

Attendance: Selectboard members Sharon Compagna, Carol Wells, Joel Bouvier, Peeker Heffernan and Town Administrator Bill Bryant. Also attended by Jim Quaglino, Steve Libby, Kristen Underwood, Ann Wallace, David Gusakov, and Jacquie Werner-Gavrin. Filmed for NEAT TV by Mary Arbuckle.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Saunders New Haven River Conservation Project: The Board met with Steve Libby of the Vermont River Conservancy and Kristen Underwood, project consultant and Conservation Commission member, to discuss the proposed Saunders river corridor conservation project in the Bristol Flats area near Route 116 South. The project will entail the Town acquiring ownership of 38.6 acres of riparian lands along the New Haven River. The Vermont River Conservancy and Vermont Housing and Conservation Board will hold conservation easements and river buffer agreements on the property. Funding for the project is coming from the VHCB and the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's Ecosystem Restoration Grant program. The VTDEC will also have rights to enforce terms of the easement as a "third party beneficiary," as a major funder of the project although they will not be a signatory party to the easement.

A first draft of the conservation easement was reviewed and discussed. The purpose of the project is to allow the river to meander naturally through this area to reduce flooding and erosion in other areas. A key component of the easement will be the development, implementation and periodic update of a management plan for the property which would be prepared by the Town. The plan would be shared with the VRC, VHCB and VTDEC and they could assist and comment on the plan, but it would be a document adopted by the Selectboard. The conservation easement would give future channel management rights to VRC (i.e. they would be the party to decide if and when to seek permits for any alterations to the river). There was discussion about use of the property, which will include continued agricultural use by the Saunders during their lifetime, and what other uses might or might not be allowed. The Selectboard asked that a mediation or arbitration clause be added to the proposed easement so that any issues that might arise could be settled between the parties in a less costly and adversarial manner than going to court. Closing on the acquisition of the property and conservation easements is planned to take place by March 1, 2013, so there will be time for the draft easement to be revised and further discussed.

A revised project budget was also passed out and discussed. Total project budget is \$104,500, of which \$69,000 is the purchase price to the Saunders. Other costs include legal expenses (\$5,000), survey (\$12,000), baseline documentation of existing conditions on the property (\$2,500), a stewardship endowment (\$6,000) and VRC staff time (\$10,000). Project funding is coming from VHCB (\$28,000), the VTDEC ERG grant (\$52,000), Town of Bristol Conservation Reserve Fund (\$5,000), Town of Bristol operating budget (\$1,500 of legal expense), and New Haven River Anglers Association (\$1,000). The Town had obtained an earlier ERG grant from VTDEC to develop this

project. An additional ERG grant in the amount of \$21,990 has recently been awarded to the Town for erosion control and buffer plantings on the property and the proposed grant agreement was passed out this evening. The Bristol Conservation Commission has been instrumental in obtaining these funds.

The Selectboard expressed its continued support for the project. Motion was made by Sharon Compagna, seconded by Carol Wells and carried to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the proposed ERG grant agreement after review of the document. If there are any concerns he will report them back to the Board.

2. Request of Red Cedar School for school zone signage along Hardscrabble Road: Jacquie Werner-Garvin was present to discuss the School's interest in having some school zone signs placed near Red Cedar School. She first took the opportunity to thank the Selectboard for the efforts last year to improve parking safety and drainage along Hardscrabble Road in front of the School. The Selectboard is amenable to installing some school zone signs and Ms. Warner-Garvin felt the School would be agreeable to paying for the cost of signs and posts if the Town will install. There was discussion about school zone speed limits and what the signs should look like and where they should be posted. Bill Bryant will contact the traffic planner for the Regional Planning Commission for some guidance on the standards for placing such signs. That information will then be used to price the signs and for a final decision regarding installation.
3. Ann Wallace and David Gusakov were present concerning a plugged drainage pipe on the class 4 section of Spring Street which is easterly of Mountain Street. Review of town highway maps, recent drainage system mapping, a phone call to former resident Paul Sherwin, and review of field conditions suggest the following facts: 1) this storm drain transmits flow from a spring on the mountain down to the stormwater system on Mountain Street; 2) the class 4 road ends about 264 feet (.05 mile) from Mountain Street and a drop inlet mid-way up the road/driveway is in the town highway; 3) the blockage is located in the town highway portion of this pipe and not on the private drive which continues up the hill to Melissa Deas' property; and 4) Mr. Sherwin reported the road/driveway was paved by him privately, that the pipe from the hill to the inlet was installed by him, but that the pipe from the inlet down to Mountain Street was installed by the Village of Bristol though he had repaired it privately several times in the past. Ms. Wallace described how they have kept Japanese Knotweed cut back in past years and that roots from these plants are the likely culprits in plugging the line which Mr. Sherwin reported to consist of 6" perforated pipe. The Selectboard agreed that the repair of the plugged pipe should be undertaken by the Road Department. A repair should be made to get the system through the winter. An assessment should also be made to determine if the entire pipe should be replaced next year. The Selectboard noted that by undertaking this responsibility the Board is not making any determination about future responsibility for the paving of the public portion of this road/driveway.
4. Public Forum: Jim Quaglino has been attending Selectboard meetings for the past few months and thanked the Board for its hard work.

5. The Selectboard reviewed a proposed amendment to the bond terms for the 2010 Stormwater Project. The payments will be due on December 1<sup>st</sup> of each year rather than on October 1<sup>st</sup> due to a glitch in getting the first billing out from the bank. Also, the principal of this bond ended up being lower than anticipated, so both the principal and the annual payments are lower than originally thought. The annual payments will be \$34,919. Motion was made by Sharon Compagna, seconded by Carol Wells and carried to authorize the Chairman to sign the bond amendment as proposed.
6. Route 116 South “Stoplight Bridge” quit claim deed for Carlstrom Road: The Selectboard reviewed the right of way proposal from VTrans for this project which includes the Town deeding the old portion of Carlstrom Road (TH#25) to the State for construction of the new bridge and Route 116 relocation in this area. The deed references plans and indicates that at completion of the project the Town will be presented with a Relinquishment and Maintenance Agreement for the new location of Carlstrom Road as it meets this intersection. Project schedule currently calls for bidding in June 2013 with start of temporary bridge construction in fall 2013, substantial construction of the new bridge in 2014, and some wrap up work completed in 2015. Motion was made by Sharon Compagna, seconded by Carol Wells and carried to sign the deed as proposed.
7. Preliminary Plans Review for VTrans replacement of Bridge 6 on Route 116 South: This bridge is a structure located southerly of the “stoplight bridge” and is being planned as a separate project. The plans call for a \$1.3 million project including installation of a new 50 foot pre-stress all concrete structure with pre-fabricated abutments. Bridge railing will consist of 2 rail galvanized box beam. The elevation of the bridge and road approaches will be raised a couple feet. The project will be done under what VTrans has started calling in the post-Irene world as “accelerated construction” meaning that there will be no temporary bridge or detour. Road closure is expected to last two weeks. The accelerated construction is intended to save significant cost and time. VTrans is requesting concurrence from the Town with the preliminary plans. The project would most likely be built in 2015 or 2016. The Selectboard discussed whether it would make sense to have this bridge built at the same time as the other bridge and reviewed other aspects of the plans. Motion was made by Sharon Compagna, seconded by Joel Bouvier and carried to send a letter to VTrans expressing the Selectboard’s concurrence with the preliminary plans sent under cover letter dated October 23, 2012, with most of the plan sheets marked 11-October-2012.
8. Employee Health Insurance Program for 2013: The Selectboard reviewed a memo from the Town Administrator outlining the recommended option for employee health insurance coverage for calendar year 2013. Having just changed plans last year to a high deductible Blue Cross/Blue Shield program (\$2,000/\$4,000), and with changes quite possible for 2014 under laws now passed and being implemented, he has recommended staying with the current plan. Rates are going up 9.3%. Per budgeting last year, the

Selectboard intended to decrease the Town contribution to health savings accounts for employees to offset rate increases above a certain point. The recommendation is therefore to decrease HSA contributions from \$2,000 to \$1,300 for employees in two-person and family plans in January 2013. The program will fit the budget. Motion was made by Carol Wells, seconded by Sharon Compagna and carried to accept the recommendation for employee health insurance for 2013 as outlined. There was discussion that in the future the Town will seriously consider providing insurance only to employees, with costs for dependents to be borne by the family and not the Town. Such a change might be applied only to future hires rather than to existing employees. The pending elections could make a big difference in what sorts of options the Town and other employers have in what they offer going forward. It was agreed that it is impossible to predict these options now and that this issue will need to be revisited as events unfold.

9. Bills payable were reviewed and Treasurer's warrants of \$79,583.11 signed.
10. Motion was made by Sharon Compagna, seconded by Joel Bouvier and carried to approve the minutes of October 22, 2012.
11. Roundtable: Sharon Compagna reminded voters watching live on NEAT TV of the general election tomorrow and noted how busy the Town Clerk has been with tax collections and election work the past couple weeks and especially these two days.  
Joel Bouvier inquired about monthly reports from Simon Operating Systems regarding the water and sewer operating contracts and would like to have an update on the implementation of the summer workplan for 2012. He reminded voters of the non-binding survey that is being conducted by the Police Advisory Committee during the election and encouraged people to fill out the survey form regarding possible consideration of future expansion of the Police District.  
There was discussion about upcoming meetings and several important agenda items that will all require significant meeting time. Several of these had been scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup> but will need to be spread out. Carol Wells suggested November 19<sup>th</sup> be reserved for presentation from the architect of conceptual plans for possible expansion of the Fire Department facilities on North Street and public hearing re. community development grant application to assist the Addison County Dental Center to locate in Bristol; that the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting focus on an alternatives presentation from the traffic consultant assisting the Town and VTrans with update of signalization and layout of the Main Street intersection and discussion with the Conservation Commission and David Brynn about future gravel pit closure plans and post gravel pit uses for properties on the perimeter of the Mt. Abraham Union High School property; and that the December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting focus on hearing from the Energy Committee about the PACE program for homeowner loans for energy improvements and start of work on the

FY2014 budget including request from Addison County Transit Resources for an increase in its annual appropriation.

Bill Bryant reported the Town has received a letter from the National Forest Service reporting on a pending gift of land from Fairway Development Corporation. The parcel consists of 26 acres and is located on the southwest side of the New Haven River diagonally across from Eagle Park. The letter is to notify the Town of this donation, but the project does not require support or concurrence from the Town.

The Road Department is requesting that properties with mobile basketball hoops in or near the streets move them for winter to accommodate winter plowing.

Bill Bryant reported that Town department heads worked hard to be prepared for response to Tropical Storm Sandy. While the storm bypassed our area, the preparations were a good drill for all involved.

12. Motion was made by Sharon Compagna, seconded by Joel Bouvier and carried to meet in executive session to discuss two personnel matters and three real estate negotiations involving the Town where premature general knowledge of the subject matter would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage. The Board met in executive session from 9:10 to 10:40 p.m. No actions were taken following the executive session.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bill Bryant, Town Administrator