

**BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING
BENNINGTON TOWN OFFICE - CONFERENCE ROOM
205 SOUTH STREET
BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2015

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Jacobs – Chair; John McFadden -Vice Chair; Sharyn Brush; Michael Keane; Jim Carroll; Justin Corcoran; Donald Campbell

Absent: None

ALSO PRESENT: Stuart Hurd, Town Manager; Mike Harrington, Economic & Community Development Director; Linda E. Bermudez – Secretary; (1) Citizen.

At 6:15 P.M., **Tom Jacobs** called the meeting to order.

1.EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. INTERVIEWS

2. MINUTES – MAY 11, 2015

There were no corrections for the minutes of May 11, 2015

Motion: Michael Keane motioned and Justin Corcoran seconded to approve the Minutes of May 11, 2015 as submitted. Motion passed unanimously Motion passed unanimously (*Sharyn Brush abstained*)

3. WARRANTS

There were no questions.

Motion: Sharyn Brush motioned and Michael Keane seconded to accept and approve the warrant as submitted. Motion passed unanimously

4. CITIZENS

No citizens stepped forward this evening.

5. APPOINTEMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Tom Jacobs noted that the Board met in Executive Session with the applicants for both the (2) Open seats on the Planning Commission and the applicant for the Service Officer position.

MOTION: Sharyn Brush motioned and Michael Keane seconded to approve and appoint both Nick Lasoff and Ken Swierad to the Planning Commission. Motion passed unanimously

MOTION: Michael Keane motioned and Sharyn Brush seconded to approve and appoint Chris Oldham as the Bennington Service Officer. Motion passed unanimously

The Manager noted that in this week's Board packet incumbents' applications were included for Historic Preservation Commission and the Regional Commission. Justin Corcoran stated he was comfortable with reinstating these incumbents.

MOTION: Michael Keane motioned and Sharyn Brush seconded to approve and appoint Ann Bugbee and Joanne Erenhouse to the Historic Preservation Commission. Motion passed unanimously

MOTION: Justin Corcoran motioned and Michael Keane seconded to approve and appoint William Deveneau to the Regional Commission. Motion passed unanimously

Tom Jacobs thanked all that applied and all those who serve on these boards and commissions. Their effort and civic participation is greatly appreciated.

6. SELECT BOARD RULES OF PROCEDURE

Tom Jacobs noted the discussion about the use of social media at the last Select Board meeting. He does not want to trample on anyone's First Amendment rights. There will be no need for a "rule" on this issue; however it is expected that all members will act civil and appropriate. It is the responsibility of an elected official while serving and we are all held to a higher bar. If there is concern we should address it but on a case-by-case individual basis.

Michael Keane thought it was important to bring it up. We should all use common sense though.

Justin Corcoran also thought it was important to discuss also; however rules require enforcement and he questioned how we would have enforced them.

MOTION: John McFadden motioned and Sharyn Brush seconded to approve and accept the Select Board Rules of Procedure as presented. Motion passed unanimously

Tom Jacobs stated they would be then circulated.

7. MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager noted that in the Board's packet was a letter from the Green Mountain Club (GMC) committing up to \$6,000 to the development of an improved parking area for the White Rocks trailhead on North Branch Street. Many of the materials needed the Town already has on-site. The original design was for (6) parking spaces. GMC believes and the Town agrees that doubling the size of the parking area would be best. The estimated cost for this project is \$3,800. The Town would provide the equipment and labor "in-kind" and GMC would pledge up to \$6,000 for the cost of materials.

Justin Corcoran asked what kind of timeframe this would be. The Manager stated the GMC was still obtaining the necessary easements. Once that is finalized, we expect a Fall start date and approximately (15) working days to complete.

Mr. Corcoran stated this was a very generous contribution by GMC and a great project.

Tom Jacobs stated this was a great way to show how the Town Officials and citizens can work together on a great project.

The Board unanimously granted a consensus to move forward with this project.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

John McFadden stated the draft of the employer survey was circulated amongst the Board members for their input. He asked they please review and provide any additional comments. The sub-committee is still on target for distribution at the end of June.

Jim Carroll stated he thought it was well done and timely. The questions were objective.

John McFadden thanked Michael Keane, Michael Harrington and Bill Colvin for all their efforts.

Michael Keane stated the next working session for the "scorecards" would be Monday June 15th, 2015

Tom Jacobs noted there was a need to go back into Executive Session.

Motion: Justin Corcoran motioned and Sharyn Brush seconded to close the meeting and move into Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Personnel Contract

Respectfully submitted,

Linda E. Bermudez
Secretary