

Minutes of the April 21, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, Nancy Manning, Katherin Lawlor, Eric Benson, Amy Bergamo, Geneva Gaiko, Richard Adams, Justin McCoart, Maureen Hennigan, Ian Stewart, Matt Washburn, and Mary Anderson for the "Herald of Randolph."

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Neal Fox, the Board first reviewing the Constable's reports of April 13, 2008. Given that a number of people were present with matters to discuss with the Board, Chairman Fox immediately proceeded with scheduled appointments, the first being re. Quintown Prevention Partnership.

Katherin Lawlor and Nancy Manning made a presentation setting forth the Partnership's objectives, which are to provide services to youth and young adults as will assist them in evaluating options and making appropriate choices in life. The Town of Bethel is invited to be included as a recipient of services, a three year grant having been obtained to financially assist in the Partnership's work. General discussion ensued with the Board and members of the public, and a survey form was completed to help analyze perceptions associated primarily with under-age alcohol and drug usage. The presentation and discussion concluded at 6:35 PM, and the Partnership's representatives then departed.

Chairman Fox then welcomed Eric Benson, who introduced himself as the recently elected president of the Bethel Business Association. He expressed his wish to maintain an open line of communication between the Business Association and Town officials, and set forth three projects he hoped to see advanced by the BBA and others in consort: improving cell phone service, burying electrical cables in the downtown, and developing use of the Branlierre Town Forest as an amenity for the community. Discussion with Mr. Benson concluded at approximately 6:45 PM.

Chairman Fox then welcomed Amy Bergamo, Chair of the Town Hall Finance Committee. Ms. Bergamo inquired about the status of the architect's work on updating costs for the Town Hall Rehabilitation Project; Delbert Cloud replied that no report has yet been received by the Town, which will when available include a break-out of various scopes of work to correlate with potential funding sources. Ms. Bergamo emphasized how important she believes it to be for work to be done during this on-coming construction season, and expressed her concern that no funding sources be lost by moving too slowly in the effort. She said she would also call the architect; discussion on this subject concluded at 6:50 PM, Ms. Bergamo leaving at that time.

Chairman Fox then welcomed Richard Adams, he being present on behalf of the local All Terrain Vehicles Club to seek the Board's approval for club use of certain Town Highways in its trail systems, these being exactly the same as were used in 2007. Discussion ensued regarding the length of the season, daily hours of activity, nuisance issues which were thought to originate from non-club members who violate club rules, signage, club membership growth, and the need to promote a positive public image. The list of Town Highways approved for club use as trails and the conditions applicable to such use, are set forth in the Selectboard minutes of April 9, 2007; motion to approve use of the same set of highways per the same set of conditions as applied in 2007 was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried. Richard Adams agreed to provide the Board with a copy of the club's bylaws, and include the Town in its newsletter mailing list. Mr. Adams then departed at 7:05 PM.

Chairman Fox next welcomed Matt Washburn, the Town's representative to the ECFiber Board of Directors. It was learned that no further legal advice has been received to clarify contractual provisions of the Interlocal Contract by which the Town would formalize its association as a member of the ECFiber initiative. Maureen Hennigan expressed her support for the project and was pleased to learn that Town Officials are also supportive albeit in need of legal counsel's assurance that the contract language is appropriately drawn. Ian Stewart voiced similar thought and understanding of the status. Ms. Hennigan, Mr. Stewart, and Justin McCoart all offered their willingness to assist in moving the ECFiber project forward. Delbert Cloud noted that two additional parties have also made it known that they would each be interested in serving as an alternate to the Board of Directors. It was agreed that the Town officials would meet again in advance of the deadline for signing the Interlocal Contract, to evaluate the circumstances.

The Board then turned to the order of the agenda, the minutes of the Selectboard meetings of April 7, 2008 and April 21, 2008 being approved by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards, and unanimously carried.

A letter from Kevin Barry dated April 25, 2008 was reviewed, this being a request for allocation of additional water and sewage capacity for his property on 269 Main Street. Expansion of restaurant seating would require availability of an additional 45 gallons of capacity per day according to engineering calculations. It was agreed that such capacity is available and that provision of it would not diminish flows,

pressure, or fire-fighting capability within the system(s); motion to approve the capacity was made through the Board's role of Water and Sewage Disposal Commissioners by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

The Planning Commission minutes of April 16, 2008 were reviewed and placed on file, as were the April 1, 2008 minutes of the Development Review Board. Regarding the latter, the written decision approving a municipal gravel extraction permit on the Sand Hill property of Frank Pratt and Diane Placy was discussed. It was agreed that the speed limit on Sand Hill Road should be set at 25 MPH for its entire length rather than for part of the highway as it now is; a condition set forth in the subject permit will also be provided for if that is done. Delbert Cloud will prepare the appropriate documentation for amendment of the "Traffic Ordinance" for the Board's consideration at its next meeting.

The March 27, 2008 minutes of the Town Hall Finance Committee, and the regional planning commission minutes of March 12 and February 6, 2008 were reviewed and placed on file.

The board then reviewed an updated draft of the Town's "Rapid Response Plan." After due consideration, the updated Plan was considered appropriate for adoption. Neal Fox was authorized to sign the document on behalf of the board to confirm its adoption, this being by motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

Delbert Cloud informed the Board that a single audit is being done presently, to provide for the Town's participation in the Municipal Bond Bank Sale scheduled for June, for permanent financing of the Church Street Bridge project. The application is due to the Bond Bank in mid May.

Proposals have been received from Resource Systems Group, and DuBois & King, to provide engineering services for the Enhancement Grant received from the Vermont Agency of Transportation. Neal Fox and Joe De Freitas volunteered to help review and evaluate the proposals.

Item 9 on the agenda re. the Town Hall Rehabilitation Project was passed over, having been discussed earlier in the evening.

The following communications were then reviewed by the Board: (1) a proposal for services to clean masonry/stone at the Town Hall received from Painsi Monuments, (2) an April 14, 2008 memo from the Vermont Department of Taxes re the Current Use – Hold Harmless payment, (3) an April 10, 2008 notice from the mediator re. Ronald Poulson's concerns with the USDA Emergency Watershed Protection Program, (4) an April 15, 2008 notice from the Vermont Agency of Transportation re. a speed limit adjustment on Route 107, (5) a "Groundwater Quality" report from EPS of Vermont prepared for Tim Aldrighetti (6) an April 7, 2008 letter from the RC&D office re. development of a project priority list, (7) an April 10, 2008 letter from the firm of Stitzel, Page & Fletcher re. the Town's answer to a complaint on ancient roads, (8) a copy of the water/wastewater permit issued by District 3 Environmental for a property on North Main Street owned by Robert Schweizer, and (9) a "Project Review Sheet" from District 3 re. a subdivision application from James and Clara Abbott of property on Camp Brook Road.

At 8:42 PM, motion was made by Bill Richards to enter executive session to discuss the performance and qualifications of a Town Officer, this being seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried. Delbert Cloud was the only person remaining with the Board during the executive session. No minutes were kept. Upon return to open meeting at 9:07 PM, Bill Richards made the motion to recognize Margaret Burstein as having attained "level three" qualifications as a Town Lister, and that her compensation should be increased accordingly as of this date; this motion was seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

The Board considered the various scheduling issues which need to be addressed during the month of May and agreed that meetings would be held on the 5th and 19th rather than the 12th and 26th.

With no further business to attend, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 PM by motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas, and unanimously carried.

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Joe De Freitas