

Bristol Selectboard Meeting

August 27, 2012

Selectboard Attendance: Chairman John “Peeker” Heffernan, Joel Bouvier, Carol Wells, Alan Huizenga and Sharon Compagna. Town Administrator Bill Bryant and Town Clerk Therese Kirby. Filmed for NEAT TV by Joanna Etko. Also attended by: Jim Quaglino, Kris Perlee, Bruce Acciavati, Jane Lazorchak, Naomi Drummond, Darla Senecal, Gerald Heffernan, Adam Lougee, Chief Kevin Gibbs, George Smith and Sergeant Randy Crowe.

1. Peeker Heffernan called the Selectboard meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He then called to order the Public Hearing regarding the draft Town Plan. Bruce Acciavati wanted to express his thanks to the Selectboard and the Planning Commission for their work on the Town Plan. Alan Huizenga moved to close the Public Hearing at 7:05 pm. Sharon Compagna seconded. So voted.

2. Jane Lazorchak, Land Acquisition Coordinator from the Department of Fish & Wildlife was present. She was here to discuss the summer colony of a maternity roost for Indiana Bats on Jane Harding’s property in Bristol and New Haven. The Fish and Wildlife Department are working with the Watershed Center to have the Watershed Center purchase the land and Fish and Wildlife will purchase a conservation easement. The easement allows for a small parking lot and will keep the property open for outdoor recreation. The Town will not contribute any money to this project; they are just being notified of it and have the right to express their dissatisfaction if they had any. Sharon Compagna moved to authorize Bill Bryant to draft a letter of support to Fish & Wildlife in their attempt to purchase Jane Harding’s property with the Watershed Center. Carol Wells seconded. So voted.

3. Jim Quaglino, Chair of the Police Advisory Committee, said as a result of the Police Meeting in July, Living Well is sponsoring a neighborhood watch on Maple Street. On September 11, 2012 the Bristol Police Department will be holding another forum at Holley Hall at 7:00 pm.

4. Sharon Compagna moved to approve the minutes of August 13, 2012 as printed. Alan Huizenga seconded. So voted.

5. Discussion of the Alan & Todd Saunder’s land conservation project that Kristen Underwood discussed with the Selectboard on August 13, 2012. \$21,990 is the updated grant submission Kristen has prepared to submit for a FY 2013 Ecosystem Restoration Grant. It does not require any further financial commitment on behalf of the Town. Carol Wells moved to approve the increase in the grant request. Alan Huizenga seconded. So voted. Discussion of the Public Access Agreement that Attorney Kevin Brennan drafted for the Selectboard. The agreement allows for Alan & Todd to hay the property during their lifetime, and it authorizes a path from the parking area to the river. Alan Huizenga moved to authorize Peeker Heffernan to sign the Public Access Agreement on behalf of the Selectboard. Carol Wells seconded. So voted. Discussion of the Riverbank Erosion Control Program.

6. Discussion of the new part-time Zoning Administrator position. Bill Bryant discussed how the position is currently covered and how he anticipates it to work. The new position would pick up duties now covered by Bill Bryant and Jen Stetson. There would be no change in duties now covered by Bob Stetson. It will be approximately 6 to 10 hours per week. Bill will be advertising the position in the Addison Independent for two weeks and on Front Porch Forum. Sharon Compagna moved to authorize Bill Bryant to advertise the position. Carol Wells seconded. So voted.

7. The Selectboard signed an accounts payable warrant of \$76,881.03.

8. Darla Senecal, Recreation Director, was here to update the Selectboard on several issues. The fall program will be distributed next week and some new items including phone calls from Santa, art classes for youngsters and a scarecrow making contest. Harvest Festival is September 22, 2012 with the Harvest Festival 5K sign in at 7 am with a start time of 8 am. Chief Kevin Gibbs has approved the race course. Carol Wells asked how the Harvest Festival worked for Darla financially. She said last year they lost money but normally they break even as they sponsor the event in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce. Joel Bouvier moved to authorize the Bristol Recreation Department to sponsor a 5k on September 22, 2012. Sharon Compagna seconded. So voted. The Mount Abe Youth Football program is looking to be taken over by the Bristol Recreation Department. Rising insurance and field costs are making it cost prohibitive for Ernie Senecal and his group of volunteers to continue on their own. Darla spoke with VLCT regarding insurance coverage and they said there would be no additional cost. Sharon Compagna moved to accept the Mount Abe Youth Football Program money and create a new fund. Carol Wells seconded. So voted. Alan Huizenga spoke on behalf of the program and Ernie Senecal. Carol Wells moved to approve accepting the Mount Abe Youth Football Program under the umbrella of the Bristol Recreation Department. Alan Huizenga seconded. So voted. Discussion of two grant requests. Carol Wells moved to approve the grant application to Neat Repeats for \$500 for a spine at the HUB Skate Park with no matching funds from the Town. Sharon Compagna seconded. Joel Bouvier wanted to know how large the park is going to get even though he realizes it is between the Town and the Recreation Club. Darla explained it is one of the nicest parks in the State of Vermont and one of the few that is supervised. So voted. Kris Perlee said he thinks the skate park is great and feels it curbs a lot of daytime vandalism to Recreation Club property. Jim Lockridge would like to apply to the Vermont Community Foundation for a grant of \$2,500, for the music program in hopes to replace some new equipment and help with promotion of events. Sharon Compagna moved to approve the grant application to Vermont Community Foundation for \$2,500 with no matching funds required from the Town. Carol Wells seconded. So voted. Carol Wells asked if Darla was happy with the cabaret series. Darla said she was and it worked out really well for downtown businesses as some people came in early and had dinner first. She also had good crowds for "Our Town" last week. They did four shows and a matinee. The Selectboard thanked Darla for her time.

9. Discussion of the proposal for the basement walls/ceiling demolition at Howden Hall. Gerald Hefferan and George Smith are on the Howden Hall Committee and were in support of the not to exceed proposal submitted to the Selectboard by Ed Hanson Building and Remodeling. This phase will remove the sheetrock, studs, ceiling tile, allow for the building of a dust wall around the boiler during demolition, an electrician to come in and disconnect the outlets, salvaging of doors to be reused later, salvaging of metal to go to the Landfill, to build a dust wall upstairs closing off the basement, and removing the staircase. Ed Hanson's not to exceed proposal is for time and materials and he will bring in subcontractors to help him with the demolition. He will be billing out his time at \$40 per hour and his subcontractors at \$30 per hour. Discussion of the proposed future layout of Howden Hall and Ed's proposal for the demolition. Bill Bryant informed the Selectboard he would be renting a storage unit to hold stackable chairs and old financial records that need to be stored for 10 – 20 years before they can be destroyed. Alan Huizenga moved to suspend the rules regarding formal bidding for this portion of the project. Sharon Compagna seconded. So voted. Alan Huizenga moved to hire Ed Hanson Building and Remodeling to demo the basement of Howden Hall per his proposal, for a not to exceed amount of \$8,240 with hourly rates to be specified by Bill Bryant in a contract letter and funding for the demolition to come from the Howden Hall funds. Sharon Compagna seconded. So voted with 3 yes and 1 no (J. Bouvier). The Selectboard thanked George Smith and Gerald Hefferan for their time.

10. Therese Kirby reminded residents the polls would be open from 9 am to 7 pm on Tuesday, August 28, 2012 for the Primary Election Day. She also informed the Selectboard she had received the Joe Piasecki and Amy Prior's notice of appeal to the director of Property Valuation and Review.

11. Selectboard Roundtable: Sharon Compagna said she was happy to see the sidewalk work was complete. Bill Bryant wanted to thank Alan Huizenga for some pro-bono engineering work to help solve the slope issue on the North Street sidewalk replacement. Sharon wanted to know if they could put crosswalks at the end of Mountain Street and Spring Street, the end of Devino Lane onto North Street and at the end of Liberty Street to Martin's Hardware. Bill Bryant explained some of these may need to be revisited next year when sidewalks are being replaced. Peeker Hefferan suggested putting these on the annual road trip. Sharon said she has received complaints regarding the height of the flowers at Almost Home and feels they are becoming a traffic hazard. Joel Bouvier spoke with Lance Perlee regarding the water line on High Street. Lance thought the pipe might run closer to the houses than the middle of the road. Bill Bryant will have Lance speak with Alan Huizenga, Peeker Hefferan and Joel Bouvier regarding the location of the pipe and a timeline for replacing it. Alan Huizenga said there is a business sign on Liberty Street and not sure if it has a sign permit. It is for Kerry Skiffington's business and Bill will check into it. Alan Huizenga wanted to express his displeasure with the editor of the Addison Independent. He is making personal attacks on board members who are doing what they are appointed to do; debating issues. Alan would like the Selectboard to consider appointing another newspaper as Bristol's newspaper of record, at a future meeting. In the meantime he would like to cancel the Town's subscription to the newspaper.

12. Adam Lougee of Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) was here tonight to discuss their proposal to manage the VTrans enhancement grant for the Town Green. The enhancement grant is for \$50,000. Carol Wells moved to accept the ACRPC proposal to be the grant administrator for the enhancement grant per the proposal for the Town Green project. Sharon Compagna seconded. So voted.

13. Town Administrator's Report: Bill Bryant thanked the Bristol Fire Department (BFD) for responding to a tractor trailer accident on Route 116. Due to First Assistant Chief Brett LaRose's due diligence the Town received a check today for \$2200 to reimburse the fire department's labor and supply lines. An Eagle Scout would like to work on Memorial Park as part of his project and plans to pick up trash and repair some railings. Bill would like to meet with him and see what his plan is and what supervision there will be. Alan Huizenga feels the project may be too large for one person. Peeker Heffernan feels if the project can be done safely let him move forward, if not ask him for a second project choice. The fire department will be meeting Wednesday night to discuss the proposed fire department facility. Discussion of the Hewitt Road Bridge project. Alan Huizenga moved to appoint Bill Bryant as their voting delegate to the VLCT Town Fair. Sharon Compagna seconded. So voted.

14. Police Chief Kevin Gibbs is here to discuss his draft policy regarding on-call pay. It would be an amendment to the personnel policy. Sharon Compagna wanted to know how on call pay would be tracked. Kevin said via payroll. Kevin is proposing 10% of their hourly rate for on-call pay for any time over 4 hours. If it is 4 hours or less there is no extra pay. However, if they are on-call more than 4 hours, they would receive on-call pay for all of the hours. He would like the on-call pay to stay in place if they are called out. In that situation, the officer would receive on-call pay plus time and a half for a minimum of three hours. Bill Bryant believes if they are being called out they are already getting paid time and a half for the three hour minimum call out, so does not necessarily feel they need the on-call pay too. Discussion of proposal with the Selectboard, Bill Bryant, Kevin Gibbs and Sgt. Randy Crowe. Alan moved to approve the changes to the call out time policy as drafted by Kevin Aug 23, 2012. Sharon Compagna seconded. So voted. The Selectboard authorized the Treasurer to pay this retroactively as of July 1, 2012. Kevin also updated the Selectboard on his next Public Forum to be held on September 11, 2012 at 7 pm at Holley Hall. He is happy to report the Bristol Police Department has made some drug arrests since the last forum. He appreciates tips they have received from residents and said one tip helped avert a burglary. He encourages people to call the police when they see suspicious activity and if they can safely get a license plate number, which would be helpful. Carol Wells asked what else the Selectboard can do to help the Police Department. Kevin said the Selectboard has been very supportive and he will be preparing a proposal regarding increasing patrols in the Town to submit for their approval in the future. He is also actively looking for more part-time officers. Sharon Compagna asked how the no-trespass orders issued for the Town Green were working. Kevin said they have issued four. He recommends the Selectboard allow those orders to be issued for a one year period as that is standard instead of the 30

days previously approved. Carol Wells moved to authorize the Bristol Police Department to issue no-trespass orders for 12 months. Sharon Compagna seconded. So voted.

15. Sharon Compagna moved to go into executive session regarding two personnel matters involving the appointment, employment or evaluation of public officers or employees and two real estate matters/negotiations involving the Town where premature general public knowledge of the subject matter would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage. Alan Huizenga seconded. So voted. The Selectboard met in executive session from 10:03 pm to 10:35 pm, with Kevin Gibbs present for a portion of that time. Joel Bouvier moved to increase the hourly rates for part-time Police Officers Paul Poynter, Ken Marcelle and Vegar Boe to \$16.58 per hour. Alan Huizenga seconded. So voted. The Selectboard adjourned at 10:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Therese Kirby