

Town of New Haven Special Selectboard Meeting
6:30 pm
Tuesday, March 23, 2021
Town Offices

**** Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this meeting was held via GoToMeeting****

Selectboard: Chair, John Roleau, Vice Chair, Taborri Bruhl, Kathy Barrett,
Steve Dupoise and Bruce Many
Town Administrator / ZA: Aaron Brown
Selectboard Assistant: Pam Kingman

Visitors: Cheryl Mitchell, Liz Curry, Maggie Eaton, Mike Kiernan and Mike Jewell

**At 6:30 pm Cheryl Mitchell and Liz Curry gave a presentation on the Planning Grant for Early Child Care and Learning Partnership.

The Regular meeting started at 6:45 pm

VISITORS BUSINESS:

- 1. Maggie Eaton** came to give the Selectboard an overview of the current **Energy Plan**. She is the Chair of the Energy Committee as well as a Planning Commission member. The Energy Committee would like the Selectboard to officially accept the Energy Plan tonight. Maggie said the Energy Plan is part of a statewide effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The State hopes to switch from fossil fuels to increasing renewable energy usage across the State by 90% by the year 2050. The State energy plan was sent to all regional planning commissions for them to help create compatible regional energy plans. Then regional planning commissions work to create the data, goals and siting maps for each town in the county. New Haven will be able to gain more control over where renewable energy developments are sited. New Haven was the first in the State with rapid solar growth. Without an energy plan in place, towns have little control. With a Plan in place the town can control how much energy is produced, how much is being used now. There is a criteria to follow along maps that are drawn by Regional Planning; the maps are planning tools only and can aid in determining preferable sites for larger solar arrays. Each time a developer proposes and array, the Planning Commission will review the written document, compare it to the criteria and maps as well as conduct a site visit. This will help

them determine if the site is suitable for that particular installation. The PC will consider site lines, screening and view. Discussion about how specific screening is in the Energy Plan, because it has been an ongoing issue with many developers. Especially when an array gets sold over and over; and the town isn't notified as to who the new owners are, and the issue of screening is not passed along to the new owners. In the past the Selectboard has used common sense as to how much screening is needed. Maggie said if the town's criteria are too strict, there will be no development. The PC may seek help from the Town's DRB on a case by case basis. Discuss the process for getting the Plan before the voters, and a possible timeline.

Maggie Eaton introduced **Mike Kiernan**. Mike has read the Energy Plan, and feels it is very well written. Mike's organization "Bee the Change" plants pollinators around solar arrays and they have seeded about 30 arrays with pollinator plants. He explained the importance of pollinators that include the Honey Bee, Bumble Bee and Monarch Butterfly. Over time we are losing more and more bees and butterflies; which are very important to pollinating foods that humans depend on. Mike added in Minnesota, every developer is required to plant pollinators. He invited the Selectboard to the solar arrays along Route 7 to see what they have planted and to enjoy the bees and butterflies. Bee the Change is solely done by volunteers, they must attend to the planting every year to ensure good growth, and getting control of the soil; it takes about 3 years to establish itself. They are always on the lookout for parsnip and other invasive plants. Maggie said in the Plan, larger solar arrays need to include planting pollinators or even grazers. Having a solar field still preserves the farmland, and rests the soil from constant cropping. She said the contract with the developer should determine who is responsible for the land after the installation, either the developer or the landowner. Much of which should be included in the CPG. Taborri Bruhl made a motion to accept the Energy Plan as forwarded to the Selectboard tonight. Motion seconded Steve Dupoise. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

The Board thanked Maggie for all the work she has done on this project.

2. **Mike Jewell – Sawyer Road / Main St intersection:** No one has any new information. The Town attorney and the Jewell's attorney have talked. Town Attorney, Cindy Hill will need to come in to the office to do a Title search. This will be on the April 6, 2021 agenda.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

1. **Constable Appointment:** Steve Dupoise made a motion to appoint Wayne Marcelle as the Constable for 2021. Seconded by Taborri Bruhl. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

2. Update on Train Depot given by Steve Dupoise. The committee held a meeting yesterday, but not many people attended. Steve was hoping for more input from either committee members or those just interested in the Depot. Steve said he received an encouraging email from Laura Treischman who told him not to worry about money, just find a place to move it to. So far the 3 locations that have been mentioned are: Champlain Oil's lot in the Junction (across from the Jiffy Mart), War Memorial Park (next to the Village Green Market) or the 3 acre parcel north of the Town Offices and Library. Steve has reached out to Champlain Oil to inquire about their parcel. Discuss the lot owned by Champlain Oil, and the issues they have had with trying to subdivide due to the mound system. It will be a major expense to move the Depot; and we need to consider power lines when moving it.
3. Possible Executive Session for Personnel. The Board did not go into executive session, but did discuss short term disability insurance and the cost associated with it. More information is needed. This will be on the Agenda in April.

TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT Given by Aaron Brown:

1. **COVID-19 Response:** All town staff will be eligible for at least the first vaccination by the end of April. We may be able to return to in-person meetings by July.
2. **Road Update:**
 - The Road Crew provided help to Weybridge on Quaker Village Road to stabilize the bank, just south of the new Beaver Brook culverts.
 - Several roads have had gravel added using the loader while the grader is still down.
 - The Sheriff's Dept. has recently stopped and ticketed 2 Tractor Trailers one on River Road and one on Town Hill Road. The Town receives the full amount of these fines, which are over \$1,000 each if the ticket is not appealed.
 - The Board discussed making sure the posted weight limit signs are up and visible by motorists. The bright orange around each sign makes it highly visible. Also the town now owns a laminator, this will help the signs last longer.
3. **Town Buildings and Land:** Aaron met with the Agency of Commerce and Community Development to discuss improvements to the Town Hall façade. They recommended applying for an accessibility grant for the old Town Clerks entrance. This is a 75/25 matching grant. They suggested re-grading the entrance, adding a new portico, replacing the door and adding a paddle switch.

They also recommended using the voted funds towards the front porch façade. Discussed whether or not Downtown Village Designation would help with the front porch façade.

AUTHORIZATIONS:

1. Steve Dupoise made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 3/13/21, in the amount of \$4,385.70, seconded by Bruce Many. Vote by roll call 4 yes / 1 abstention (Barrett, is abstaining because she didn't have a chance to review any financials)
2. Taborri Bruhl made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 3/20/21, in the amount of \$3,759.45, seconded by Steve Dupoise. Vote by roll call 4 yes / 1 abstention (Barrett)
3. Taborri Bruhl made a motion to approve the pay orders for the week ending 3/23/21, in the amount of \$28,759.92, seconded by Bruce Many. Vote by roll call 4 yes / 1 abstention (Barrett)
4. Steve Dupoise made a motion to accept the Bank Statements and financials. Motion seconded by Taborri Bruhl. Vote by roll call 4 yes / 1 abstention (Barrett)
5. Taborri Bruhl made a motion to approve applying for the Planning Grant for Early Child Care and Learning Partnership. Motion seconded by Steve Dupoise. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
6. Taborri Bruhl made a motion to approve the forms required that coincide with the Planning Grant to include Adoption of Form MP-1 (Equal Employment Opportunity) ; Fair Housing Certification, Zoning Administrator, Aaron Brown will certify compliance; Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Plan, this too will be signed by ZA, Aaron Brown and a Drug-Free Workplace Policy. Motion seconded by John Roleau. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
7. Steve Dupoise made a motion to approve Class II Road Grant and Structures Grant Application to VTRANS – For Town Hill Road and Plank Road Bridge respectively. Motion seconded by Taborri Bruhl. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
8. Steve Dupoise made a motion to approve the Annual Road and Bridge Standards, seconded by Taborri Bruhl. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
9. Update to Personnel Policy re: remote work – Defer until Town Attorney, Cindy Hill can weigh in on it.
10. Liquor License – none at this time
11. Town Park Application: Taborri Bruhl made a motion to allow the New Haven Congregational Church to hold a Sunrise Easter Service on April 4, 2021, using the Gazebo and Town Green. Estimated attendance is 15. The service will have social distancing practices in place, and attendees will be masked. Motion seconded by Kathy Barrett. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

12. Taborri Bruhl made a motion to approve the Homeward Bound Contract for 2021, using Option 2. Motion seconded by Kathy Barrett. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
13. Taborri Bruhl made a motion to authorize Aaron Brown to sign the Homeward Bound Contract. Motion seconded by Steve Dupoise. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
14. Taborri Bruhl made a motion to approve the minutes from 3/9/21, seconded by Kathy Barrett. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. The Board discussed moving the **Outside Agencies** who have not had to petition recently from single Articles on the Town Meeting Warning and ballot; to individual line items in the budget. If they are within the petitioning process, they will remain as single Articles. Currently the Outside Agencies are required to petition for 5 consecutive years at the same dollar amount. If they ask for more money at any time the petition process starts all over. An article will appear in an upcoming newsletter letting townspeople know of the Selectboards intentions, and if the voters have concerns to address the Selectboard.
Taborri Bruhl made a motion to move the Outside Agencies to individual line items, and those that have petitioned for the past 5 consecutive years will appear as individual Articles on the Town Meeting Warning. Motion seconded by Kathy Barrett. 4 yes / 1 no (Dupoise)
2. **Marijuana – business legalization discussion:** The State just issued a statement; within the next 2 years if towns don't vote on if they want Marijuana stores in their town, the state will assume towns are for it. This past Town Meeting, both Middlebury and Vergennes passed legalizing stores. The Board discussed what the revenue might be for our town, locations suitable for sales, and supporting businesses. This would have to go for a town vote, which could coincide with the vote on the Energy Plan. The Board must hold an informational meeting prior to the vote on marijuana sales. Dates to be determined.
3. The Selectboard received a letter from the **Sheriff's Dept.** in regards to the Sheriff removing the 5% clause from all contracts that supplement his salary, and he will instead put it towards the Departments operating budget.
4. Mike Lee Hearing did not happen, Lee did not attend.

MISC. CORRESPONDENCE:

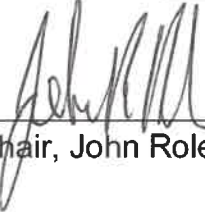
1. Sheriff's Activity Logs

Adjourn: 8:41 pm

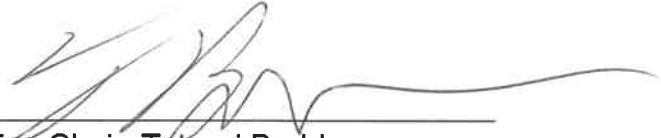
Respectfully submitted:

Pam Kingman


Approved on 4-6-21



Chair, John Roleau

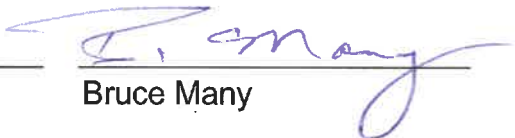


Vice Chair, Taborri Bruhl



Kathy Barrett

Steve Dupoise



Bruce Many