

**West Rutland Select Board Minutes
November 25, 2014**

Present: Mitch Frankenberg, John Harvey, Sean Barrows, Peter Bianchi, Chet Brown, Mary Ann Goulette.

Public Hearing: VCDP: Neighborworks Grant Application – 5:30 pm

The representatives of Neighborworks introduced themselves, Ludy Biddle, Gregg Over and Thad Omand. West Rutland was the host applicant beginning in 1986; they applied on behalf of four towns. Today, they represent three counties. They are now adding in the efficiency measures with the federal heat assistance program. Low income people qualify for a free energy audit. There also help with the issues of historic preservation of homes. Repairs have to be done to restore the property to the way it was originally built which makes it more costly. They are asking the board to apply for \$1,000,000. The Municipality makes the initial grant request. This program has money for grants and loans. The length of loans can be up to 20 years – energy loans are usually 5 years. Sewer and water projects can also get help through this program. Neighborhood Works is hoping to do 900 audits next year. Council on Aging gives referrals and also the VT Council of Independent Living. This portion of the meeting ended at 5:55 p.m.

Call to order: John Harvey called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 p.m.

Others Present: Mike Moser, Gregg Over, Peter Kulig, Jean Henske, Melissa Loughan, Lucy Gibson, Ludy Biddle, Thad Omand, Gregg Over, Alta Johnston.

Agenda: On a motion by Chet and a second by Mitch, the agenda was amended to add action item b: VCDP Grant with Neighborworks. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes: Chet made a motion to adopt the minutes of 11/10/14 as presented. Sean seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Concerns: Jean Henske read two letters referencing 168 Franklin Street. Branch from a tree fell on her property. She requested that the owner of the tree to have it taken down. Letter sent to Theresa Bartlett, John Bartlett and Attorney Crowley. Jean read the letter she received from Judy Crowley. She requested a survey showing that the tree is on her property. Another branch is overhanging Jean Henske's house. Mary Ann can verify with listers where the property line is. Henske talked with Jane (zoning administrator) and she wasn't sure of the exact measurement. Board will try to get more information will also talk with the tree warden. This is a neighbor issue.

Mike Moser requested that the town talk to the Sheriff's Dept. about drivers who do not stop at crosswalks.

Discussion Items:

Safe Routes to School Draft Report: Lucy Gibson from Dubois and King was present. Final report was presented. She focused on the new information:

1. Changes to Campbell Avenue plan project. Discussion on whether to mark the parking lines or leave blank.
2. Cost – pursuing federal funded programs vs. town funding. \$71,000 for construction i.e. gravel – \$115,000 for management or archaeology studies, legal, and project management.

Would it be better if the town did some of the engineering work prior to applying for the construction grant? Lucy could ask about this. Good to show you have interest by starting projects.

Thrall Avenue – drainage work needed. Construction cost \$116,000 and with allowances \$175,000 .

Clarendon Avenue – \$152,000 and \$228,000. Clarendon Avenue sidewalk was brought up to Dewey. It was suggested to move crosswalk closer to Pawlaczyk's.

Path between Ross Street and School – 8ft wide – construction \$72,000 – total \$123,000

Connecting cemetery to school. Needs a new gate. \$42,000 and \$76,000

Fairview to Recreation area – recommend it be a one way street and build a sidewalk on the street.

Sidewalk \$121,000 total is \$180,000. Recommending not doing it for short-term.

Roundabout at Rt 133– several funding options available.

Reviewed tables of costs – on page 10 of the report. \$575,000 and \$895,000 total for all projects. State of Vermont Bicycle Pedestrian Program is one option for funding at 10% match. Transportation Alternatives is a 20% match.

Lucy recommends applying for first four projects at this time. Cemetery not a great candidate for federal funding but better with local funding. Convert Fairview to a one way street. Not an option at this time still waiting for State approval of break in Federal Highway.

Next steps would be to review the report. It then goes to VTrans for review and then Dubois would do the final report prior to deadline.

Board will get comments to Lucy in the next couple of weeks.

Town Hall Structural Report: There is an issue with the balcony which is currently closed to the public. There was a structural report from 1990 on file. It was suggested to put additional posts where support walls are. Window is buckling out. Structural reports attached to minutes. Need to get an estimate from an engineer to repair and possibly apply for a grant.

Action Items:

Driveway Access: United Church of West Rutland. Alta Johnson put in the request to put it back the way it was. Pete doesn't think she should have two accesses. Cannot restore to where it used to be as there is now a sidewalk on High Street. Motion to give her one access off Ross Street and any other changes in the future would require design. Sean seconded. Unanimously passed.

Mary Ann to submit application to Vermont Community Development Program for a Scattered Site Grant in the amount of \$1,000,000. Motion was made by Sean and seconded by Chet for Mary Ann to submit the application.

Board Member Concerns:

Chet: all set

Mitch: Rich Dow, Rec Director, is leaving in Feb. He would like the town to acknowledge him.

Sean: Spoke about the Town Management Report – Vtran – traffic flow request – nothing yet. Haven't dug out Young's brook yet. Brush is still under bridge. Discharge is backed up. Do we have highway paving projects for next year and a plan for Dewey? Need for budget.

Peter: Joe Davis – complaining about his cow being lost and he blames the town. Town did not fix the fence. Tell him to call Town Manager.

Pay orders – approved.

Bill from fire dept for forest fire – town to pay half and half from state. Need direction from State Fire Warden on cause, etc.

Tree lighting is Dec. 6th. We received an outstanding achievement award at the REDC Annual Meeting for the Route 4A sewer and water project. Mary Ann went to tour the VT Gas line installation in Williston. Will inform Sheldon residents about Neighborworks loans.

Adjournment: Motion by Peter and second by Chet to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Charleen Bowen