

**TOWN/VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD
JOINT BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF TOWN SELECTMEN
BOARD OF VILLAGE TRUSTEES
Minutes of August 11, 2009**

- I. **ROLL CALL.** Selectboard Chair Kenneth Johnson, Selectmen Melvin Adams (absent), Kenneth Goslant, Charles Morse, and Gregory Sanders (absent); Trustees Chair Samantha Baraw, Trustees Libby Hambleton, Doug Lawson (absent), and Thomas McCarney. Also present were Municipal Manager Nanci Allard, Planning Commission Chair Stephen Fitzhugh, Zoning Administrator Michele Braun, Acting Clerk Kenneth McCann, Patricia Coppolino (Conservation Commission), John Marcotte (Northfield Observances, Inc.), Lydia Perry, Colin Bright, and Kathleen Lott (*Northfield News*).

A Public Hearing for the purpose of providing written or oral views on the proposed Municipal Plan developed by the Northfield Planning Commission was warned to immediately precede the Joint Board Meeting.

Trustees Chair Baraw called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission Chair Stephen Fitzhugh stated tonight's Public Hearing, conducted by the Village Trustees, for the proposed Municipal Plan was the final one prior to approval by the Boards. The Planning Commission had held their Public Hearing on June 19, 2009 and the Town Selectmen held theirs on July 27, 2009. This was in addition to the five (5) community gatherings on various sections of the plan held monthly from November 2008 through March 2009. Following approval by the Boards tonight, the Municipal Plan will be forwarded to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) for its approval. As Zoning Administrator Michele Braun has already been working with the CVRPC on any possible concerns, Mr. Fitzhugh felt that their approval should be forthcoming.

Selectman Morse had some minor changes to suggest (i.e. stylistic concerns, etc.) but nothing substantive. He also noted that the Town of Waitsfield has started to consider the possibility of siting a wind farm along the ridgeline it shares with Northfield. Has the Northfield Planning Commission been contacted about this yet? Mr. Fitzhugh said that it had not but added that it was a logical location for such a project. If the Planning Commission were to be approached on the feasibility of this proposal, it would be willing to work with Waitsfield on it.

Mr. Fitzhugh added that Zoning Administrator Braun deserved much credit for the efficiency of the approval process, as she had applied for and obtained grant money for the hiring of a facilitator, etc. Trustee Hambleton was impressed that the information provided and the concerns expressed at the numerous public meetings had been incorporated into the final document.

There being no further questions or comments, the Public Hearing closed at 7:07 p.m. The Joint Board Meeting began immediately.

II. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

- a. **John Marcotte, Northfield Observances.** Trustees Chair Baraw noted that Northfield Observances, which organizes the Labor Day Festivities, had submitted its annual request to block off the Village Common from through traffic during the Labor Day weekend and for a parking ban from the Crescent to Kenyon's Hardware Store on North Main Street prior to and during the Labor Day Parade on Monday, September 7, 2009. Motion by Trustee McCarney, seconded by Trustee Baraw, to approve these requests from Northfield Observances. **Motion passed 3-0-0.** John Marcotte stated that he had an additional request, as Northfield Observances would like to hold a classic car show and motorcycle "ride-in" on Sunday, September 6, 2009. The event would be held in the parking lots of Kenyon's Hardware Store and Barry T. Chouinard, Inc. on North Main Street. As many people would be crossing Water Street between the two parking lots, Mr. Marcotte is asking for permission to close Water Street from traffic between the Carpenter Street and North Main Street intersections from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Trustee McCarney asked whether the property owners (Kenyon's Hardware and Chouinard's) had agreed to host this event. Mr. Marcotte said that not only had they agreed but they will pick their favorite vehicles from the event which then will appear in the parade the next day. Motion by Trustee McCarney, seconded by Trustee Hambleton, to approve Northfield Observance's request to close Water Street off from traffic from Carpenter Street to North Main Street on Sunday, September 6, 2009 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This approval is contingent on Northfield Observances working with the Municipal Manager and Northfield Emergency Services to ensure that the temporary road closure will not unduly inconvenience the travelling public, threaten public safety, etc. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**

Selectman Morse noted that the southern end of the Crescent is in Northfield Town. Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Goslant, to lift the parking ban on the Northfield Town section of the Crescent prior to and during the Labor Day Parade on Monday, September 7, 2009. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**

III. JOINT DISCUSSION

- a. **Approval of Northfield Municipal Plan.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Goslant, to approve the Northfield Municipal Plan as presented by the Planning Commission and dated June 17, 2009. **Motion passed 6-0-0.**

IV. BOARD OF TOWN SELECTMEN

- a. **Approval of Minutes: July 27, 2009 (Regular Meeting).** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Goslant, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**
- b. **Approval of Bills: Warrant #04-10.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Goslant, to approve Warrant #04-10 in the amount of \$48,492.38. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**
- c. **Vermont Municipal Bond Bank Refunding (Brown Public Library).** Selectman Morse stated that this was not new borrowing but only refinancing to take advantage of lower interest rates. The savings on this note would be \$17,992.56. Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Goslant, to authorize the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank Refunding for the Brown Public Library. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**
- d. **Vermont Municipal Bond Bank Refunding (Municipal Pool).** The savings on this note would be 4,907.06. Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Goslant, to authorize the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank Refunding for the Municipal Pool. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**
- e. **2009 Grand List Errors & Omissions.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Goslant, to approve the Board of Listers' Grand List Errors & Omissions request dated July 31, 2009. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**

V. BOARD OF VILLAGE TRUSTEES

- a. **Approval of Minutes: July 28, 2009 (Regular Meeting).** Motion by Trustee McCarney, seconded by Trustee Baraw, to approve the minutes. Trustee Hambleton noted an incorrect date; this will be fixed on the file copy. **Motion passed 2-0-1, with Trustee Hambleton abstaining.**
- b. **Approval of Bills: Warrant #04-10.** Motion by Trustee McCarney, seconded by Trustee Hambleton, to approve Warrant #04-10 in the amount of \$376,417.69. Trustee McCarney noted that the cost of replacing SCADA cards had been split evenly between the Water and Sewer departments. Is this appropriate? Manager Allard will check on this. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**

- c. **Village Trustees Vacancy.** Chair Baraw stated that the Board had received a letter of interest from Village resident Colin T. Bright. Trustee Hambleton said that Trustee Lawson, who is absent tonight, had spoken very positively regarding Mr. Bright's candidacy. Trustee McCarney also was impressed with Mr. Bright's résumé. Motion by Trustee McCarney, seconded by Trustee Hambleton, to appoint Colin T. Bright to the vacant position on the Board of Village Trustees. **Motion passed 3-0-0.** Mr. Bright will serve until the next Village Meeting in June 2010, at which time he may chose to run for another term.
- d. **Financial Statements.** Trustee McCarney would like the financial statements from recent months, including the end of the 2008-2009 fiscal year.
- e. **Property Tax Payments.** Trustee McCarney noted that at the last meeting, Trustee Doug Lawson asked why neighboring communities were able collect property taxes from Northfield Village for some utility infrastructure, i.e. waterlines. He would like the Board of Listers to report back to the Trustees regarding the state statutes that permit this. Motion by Trustee McCarney, seconded by Trustee Hambleton, to task the Board of Listers to report back on this matter prior to the next regular meeting (08/25/09). **Motion passed 3-0-0.**

VI. MUNICIPAL MANAGER

- a. **Personnel Policy Amendments.** Manager Allard would like some changes to the Personnel Policy. She would like to meet with the Management Committee in the near future in order to discuss this.
- b. **Office Space Concerns.** Manager Allard stated that the Facility Committee needs to look at providing more space for the Town Clerk's Office, as there is no more room for storage. In addition, some decision needs to be made regarding the Village property on East Street that served as the former police station.
- c. **Road Surface Management Software (RSMS) Program.** Manager Allard stated that consultant Robert Turner would be forwarding the final report to her later this week. She will provide copies to the Boards.
- d. **Water Project.** The contract for the next phase of the Water Project will be signed on Thursday, August 13, 2009 at 2:30 p.m.
- e. **East Mountain Wind Project.** Manager Allard stated that only twelve (12) of the thirteen (13) VPPSA members are participating in this project so Northfield Village might be able to take on a little more. This item will be on the agenda of the next meeting (08/25/09).

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Non-agenda items

- a. **Patricia Coppolino, Northfield Conservation Commission: Northfield Municipal Plan.** Ms. Coppolino arrived late and missed the Public Hearing for the Municipal Plan. She did have some suggestions, such as stronger language regarding potential development in the "Conservation and Forestry District." It was suggested that she should contact Zoning Administrator Braun about this. If the changes are not substantive, they could be made to the version already approved tonight.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT. Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Trustee Hambleton, to adjourn. **Motion passed 8-0-0.**

The Boards adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth L. McCann

Kenneth L. McCann, Acting Clerk

These minutes are subject to approval at the next regular meeting.