

**MINUTES**  
**WEST RUTLAND SELECT BOARD**  
**Monday, October 27, 2014**

Ken Heleba asked permission to film the meeting. Permission was granted.

**Present:** Pete Bianchi, Mitch Frankenberg, Sean Barrows, Chet Brown, Mary Ann Goulette, John Harvey

**Others Present:** Mike Mosher, Jane Pratt, Gary Kupferer (Town Attorney), William Tracy Carris, Bill Harvey, Ray Jepson, Ceil Scott, Barbara Wiskoski, Mary Reczek, Joe Skaza, Margie Salengo, Ray Seigny, Brent Turner, Joseph Czachor, Emily Czachor, Peter Kulig, Marsha Pierce, William Whiteman, Diane Whiteman, James McCormick, Adrian McGrath, Jean Heleba.

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by John Harvey, Board Chair, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Agenda:** On a motion by Chet and a second by Sean, the agenda of October 27, 2014 was amended by adding Real Estate to executive session.

**Minutes:** The minutes of October 13, 2014 were reviewed. Motion by Sean and seconded by Chet to approve the minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.

**Public Concerns:** None

**Discussion Items:** William Tracy Carris was present at the meeting to share that he is running for Senator. He briefly discussed safety issues, wages, education system funding, and drug problems. Mr. Carris shared that there is a need for punishment but also a need for treatment plans. He also stated that Act 60 needs to be revised.

**Questions:** Mr. Carris was asked about his second amendment position? He stated that Vermont has excellent gun laws. He would leave them as they are.

Mr. Carris was also asked how he felt about the single payer medical system? If there is a burden on businesses he would vote against it. Mr. Carris reminded everyone to make sure they voted on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Action Items:**

Mary Reczek was asked by the World War II Monument Committee to speak to the community regarding progress and projections. A proposal was previously brought to the board for placement of the monument on the town hall lawn. There were other sites put on face book and comments ran gament. Some were inaccurate and misleading.

West Rutland Historical Society had a meeting a year ago. The consensus was that a permanent marker for WW II Monument was needed. The Committee has been working on this project for 56 weeks. The committee was asked “Why focus on WW II?” West Rutland had a large numbers of participants. It was a horrendous job getting information and the names. There are only 7 West Rutland veterans of World War II that are left. Why are monuments made of granite? Marble is soft stone and can easily disintegrate. There were two committees and everyone wanted to make sure it was done right. One committee had the responsibility for getting the names and one for the design and site. Their job was to be accurate, thorough and impartial. They researched many documents. There are currently 609 veteran names on the list. They had to be born in West Rutland or lived in West Rutland before the war. The committee called family members for information.

In reference to the siting of the monument – it needs a space for reflection, meditation and remembrance. World War I and Spanish War veterans are on the back of the current monuments.

Other sites were considered. The architect designed it for the west wall of the town office building but trees interfered. Town Hall front lawn was everyone’s first choice. Corner of Ross and Mead Street was suggested. No one wants it there. They feel it is not a safe or reflective space. The committee wants the monument placed by Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> as that is the date that was the end of the war date.

Some of the concerns the select board is having about placing the monument on the front lawn of the town office building are:

1. Monument is large
2. Space for concerts and other events
3. Cluttered
4. Obscuring the building

The town hall is a beautiful building. Friends of the Town Hall have renovated the building and the majority of the money was spent on the inside of the building. Ms. Reczek felt that the town office building is the heart and soul of the town. The building has historical reasons such as the following events being held there: school, graduation, entertainment, one act plays, minstrel shows, a movie theatre during World War II. In 1936 marble workers from Vermont Marble came from all over US to meet here to take sides. Many activities are still held here today. Our democracy works in this building.

Discussion on “clutter”. The town needs to seek a balance while demonstrating honor and respect for all WW II veterans

Ray Jebson, Commander of American Legion Post shared that the list of legion names of people similar to the one in the hallway here are posted at the Legion.

Bill Harvey – Friends of Town Hall – does not feel that the siting of WW II Memorial would block the front of the town hall, but he felt the Marble Street side of the building would be more appropriate.

Andy McGrath, President of Vietnam Veterans, shared that Vietnam Veterans have his name on reverse side of WW II memorial. He also asked why the West Rutland board is now saying the suggested location is not a good place.

Mitch, selectman, shared that he feels good things will come if we work together. He said it was nice to see all of the people in attendance.

Jean Heleba asked “where does the board see the monument?” Peter feels it is up to the people of West Rutland to make that decision.

Mary Ann said it was difficult to make a decision without seeing a plan. The initial designer of the monument designed for the west side (one-sided), it doesn't work for the front lawn.

Marsha Pierce shared that concerts and the farmers market should not factor in. There are other locations that could be used.

Mitch asked if there was any other location that they felt could work. Mary felt there was not. McGrath said it should be in front of the town hall.

Brett Turner felt that the WWI monument needs to stay there. It can be repaired and it was possible to rechannel the names that have been blasted out. WWI monument cannot be moved or it may collapse. WWI monument will last only another 2 years before losing some names. John Harvey asked Brett for a proposal to fix the WW I monument? \$3,000 to \$4,000 is an approximate cost. There would be a 20 year warranty on the finish. What about cannon? It would take minor repair as the base is structurally sound.

Mrs. Scott asked if traffic could be rerouted and Marble Street be blocked off on dedication day?

The Board will make a decision about the placement of the World War II monument at the board meeting on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Town Manager's Report:**

1. Mary Ann shared that are buying a new server for the computer system at a cost of \$5,400.
2. Had the AARP walk audit and we will get a written report on our sidewalk system. Overall, they were pleased.

3. Moving forward on wastewater garage. Recommending spray foam instead of blue board. Price is nearly the same.
4. Derrick is taking a chain class with Rutland City. We are hosting a rural water class with Ed.
5. There is a small issue in balcony – gap pulling away from building. Have closed the balcony to public use. Engineering report will be reviewed and an engineer will take a look.

**Appointment of Town agent for tax appeals:**

- a. Properties are Daley and Giancola. Chet made a motion to appoint listers as the town agent and authorize them to hire counsel if needed. Seconded by Mitch. Unanimous.

**Sheldon Sewer line connections:** Started working on it today. Each owner needs to get individual permit from the State.

Chet made a motion and Sean seconded to waive the fees for the residents on Sheldon Avenue and give them one year to hook up. Unanimous.

**Board member concerns:**

Chet – Is the dip fixed on Dewey Avenue? Not yet.

Mitch – nothing

Sean – Due to the town planting trees, there will be a lot more leaves. He shared information on leaf attachment for the loader.

Peter: Clark Hill good job up there. Making it too wide. Also there is illegal dumping on Clark Hill water shed. New utility poles are in place.

**Pay orders:** Signed by the board.

**Executive Session:** Peter made a motion to enter executive session at 7:25 for a real estate and legal discussion. Sean seconded and motion carried unanimously.

A motion made by Chet seconded by Sean at 7:50 to exit executive session. Unanimous.

Motion made by Pete seconded by Chet to authorize Mary Ann to negotiate a real estate transaction. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion made by Pete seconded by Chet to adjourn the meeting at 7:55. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charleen Bowen