

**BROOKLINE SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6:30 PM**  
**Approved Minutes**

**Action Summary:**

- Voted to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2017 SLDC Special Meeting as amended.
- Approved the estimate for two toilets at SLDC in the amount of \$984.40.
- Approved Pay Orders in the amount of \$232,860.72.

**Present:**

*Board:* Dorothy Maggio (Chair), Bruce Mello, Gwen Tanza, David Jones

*Members of the Public:* Mark Bills, Guy Tanza (Videographer), Peter Barus (Recorder), a representative from Ameden Construction, Beatrice Birch (Director, Inner Fire), Tom Kavet, Peter Meyer, Cynthia Nau, Win Clark, Kerry Bourne, Barbara Bourne

**Call meeting to order**

Ms. Maggio opened the meeting at 6:45PM

**Open Bids for Culvert Project on Hill and Putney Mountain. Roads**

Three bids for culvert replacement were opened and read.

Bellco Enterprises, Brattleboro, Vt.: \$7,200

A. S. Clark & Sons: \$18,100

Ameden Construction, Jamaica, Vt.: \$15,000

The proposals were discussed. Mr. Clark and Mr. Bills explained procedures referenced in the proposals. Mr. Jones read from the RFP specifications. There was discussion of certificates of insurance, and the wide difference in prices.

Ms. Maggio moved to accept the proposal from Bellco Enterprises. Second by Mr. Mello.

Ms. Tanza discussed the Selectboard's responsibility to save money for the town. **All in Favor.**

**Changes to the agenda**

The Treasurer review/finance report was Tabled until the June 21 meeting.

**Approve minutes from the last meeting held on May 17, 2017**

Corrections were made.

Mr. Jones moved to approve the minutes for May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 as amended. Second by Ms. Maggio. **All in Favor.**

**Scheduled members of the public.**

The Chair extended best wishes to Mr. Webb for a speedy recovery.

Beatrice Birch - Director of Inner Fire

Ms. Maggio introduced the Selectboard and Ms. Birch. Information had been sent to the Selectboard about Inner Fire. Ms. Birch described the organization as a one-year healing program offering an alternative to prescription psychotropic drugs; she discussed her many years of work, and the kind of clients served, noting that a psychiatrist assists clients to reduce and eventually stop the use of prescription drugs. She cited six resident clients, the maximum number of residents anticipated being twelve. She described the activities and therapies of the program and her work as an art therapist. She reported that the Director of the Department of Mental Health had asked to visit, and was impressed, and referred her to a new hospital in the region; and there had been many other visits including legislators; she quoted some testimonials from family members of clients. She cited about twenty local employees, and several projects have been completed pro bono by local professionals. She invited questions.

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Ms. Maggio asked about referrals, insurance. Ms. Birch noted a strict admissions policy, clients must want to participate; there have been television interviews in New York City resulting in contacts from around the world.

Ms. Maggio asked about the conditions being treated. Ms. Birch noted that it is not an addiction detoxification program, that the clients are diagnosed with other mental health conditions for which they have been prescribed medications. To the question about testing, she made clear that clients are tested regularly, and no drugs, alcohol, tobacco or sugar are permitted. There was discussion of various examples of the kinds of problems for which clients would be admitted.

Ms. Tanza asked about safety precautions, citing a case in which a person had left the facility and wandered around the town; clients are frequently visible from the road and from Ms. Tanza's home. Ms. Birch emphasized that clients are always with a staff member; hiking is an important part of the program, and takes place on the property and on Windmill Hill.

Mr. Mello asked about nutrition. Ms. Birch described the admissions process in which clients stay at West River Lodge or another inn, and spend the weekend; then are told to "go home and sleep on it," as they must want to participate. The diet is locally grown vegetables and meat. Mr. Mello asked if the clients would be allowed to move around the town freely; Ms. Birch responded that for three months there is no contact with family or outside the property, no phone calls are allowed; they are not allowed on Grassy Brook Road, and may only walk with others. They are required to leave if they are not cooperative.

Mr. Jones asked how long Inner Fire has been in operation and if some people had left the program. Ms. Birch observed that September will complete the second year; some have left by mutual agreement, on a case-by-case basis.

Ms. Tanza asked about insurance (all therapists have liability coverage).

Mr. Jones asked about clients' ages (18 to 74, so far).

Ms. Maggio asked what the next steps would be; an Act 250 hearing is expected; there was discussion of communications from the State about scheduling the hearing.

Ms. Birch observed that if Inner Fire is a healing community, it must also work for the larger community. She invited questions any time, and cited an Open House. There was further discussion, in which Ms. Birch noted that the head of the Brattleboro Retreat has expressed enthusiasm for the project and offered to write a letter of recommendation on behalf of Inner Fire.

Mr. Tanza asked questions that had been circulating in the town, noting that people have the idea this is a drug rehab place; he cited a car accident in Townshend involving a former Inner Fire client, in which illegal drugs were found; there had been concerns about how often the State Police had been called to an Inner Fire location. Ms. Birch addressed these questions: it is not drug rehab; the former client had completed the program successfully, but had been an addict in the past, and relapsed; the State Police have been called twice, and expressed their support for the program after being at the site. There was discussion.

Mr. Tanza noted public concerns for the size of the operation; Ms. Birch made clear that there are four residents and about twenty employees on the books, six full-time, including over night; staff will be adjusted appropriately to the number of residents.

Mr. Jones asked how many full-time staff would be on site at capacity (twelve beds), and suggested that this should be known well in advance. Mr. Kavet explained the complexity of such a calculation, that it is not simply adding up beds; there are several kinds of therapies and professionals for several kinds of need. Mr. Jones asked about the rate of expansion being planned; there was discussion.

Mr. Tanza asked about how unexpected departures are addressed. Ms. Birch noted that it is not a prison, they do organize departure if a client really wants to leave. Mr. Mello asked about a person found walking

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around town; this had not been a client. Mr. Tanza asked about oversight. Mr. Kavet explained that the facility must be registered as a “Residential Therapeutic Community” and is subject to regular inspections. There was discussion of Act 250 requirements. Ms. Birch mentioned an Open House and invited attendance. She described her experience working in prisons in New York and the inspiration for the term “Seeker”, applied to clients.

The Selectboard thanked Ms. Birch and Mr. Kavet.

Mr. Bills mentioned the driveway permit, and asked for a site visit with the Selectboard, as it is a commercial application. He discussed access by emergency vehicles. A meeting would have to be Warned.

### Win Clark - RESCUE Inc

Mr. Clark discussed the history of the ambulance service. Site work started last June, completed February; annual car raffle netted about \$26,000; open house on Saturday there will be another raffle; a Capital campaign has been started, with the goal of one million dollars, currently around \$250,000; buying higher-quality “boxes” and re-chassis-ing them over time; Rescue Inc. has bought out the assets of Kerr Ambulance, two vehicles and much equipment; last fall town contract rates were level-funded, increase is expected next year.

Ms. Maggio asked what potential volunteers should do if interested in working with Rescue, Inc.; he suggested attending a monthly meeting. The Selectboard thanked Mr. Clark.

### Guy Tanza - Town Clerk Update

Mr. Tanza cited the dog list, down to a few; there are difficulties with Book 33 in the digitizing project.

## **Unscheduled members of the public**

### **Old Business**

#### Round School House Grant Update Needed

Ms. Maggio noted that Ms. Zwick is not present; in discussion it was agreed to defer the Grant Update discussion.

Ms. Nau announced that Sunday, July 16, the Round Schoolhouse will be open for an event to honor Minnie Marsh, with original families. There was discussion. The public is invited, it will be a Gala.

There was discussion of a portrait and a proclamation. Ms. Nau asked that Ms. Zwick call her.

#### Somara Zwick - Treasurer review/discussion/highlights of finance report

(deferred)

#### David Jones - Recycling Update/Security

Mr. Jones had spoken with Triple T and reported that Brookline may be the only town that has awarded a bid so far; he discussed the possibility of obtaining two single-stream bins well in advance, avoiding a rental; suggested alternating bins for efficiency; there was discussion of security cameras, noting that there is no location for them, and other problems; there was discussion of Newfane’s possible plans to stop maintaining recycling; dumpsters will almost certainly be coming before the end of June, avoiding the projected rental expense; there was discussion of the conduct of the recycling operation;

#### Bruce Mello - Getting others engaged in the Town discussion

Mr. Mello discussed public outreach, and opportunities such as the gala at the Round Schoolhouse; he discussed local cultural and entertainment attractions in surrounding towns, and the need to engage the community in Brookline. There was discussion.

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#### Brookline Meeting House Update if any

Mr. Meyer discussed the six-member Brookline Meeting House Committee; and the need for people on the Advisory, Planning and Programming Committees, and somebody with passion to stand behind the project and push; there are grants being written; there was discussion of a Historic Preservation Grant.

Mr. Meyer displayed a handmade quilt by the Ladies Benevolent Society, described by them as their last quilt; they are down to five members; the quilt is offered for raffle; he mentioned having it on display at the Welcome Center, the Strolling of the Heifers, the plant sale at Newfane Commons, and asked for suggestions. A horse show July 1; community tag sale July 24; someone offered to sit with it at the Heritage Festival. There was discussion of ways to sell tickets. Mr. Tanza offered to photograph the quilt and put out a notice about it. The LBS has raised over a thousand dollars each year with their quilting expertise.

There was discussion of the Advisory Committee; the work on the steeple roof and the need for an 85-foot lift for the job; Mr. Meyer had researched equipment vendors; Mr. Mello discussed the available funds and costs; ADA accessibility, heating. Mr. Meyer discussed starting to use the building; Mr. Mello observed that more grants will be needed before the building can be used.

Mr. Meyer discussed some cherry trees that could be removed as they threaten the building, and asked permission to remove at least one, possibly two others, noting that the proposed lift would be useful for that. There was discussion. All must wait until the State notifies that the grant has been awarded. There was discussion of equipment sources.

The quilt was appreciated, and plans were made to photograph it, possibly for display on the website.

#### Dot Maggio - Water Source Protection Plan @ SLDC Update

Ms. Maggio had attended the workshop in Manchester, took many pages of notes over six hours; there were eleven scientists, geologists, discussing watershed policies; this will be useful in dealing with the SLDC Water Source Protection Plan.

#### Dot Maggio - Unlicensed Dog Census discussion

Letters went out this month informing owners who are in arrears that they must pay their fines and late fees; one unlicensed dog was brought to the pound on Memorial Day weekend; she is working with the landlord of a renter who has horses that are not being well cared-for; she will keep the Selectboard informed as that situation develops. She will meet with Mr. Tanza about remaining cases.

#### Mark Bills - Update damage caused by snow plow

Mr. Bills discussed snow plow damage repairs; some delays from weather; the contractor is expected to be repairing the road; Ms. Maggio observed that should the repair not be made by the next Selectboard meeting, a claim should be filed with the insurance company; there was discussion.

It was decided to address the Highways and Roads Update. The only issue was the Inner Fire access application. He discussed the map made in the application, noting that there should be a culvert, and suggesting that someone from the Fire Department go along on a site visit with the Selectboard; Ms. Maggio noted an email from Gary Lavorgna saying he will attend the next meeting with information about fire access at the Inner Fire site. Mr. Bills explained that the access does not appear sufficient for fire equipment to pass, and asked the Selectboard to review the site with him. He noted that this is a commercial access. There was discussion of maintenance responsibility and the Act 250 application.

There was discussion of mowing, expected to be significant after the recent rains; two mowings were considered; there has been some erosion; West River levels were discussed. There has been a foot of rain since May 1. Some speed limit signs are available and were discussed, and the culvert and paving projects.

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Sunny Lane Day Care

*Approve minutes from the Special Meeting at SLDC on May 20, 2017*

The document was examined; some corrections were made.

Mr. Jones moved “to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2017 SLDC Special Meeting as amended.”  
Second by Ms. Tanza. **All in Favor.**

*Discuss repairs - timeline - 2 new toilets/plumbing - Pump septic tank*

The septic system must be pumped every two years. Ms. Maggio had ordered this service. She had discussed new toilets with Mr. Bovat, and noted her own research into prices. There was discussion of high volume indicating the need for investment in heavier toilets.

By unanimous consent the estimate for two toilets at SLDC for the amount of \$984.40 including an hour and a half of labor, assuming there is no damage to the flange, **was approved.**

Ms. Maggio circulated a project punch-list, and proposed to ask Ms. Zwick how much money from FY16-17 will be left over from collecting rent. Mr. Tanza noted a balance of \$8,300 and no expected expenditures other than one water test. There was discussion of expected expenses, and developing the new lease for SLDC. Ms. Maggio noted anticipated repair to ground-fault protection in the kitchen and asked Mr. Bills to look over some items such as installation of motion detectors, handrails, etc., projects that could be done by the town, and would not need to be listed in the RFP. Ms. Tanza making an assessment of what can be done without resorting to outside vendors; Ms. Maggio summed up the items for subsequent discussion including a time line, punch-list, and working with Ms. Zwick on the funding.

*Discuss possible grants for windows/heat conservation*

Ms. Maggio noted that Tina Bills indicated a relationship with the WCSU, and **will call the Superintendent to ask if some grant money might be available.**

Dot Maggio - Cemetery Update- Flags/ damage to stones / clean up

Ms. Maggio cited damage in the Reverside Cemetery from mowers pushing the stones off foundations, leaving tire-marks. Mr. Tanza discussed following up with the contractor about this. She discussed cleaning up the ancient cemeteries, lack of equipment; there was discussion of how this has been addressed in the past; Mr. Jones volunteered to spend some time looking into this problem, possibly doing some weed-whacking; Mr. Tanza recalled that Jamie Bernard does this once a year, and the Selectboard cannot handle this alone.

Archie Clark/Mark Bills - Highways and Roads Update

*Missing speed limit signs / other signs*

*Road conditions/projects*

(addressed above)

**New Business**

**Correspondence Review**

Email

- Ms. Maggio noted an email from Mr. Anderson about a property line matter with their neighbors the Bournes, about surveys not being filed; Mr. Tanza explained that there are no surveys at present; Johari Anderson had inquired; all surveys are now online except the last one or two, and there is no survey in this instance; there are perhaps 100 surveys, and 336 parcels of land; not unusual circumstance; the Town has no part in this dispute between neighbors.

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- Ms. Zwick: checklist for new vendors; Mr. Tanza explained the paperwork involved; Mr. Jones has filled out a form for Triple T on recycling; Ms. Maggio noted that this needs to be done for new vendors.
- An email from Ms. Zwick cited steps to be taken regarding a new culvert grant requiring signature; Ms. Maggio circulated the document for the Selectboard's perusal, and executed the document.
- Reminder - June 14 Planning Committee Meeting – Ms. Maggio noted a reminder that Mr. Jones is attending a session on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Maggio noted that some language about protecting Brookline's water supply should be added.
- Reminder - June 23 VT Welcome Center Fund Raising Event/Bake Sale
- Reminder - June 10 RESCUE Inc Open House

### Regular Mail

- Windham Regional Commission re: grant-in-aid program, invitation to participate, RSVP by July 5; Mr. Tanza explained that this has to do with Act 74, or Better Back Roads grants. There was discussion. Mr. Tanza provided the document to Mr. Bills, as it was addressed to both the Selectboard and the Road Commission; it must be returned by July 5, so Mr. Tanza asked that it be returned at the next Selectboard meeting.
- VLTC Newsletter
- VT State Police 6 month contract is due – No contract has been received yet; **Mr. Tanza will call the State Police**, noting they have a new commander.

### Pay Orders

#### A. Accounts Payable

#### B. Payroll

Ms. Maggio moved “to approve Payroll Warrant #2017-47 dated May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017, in the amount of \$1,484.22.” Second by Mr. Jones. **All in Favor.**

Ms. Maggio moved “to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #2017-48 dated June 7th, 2017, in the amount of \$231,376.50.” Second by Mr. Jones. **All in Favor.**

| ITEM                              | AMOUNT              |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Payroll Warrant #2017-47          | \$1,484.22          |
| Accounts Payable Warrant #2017-48 | <u>\$231,376.50</u> |
| TOTAL PAY ORDERS:                 | \$232,860.72        |

### Set agenda for the next meeting: June 21, 2017

- Set Tax Rate
- Gary Lavorgna re: Inner Fire site access
- Mark Bills, vote and signature, Municipal Road Grant-in-Aid Pilot Project
- Mr. Jones re: recycling
- SLDC re: budget

### Adjournment

Ms. Maggio moved to Adjourn. Second by Ms. Tanza. **All in Favor.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 PM.

*Respectfully submitted, Peter Barus, Recorder, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017*