

**Dover Select Board
Meeting Minutes
Dover Town Office
Tuesday, February 21, 2023**

These minutes are not official until approved by the Dover Select Board

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86800444071?pwd=RIU2WDQ0cDM3d3AwSGREeFNON2tnQT09>

Meeting ID: 868 0044 4071

Dial in: 929 205 6099

Password: 052648

Select Board in person: Victoria Capitani, Sarah Shippee, Dan Baliotti, Joe Mahon

Select Board via zoom: Scott Salway

Also, present in person: Office Manager Jeannette Eckert

Public present in person: Randy Johnson, Mike Eldred, Jim McDevitt, Bob Holland, Travis Briggs, Ginny Read

Public present via zoom: Al Wakefield, Andy McLean, Eric Durocher, Norm Cohen

Regular Meeting Called to Order at 6:30pm by Chair Capitani

I. Public Comments: hearing none, the Board moved on to New Business

II. New Business:

A. Consider Adoption of Declaration of Inclusion Initiative (Al Wakefield and Norm Cohen)

- Bob Harnish started this initiative in Franklin VT with a relative that felt it was valuable to bring to Vermont with its aging population, young people leaving & not coming back
- Taking this declaration to the entire State of Vermont as a welcoming place
 - Especially focusing on those who feel marginalized to provide a secure and safe environment for all
- Over the last three years been going around to Towns making presentations
- Vision is for VT to become the leading State in the country with this initiative
- 96 communities have adopted this recommended version so far or a similar one they have come up with
 - Some even super ceded our version
- Pleased with the response; hope to get to 100 by the first week in May
- Proposing Dover adopt this initiative and pleased to answer any questions
- Thank you for considering this declaration
- See website for 202 proclamation by the Governor www.declarationofinclusion.org
- In 2020, Vermont was selected as the most desirable State to live in
 - However, it also brought to light the lack of diversity

Sarah Shippee read the declaration of inclusion into the record

The Town of _____ condemns racism and welcomes all persons regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age or disability and wants everyone to feel safe and welcome in our community.

As a town, we formally condemn discrimination in all its forms, commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community, and will strive to ensure all our actions, policies and operating procedures reflect this commitment.

The Town of _____ is and will continue to be a place where individuals can live freely and express their opinions.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 20____

Town/City of _____, Vermont

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Comments:

- Randy Johnson saw this many months ago and believes it to be a good thing
 - Skimmed through the website www.declarationofinclusion.org
 - Sites in depth implementation: develop committee, in bias training which the Police already does
 - Is it mandating the Town to do other things by adopting this declaration?
 - In favor of it; belong to West Dover Congregational Church which has adopted this type of statement

Al Wakefield and Norm Cohen:

- This initiative is totally voluntary, not mandated in any way
- Suggest putting declaration on website, posting in offices, welcoming all people are some thoughts for low hanging fruit but you don't need to do anything
- Involved with the Rutland Police and they bought into it
- Spirit and intent are what we ask you to act on
- Policies and procedures—hiring people for the Town, not discriminating but also welcoming them to bring their assets to the community
- Dover has the largest population of Vietnam Veterans in the State; one of the marginalized groups

Board comments/responses:

- Why specify racism in the wording of the initiative when there are a lot of other things in there that are just as troublesome?
 - *Leaving it open to Towns to modify as they see fit; No one else has brought this up; this is the original declaration*
 - *Version is missing a group that was added some time ago: Socio-economic status should be added after disability*

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Dan Baliotti, the Board unanimously agreed to sign the declaration of inclusion initiative amended to remove the words “condemns racism and” and adding the words *socio-economic status* after age or disability

Jeannette will send a signed copy to Norm and Al once all Board members have signed

III. Highway: Travis Briggs

A. Request Approval to Hire New Road Crew Member

- New hire Ryan Hescocock decided that the job was not for him & gave his notice
- Contacted liaison and board members about selecting from the pool of applicants
- Would like to hire Gary Barcomb at \$21.00 per hour (same as other recent hire that has a CDL)
 - Has a CDL and lives in Newfane; pre-employment test completed

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Dan Baliotti, the Board unanimously agreed to hire Gary Barcomb at a rate of \$21.00/hour effective 2/22/23

B. Consider Gravel Pit Purchase in Jamaica (Ginny Read, Realtor)

- Travis did not get a chance to speak with Ginny Read about it but did speak with Mike Fitzpatrick who is the owner of the property

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- Land consists of 2 lots
 - One lot is 134.37 acres with a gravel pit on it (\$949,900)
 - Power on the property and wells
 - At one point went through Act 250 for an active gravel pit
 - Other lot is 67 acres with Forester Pond, no gravel on it (\$649,900)
- Do not have to be purchased together
- Together the price is \$1,499,000 for both lots
- Not advertising it as such; Lack of residential property in the area
- 2.2 miles to Stratton Sun Bowl so it is a good piece of property for development
- Have had some interest from Boulder Ridge
- Met with Stratton but apparently they are not interested
- Has sent it out to other towns
- Putney and Dummerston bought a gravel pit together
- Newfane also in the Act 250 process to activate a gravel pit
- Trucking prices are rising; gravel currently coming from Mass and NH
- Thought it would be a good idea to consider it
- Have been keeping access road plowed if Travis wants to take a look at the property

Board comments:

- Don't know much about buying property from another town
- Don't know much about owning, permitting or running a gravel pit
- Potential for a lot of front-end costs to get that done
- Would want to talk to the voters about it; buying a large track of land in another town is not something we have considered before
- Can bring it up at Pre-Town and Town Meeting for feedback or interest
- Pretty big price tag involved
- Thank you for bringing it up to the Board
- Travis would like to do a bit more research on it; Have an idea there could be a fair investment being laid out before finding any return on the investment
- Appreciate the opportunity to improve the access and cost of those materials

C. Consider Richard Sedlack for Handling of Freon in Appliances at Transfer Station

- Have left this up to Chris Larsen at the Transfer Station to hire the best person for the job
- He has gone through Waste Mgmt. for the current contact
- Don't mind hiring a local person, but Chris already has someone he works with
 - Same price and they are insured for doing this
- Don't mind putting Richard on the list as a contact if needed

Dan Baliotti: Current company requires 25 appliances before they will come out, that is why recommending Richard as another option

Sarah: If you have the opportunity to get rid of 3 or 4 at a time, or does it make sense to wait until you have more as far as hauling costs go?

Travis: Sometimes have to wait until the dumpster can accommodate the number of appliances

Would have to have the insurance to be on the list; Seems to be working well as it is

Travis will reach out to Richard for his information

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IV. WD Fire Dept:

A. Discuss New Pick-Up Truck Purchase

- Rich Werner had intended to be present to discuss
- Requesting the Board consider this truck found at Auto Mall in Brattleboro
- Scheduled to arrive on April 19, 2023
- Funds coming from Capital Equipment
- Cost of \$67,395
- If the Board feels comfortable, it can approve it tonight

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Dan Baliotti, the Board unanimously approved the expenditure of \$67,395 to purchase a 2023 GMC Sierra SLE crew cab diesel pickup for the Fire Dept.

Jim McDevitt inquired whether they are trading in a vehicle; Travis provided that they were using the old Hwy pick up and believe Rich will be selling it outright

Sarah amended motion and Dan seconded to include a request to provide information to the Board about the disposal of the truck that is being replaced

V. Economic Development: Eric Durocher

A. Update on Valley Trail A- Options

- Spoke with Ross Gouin
- Can wait until shortly after Town Meeting to decide how to proceed
- No programs open for additional money but anticipate there will be some
- Original was a 10% match
- Any new funding options would require a 20% match
- Will discuss at Town Meeting and place on the agenda for Re-Organizational meeting on March 8

FYI: Had a productive meeting with contractors of Horace Hill and hope to get some shovels to the ground in spring/summer

VI. Local Liquor Control:

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Dan Baliotti, the Board unanimously agreed to recess as Dover Select Board and convene as local Liquor Control Board

A. Consider Authorizing Andy McLean & Jeannette Eckert to Approve Request to Cater Permits as needed

- Basically, all liquor permits are approved by the SB
- Some local businesses have difficulty getting the permits in hand prior to a SB meeting
 - Looking at three-week lead time
 - Then it goes up to the DLC for approval
- There are licensed caterers in Town such as Deerfield Bar and Bottle
 - They would serve alcohol at events outside their establishments
 - Have liquor licenses already; trained in serving
 - Not like a large event which would require more discretion
 - Other Towns in Vermont have authorized Clerks and/or Asst. Clerks to sign off as an administrative approval
 - Would help some small businesses if they get in a time crunch
 - Consensus of the Board and Police Chief is that it would be for the best

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On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Dan Baliotti, the Board unanimously agreed to authorize the Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk to approve Requests to Cater permits as needed

B. Liquor License Renewals for:

Jeannette advised the Board of the new system for approvals; everything goes through DLC's online portal, no Board signatures are required on the forms, some applicants still need to submit seminar certificates or fire inspection reports. Also, the Town fee must be sent in or dropped off directly. Other fees go through the portal. Consider the motion to state "pending receipt of required documents" or something to that effect

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Dan Baliotti, the Board unanimously approved the renewals as listed pending receipt of any missing documents

- Sawmill Bar & Table (1st, 3rd & OCP)
- Two Dogs LLC (1st, 3rd & OCP)
- Alpine Kitchen LLC (Trail 87, 1st, 3rd & OCP)
- A-Nice LLC (Snow Mtn Market, 2nd & Tobacco)

Discussion regarding concerns with Snow Republic's parking issues

- Recent issues with Snow Republic (1st, 3rd) on the parking
- Can reach out to DLC and have them deal with it
- Should really consider a parking attendant like TC's which helps to alleviate the issues
- Parking along Route 100 is happening regardless of the no parking signs; also parking at the North Branch substation across the street; turning around on private property at Boot and Binding
- If there was a fire, cars would not be able to get out of that lot
- Only allowed 21 or 22 parking spaces per zoning permit
- Believe the Board can place any conditions it wants on the applicant
- DRB doesn't have any enforcement power
- Zoning Administrator enforces the permits and can issue violation tickets
- Dangerous situation putting people at risk
- DLC would be enforcing any conditions on the liquor licenses
- As licenses don't expire until April 30, suggest inviting owner Walt Bansley to a meeting along with Tabi, Randy and the Board to get feedback on the restrictions
- Andy will reach out to Walt to request he attend a future Select board meeting
- No action taken on this application

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Joe Mahon, the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn as local Liquor Control Board and reconvene as Dover Select Board

VII. Consent Agenda:

A. Approve the Minutes of February 7, 2023 & February 9, 2023 (no Scott or Dan)

On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Joe Mahon, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of February 7, 2023

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On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Joe Mahon, the Board voted 3-0-2 to approve the minutes of February 9, 2023 (Salway and Baliotti abstained)

- B. Approve the Warrants of February 18, 2023 for \$2,171,994.68
On a motion by Sarah Shippee, seconded by Dan Baliotti, the Board unanimously approved the warrants of February 18, 2023

VIII. FYI:

- A. Municipal Energy Resiliency Program Overview – two levels of audits; Towns can apply for up to \$500,000; still a work in progress
- B. Open Mic Night, Feb 22 at 6pm (****This has been cancelled for tonight**)
- C. School District Voting February 27 from 10am to 7pm at Dover Town Hall
- D. Pre-Town Meeting, Wednesday, March 1 at 6pm, Dover Town Hall
- E. Town Meeting, Tuesday, March 7, 10am to 7pm, Dover Town Hall (Lunch provided by 6th grade)
- F. SB Reorganizational Meeting, Wed March 8 at 6:30pm

IX. Liaison Reports: Sarah: Library upgrade funding may be available from the State; Scott may want to discuss with John at the Library; Sarah will forward an email with details

X. Executive Session as needed: none

XI. Adjournment at 7:33pm by Chair Capitani

Respectfully submitted by Jeannette Eckert

Public notices of these minutes have been posted at the following locations: Dover Town Clerk's Bulletin Board, Dover Town Meeting Bulletin Board, Dover School, Dover Free Library, East Dover Post Office, Town of Dover Website: www.doververmont.com