

Brookline Selectboard Minutes
December 2, 2009

1. Chairman Archie Clark called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Present were board members David Ryder, Alicia Dest, and Doug Wellman. Representatives from COMCAST Christina DeGraff-Murphy, Julia Andrews, Rick Landof, Linda Woodall, and John Hofmann; and Falls Area Community Television (FACT) representatives Suzanne Groenewold and Jacob Stradling were present. Also present were members of the public Mike Fontaine, John Butkns, Guy and Gwen Tanza, Dan Seiden, Bruce Capponcelli, April Wellman, Frank Rucker, Sally Fegley, Norman Solomon, Shawn Nordlund, Marie Tattersall, and Gene Horton.

2. Christina DeGraff-Murphy and her team updated the town on the COMCAST cable installation. Most preparation work has been accomplished and COMCAST is committed to completing the installation prior to December 31st 2009. They answered specific questions from several residents. Suzanne Groenewold (President FACT) and Jacob Stradling (Executive Director FACT) provided information on their public access services. Christina explained the fees associated with FACT and that the Board would have to designate them our public access provider if we so desire, if not COMCAST provides some basic public access services. Most members of the public departed after the COMCAST presentation.

3. The minutes of the November 18th meeting were reviewed. Alicia motioned they be approved as written. Seconded, all voted in favor.

4. Members of the Public:

a. The representatives from FACT TV further discussed their services with the Board. Doug motioned that "Brookline designate Falls Area Community Television our public access provider." Seconded, all voted in favor. Doug will draft a letter to FACT and COMCAST informing them of the Boards decision.

b. Bruce Capponcelli (Brookline Representative to the Windham County Solid Waste Management District (WCSWMD) Board), updated the Board on the current state of the WCSWMD budget. The WCSWMD board will meet December 10th to finalize next years budget. The proposal has about a 1% increase over the current year for Brookline. Trash in the recycle bins continues to be a major cost to the district. Bruce stated that there has been discussion of assessing additional fees to sites that are not manned and produce the majority of the trash.

c. Sally Fegley asked about rumors of condominium development in the area off Radway Hill Road in Newfane. She was concerned about the impact on Brookline, especially for residents along the lower part of Grassy Brook and Hill Roads. Since Newfane requires permitting for any development, Archie will check with Newfane officials to see what they have approved and if the town of Brookline has standing to comment during any zoning hearings.

d. April Wellman (Chairperson, Brookline School Board) briefed the Board on the work the Joint Newfane-Brookline School Board has been doing with their budget. Three options will be

discussed at the joint board meeting on December 10th. These will be leaving both schools open, sending some students to the Newfane School, or sending all students to the Newfane School. If the Brookline School remains open there will be a significant increase in the towns education tax rate.

5. **Old Business:** The ancient roads public hearing was conducted prior to the selectboard meeting. A special selectboard meeting will be held December 9th to decide if the roads will be discontinued.

6. **Road Report:**

a. Current work orders include some tree trimming and repairing a hole near 177 Hill Road. Since the Dummerston covered bridge is closed until December 14th, we will try to keep Putney Mountain Road open until then—weather permitting.

b. Dave has been working with Marie Caduto (from the Vermont Agency of Natural of Natural Resources (ANR)) on the Hill Road culvert replacement. A timeline for major accomplishments provided by the ANR was reviewed.

6. **New Business:** A special selectboard meeting will be held December 9th at 7:00 PM in the town office to decide on ancient roads and work on the fiscal year (FY) 2011 budget.

7. **Other Business:**

a. The contractor installing the flooring in the town office cannot start work until after January 1st. When he is available a date will be scheduled to move furniture and materials out of the vault and older section of the office.

b. Work on the FY 2011 budget was deferred until the special meeting on December 9th.

8. **Correspondence:** Correspondence was reviewed.

9. **Pay Orders:** Pay orders were reviewed. Accounts payable warrant #11, \$155,763.30 and payroll warrant #11, \$1,500.76. Doug motioned they be approved. Seconded. All voted in favor, approved.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 PM. The next regular meeting will be December 16th at 7:00 PM in the town office.

Respectively submitted
Douglas Wellman
Clerk of the Board

Approved 12/16/09