

MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 16, 2008 SELECT BOARD MEETING

Board members presents were Gene Armstrong, Dan Champney, Tom Benoit, RJ Vallie and John Devine. Also present was Town Attorney Robert Fletcher and Town Clerk Deborah La Rivière. The meeting was called to order at 6 pm.

Tom motioned: **“To accept the minutes from June 02, 2008.”** John seconded. There were no corrections or changes. All were in favor, motion passed.

Tom motioned: **“To accept the minutes from October 01, 2007 and October 15, 2007.”** John seconded. Deb explained that approval of these minutes must have been overlooked during the move. There were no changes or corrections. All were in favor, motion passed.

Warrants were signed.

Conservation Commission chair Sharon Murray met with the Board to bring them up-to-date on the geomorphic study scheduled for Joiner Brook. The CC received a grant and along with the Planning Commission reviewed proposals from three firms for the work. John motioned: **“To acknowledge the recommendation of the Conservation Commission and accept the bid of Bear Creek Environmental for the Phase 2 portion of the Joiner Brook geomorphic study.”** RJ seconded. Fletcher will review the contract, Sharon will be the contact person for Bear Creek and Amy Grover will administer the grant. There was no other discussion, all were in favor, motion passed.

Amy Grover came before the Board representing the Planning Commission. Larry Williams has asked that the Ad Hoc committee be reestablished since Bolton Valley/Redstone has presented a Master Plan to the Act 250 office. The Planning Commission’s position is that the master plan submitted to Act 250 is not an actual master plan and elects to wait until a more detailed and comprehensive plan is presented.

At this point several residents and Travis Peckham and Dick Katzman from CRAG-VT met with the Board to discuss an upcoming land purchase. The project involves CRAG purchasing land (known as the Pinnacle, the Cobble or Resin Ridge) owned by Mike Ringuette and Ken and Nancy Remsen and transferring ownership to the Town. The land is a well-known rock climbing area. The Board questioned the reasoning behind CRAG wanting to hand the parcel over to the town rather than keep it as they have done with other pieces in town. While CRAG is incorporated and acts as a steward for many parcels, they never intended to be actual land owners. It makes more sense to CRAG to have the parcel owned by the town first since it abuts the Preston Pond property and should CRAG dissolve, the land could continue to be used as the climbing resource that it is. The Board is concerned with the liability and fails to see what the upside is. Peckham offered to have a ‘sign-in waiver’ form and insists that climbers in general are environmentalist types and more likely to be conscious of keeping the area clean. Residents present reminded the Board that the perception of Bolton is one of a strong climbing area and there is an advantage to having the cliffs owned by the town and that community forest land is a valuable asset. They also urged the Board to go forward

without fear. The liability issue is a major concern since the statute that refers to 'Limitations on Landowners Liability' (VSA 12 Chapter 203 §5794 & 5795) specifically mentions that municipalities are exempt from the protection of that statute.

RJ motioned: **"To table this issue until the Board can resolve the liability exemption question."** Gene seconded. Deb and Travis will coordinate a time at a future meeting for CRAG to come back in with their legal people. There was no other discussion, all were in favor, motion passed.

Another park and ride grant application from the state was reviewed by the board. The Board is still divided on this issue but would like to find out if maintenance money, money to fix the shoulders on the Access Road (where parking now occurs) and possibly a piece of extra equipment could be included in the grant proposal. Deb will check with Miron who will help write the grant. Deb will bring this info back to the Board at their next meeting.

John motioned: **"To re-appoint Jerry Mullen as representative to the Metropolitan Planning Commission."** Tom seconded. There was no other discussion, all were in favor, motion passed.

The Board reviewed the submissions presented by Ruelle Design for a town logo. RJ motioned: **"To accept the pen and ink and silk screen design featuring the Lafreniere homestead as the town logo."** Gene seconded. The silk screen version will be used on the town vehicles and building and the pen and ink for letterhead and all else. There was no other discussion, all were in favor, motion passed.

The Board entered Executive Session at 8 pm to discuss a personnel issue and returned to the regular meeting at 8:20.

Gene motioned: **"To hire a road maintenance consultant at \$25 per hour for a 9 hour day for approximately a two week period."** John seconded. The Board would like to meet with Road Foreman Eric Andrews on Monday June 23 at 4 at the town garage. There was no other discussion, all were in favor, motion passed.

There was no other business to be brought before this Board at this time. Tom motioned to end the meeting, seconded by John. The meeting ended at 8:30.

Attest:

Deborah La Rivière
Town Clerk

Minutes are unofficial until approved. These minutes were read and approved by the Bolton Select Board on July 07, 2008. _____ For the Board.

