Wastewater Officer	Frank Severy	2022
TRORC Transportation/Planning Rep.	Anni Mackay	2022
TRORC Transportation Adv. Comm.	Doon Hinderyckx	2022
TRORC Energy Representative	Jeff Gephart	2022
TRORC Energy Rep. Alternate	Frank Severy	2022
Health Officer	John White	2021/10/31
Emergency Management Director	Vic Ribaud	2022
Emergency Management Alternate	Doon Hinderyckx	2022
Energy Coordinator	Marvin Harvey	2022
Bethel/Royalton Solid Waste Advisory Comm.	Marvin Harvey	2022
	James Bowen	2022
Recycling Coordinator	James Bowen	2022
Park Committee:	Martha Slater	2022
Recreation Committee:	Norm Christiansen	Caitlin Cutting
	Carrie McDonnell	Dean Mendell
	Joe Schenkman	Martha Slater
	Meg Brown	Walter Pruiksma, Tennis
Animal Control Officer/ Poundkeeper/Humane Officer	Jeff Brown	2022
Tri-Valley Transit	Timothy Crowley	2022
White River Valley Amb. (WRVA) Rep	Vic Ribaud	2022
WRVA Alternate	James Bowen	2022
Tree Warden	Norman R. Smith	2022

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	
E-911 Maintenance	Angus McCusker	2022	
Green-Up Day Coordinators	Nick Piccicuto	2022	
Budget & Finance Comm.	Lois Bond	Jim Bowen	2022
	Barb Dehart	Rob Gardner	2022
	Robert Meagher	Vic Ribaldo	2022
	Greg White	Nancy Woolley	2022
	Selectboard Members		2022
Tri-Town Energy Committee	Jeff Gephart	2022	
Website Administrator	Norm Christiansen	2022	
ECFiber Representative	John White	2022	
Librarian	Jeannette Bair		
Assistant Librarian			
Children's Librarian			
Auditors	Pace & Hawley, LLC		
Official Newspaper	<i>The Herald of Randolph</i>	2022	
Videography - Meetings	Orca Media		

Dates to Remember

Selectboard Meeting	Second & Fourth Monday of month at Town Office. Other meetings at Town Office as warned.	6:15 PM
Planning Commission	First Tuesday of month at Town Office.	6:00 PM
Trustees of Public Funds	Meetings when needed – Will be posted	
Recreation Committee	Fourth Wednesday every other month at Town Office January, March, May, July, September, November	7:00 PM

Dog Licenses (State Mandated)

On or before April 1: Rabies shots good for 3 years.

Male & Female: \$13.00; altered: \$9.00

After April 1, the fee is increased 50%:

Male & Female \$15.00; altered \$11.00

Dogs over 6 months of age can receive Rabies certificates.

***After April 1 there is a \$5.00 fine for all unlicensed dogs.**

****No Exceptions****

A leash and fouling law is in effect for the entire Town, not just the village area. See Ordinance at Town Office.

Recycling

First and Third Saturday of each month at Town Office parking lot.

Property Taxes

1/4 due on/before **Monday, August 16, 2021**; 1/4 due on/before **Monday, November 15, 2021**; 1/4 due on/before **Tuesday, February 15, 2022**; 1/4 due on/before **Monday, May 16, 2022**.

Interest at rate of 1% per month for 3 months, and 1 ½% per month thereafter added. **8% collection fee added May 17, 2022. Postmarks not accepted!**

Water & Sewer User Fees: ¼ due **January 31**; ¼ due **April 30**; ¼ due **July 31**; ¼ due **October 30**. Due no later than the above effective dates. Interest at rate of 1% per month for 3 months and 1 ½% per month thereafter added for delinquent water/sewer fees.

Winter Parking Ordinance: No person shall park a motor vehicle on any street or in any public parking area within the Town of Rochester between the hours of 12:00 AM and 6:00 AM from November 1 to April 1 inclusive.

RHS Repurposing Project

Draft 1.1_2/15

In the spring of 2018, the Rochester High School (RHS) building closed, except for its continued usage by the adjacent Rochester Elementary School for music and art classes. In fall 2020, the Board of the Rochester Stockbridge Unified District closed the RHS building to all classes, due to the pandemic. The board has since decided the RHS building is no longer needed for educational purposes, and is preparing for its sale.

The agreement that merged the towns of Rochester and Stockbridge into a unified district stipulates the sale price of the HS building to the Town of Rochester at \$1.00, giving Rochester the right of first refusal before the building can be offered to any other potential buyer at fair market price.

Since February 2020, a committee of community residents met regularly to explore options for repurposing the HS building, with consent from the Rochester Select Board and School Board, a member of the White River Valley Supervisory Union.

Built in 1974, RHS was for decades a vibrant educational, social, and performance center serving this Central VT region of the White River Valley, located along VT Rte 100 from Granville south through Pittsfield, called the Quintown area. It is the goal of this committee that a repurposed building continues to be a vibrant center for learning, the arts, and social engagement.

The HUB Project Description

We propose that the RHS be repurposed as a multi-use facility, referred to herein as The HUB. The HUB will house an Arts and Learning Center, MAKERSPACE, Adult Daycare Center, Childcare Center, and Small Business Incubator program.

Building description: The building is located on VT Rte 100, and on the main floor has a gross area of 30,325 square feet. Mainly a single-story building, RHS has a small second story storage area on the north end of the building and another small second story space on the south end that houses theatrical lighting equipment and costume storage, and no basement. The building enjoys views of the mountains, and a large track of fields that border the White River.

A central main entrance and lobby separate the north and south wings of the building. The south wing includes an auditorium, music room, shop, art rooms, and family science room. The north wing includes offices and conference rooms, a library, and 10 classrooms that include 2 science labs. All classrooms and office spaces have egress exits and inside entrances.

ARTS and LEARNING

We recognize the strengths and resources within established local organizations. For 40 years, RHS has been the performance home of the White River Valley Players (WRVP), and for 15 years the venue of the Green Mountain Suzuki Institute (GMSI), sponsored by the Rochester Chamber Music Society (RCMS)—widely known for its summer concert series, now in its 25th year.

Programming will include classes, demonstrations, lectures, performances, events, and access to work and practice spaces. Areas of activity may include, but are not limited to: visual arts and crafts, vocal and instrumental music, theater, guest, artist residency programs, and cu-

linary arts. An outdoor recreation program may include: ski touring, snowshoeing, ice skating and hockey, snow sculpture, trail biking, fly fishing, and skateboarding.

MAKERSPACE

We conceive a MAKERSPACE as a facility with tools, tool-instruction and skill lessons where any community member can use the facility on a membership basis, work on projects, learn new skills, and commune with fellow makers.

Facilities might include woodworking and metalworking equipment, electronics lab, 3D printers, stained-glass equipment, computer-guided routers and engravers, laser cutters. The present school shop contains many of those facilities, and more would be added.

BUSINESS INCUBATOR PROGRAM

Business incubators bolster local economic development by providing low cost office and conference space rentals to start-up businesses and first-time entrepreneurs. At a basic level this allows small businesses to conduct and grow their company, keeping a larger portion of their initial intakes of profits. Additionally, benefits include networking opportunities and shared clerical services. A MAKERSPACE and business incubator located within the same facility will be mutually beneficial.

CHILDCARE CENTER

Our aim is to contract with an independent licensed provider to establish a childcare center within The Hub. Vermont law established the Child Development Division of the Department for Children and Families (DCF) in 1988. The purpose of the Division is "to encourage the development of a comprehensive child care services system which promotes the wholesome growth and educational development of children..." and to ensure there is an adequate supply of quality child care services that are affordable to low income and at risk families and their children.

ADULT DAYCARE CENTER

Adult daycare centers (ADC) support the health, nutritional, social, and daily living needs of vulnerable adults in a group setting, by a professionally certified staff. ADCs provide care and companionship for adults who need assistance and/or supervision during the day, allowing family members and caregivers to work outside the home, or engage in other essential personal time while knowing their relative is well cared for and safe. We are exploring partnerships with existing licensed providers.

How it would work:

Administration, programming, and overall financial and physical management of The HUB will be by a non-profit corporation, yet to be established, or in partnership with an existing non-profit organization. An executive administrator and board of directors (or trustees) will oversee operations, programming, rentals, and facility management. The expectation is that a combination of rentals/user fees, membership fees, tax-exempt donations, and grants will cover operating costs of The HUB. Work is underway to identify and apply for grant funding sources, including start-up funds.