

Grand Isle Select Board
Grand Isle Town Office 9 Hyde Rd, Grand Isle VT
Minutes of the Meeting for Monday May 1, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: Selectboard Chair, Couper Shaw calls the meeting to order at 6:00pm

Board Members Present: Jeff Parizo, Couper Shaw, Ellen Howrigan

Community Members Present: Ron Bushway, Colleen Bushway, Jean Prouty, Anna Marie DeMars, Denise Abbott-Douglass, Joe Longo, Sue Lawrence, Lucille Campbell, Mike Donoghue, Jennifer Morway, Jonathan Debono, Emily Clark, Melissa Boutin, Andrew Herwig, John Chesarek, Esther Blow, KC Fantoni, Shannon Bundy

Add to Agenda:

Review and Approve Minutes of April 17, 2023: *Jeff Parizo makes a motion to approve the April 17, 2023 minutes. Ellen Howrigan seconds. No further discussion. Couper Shaw calls the vote which passes unanimously.*

GUESTS

Andrew Herwig: Andrew Herwig of Farm to Fork Fitness Adventures goes over the details of this event. Andrew Herwig says that this year's event will take place on Sunday July 16th starting at Snow Farm Vineyard. Andrew Herwig says that they will have four different routes that will feature Dreamwalker Farm, Snow Farm, Kraemer & Kiln Brewery, Isle of La Motte Vineyard, and Hackett's Orchard. Andrew Herwig says that they will have volunteers from the Land Trust and Camp Hochelaga to help run the Aide Stations. Andrew Herwig explains that the tours will start in waves to avoid traffic and congestion. Andrew Herwig says they are expecting between 300 to 500 riders this year. Andrew Herwig says that each rider will have a number and a name badge to make them easily identifiable. Andrew Herwig says that they will have marshals at tricky intersections to make them more visible and not to interfere with the flow of traffic, that they will have bathrooms at aide stations, and water along the course. Couper Shaw asks where the bathrooms will be located in Grand Isle. Andrew Herwig says the bathrooms will be located at the farms, which are about 10 miles apart, and that they will provide porta-pottys should a farm not have enough bathrooms available. Denise Abbott-Douglass mentions that the drawbridge will be scarified and that they may want to check when that will be paved for the safety of the riders, and that there is one lane going over the bridge in Alburgh at this time. ***Jeff Parizo makes a motion that the Farm to Fork Fitness Adventures will hold their event Sunday July 16, 2023. Ellen Howrigan seconds. No further discussion. Couper Shaw calls the vote which passes unanimously.***

John Chesarek: John Chesarek of Friends of Northern Lake Champlain goes over details of this event taking place on Saturday June 17th. John Chesarek says that the event will begin at Knight State Park in North Hero and goes over the routes the riders will take, explaining that they have 30, 60, 80, and 100 mile route options. John Chesarek explains the rest areas with bathrooms will be at Snow Farm, the ferry, Monty Bay, and St. Anne's Shrine. John Chesarek says they will put up signs along Route 2 to alert drivers of cyclists in the area. Couper Shaw asks if their riders have badges or numbers, John Chesarek says no. John Chesarek says they are expecting about 300 riders and they will have a rolling start

between 7am and 10am, explaining that the average is about 2 riders per minute, that there are very few large groups. John Chesarek says Grand Isle can expect to see the riders at 7am, and then again between 1pm and 2pm. Jennifer Morway comments that the Fish Derby is the same weekend. John Chesarek says they are aware and that they have hand-outs that go over safety for the riders and how to handle traffic safely. ***Ellen Howrigan makes a motion to approve the Friends of Northern Lake Champlain event to be held on Saturday June 17, 2023. Jeff Parizo seconds. No further discussion. Couper Shaw calls the vote which passes unanimously.***

Emily Clark: Emily Clark says she is representing the Planning Committee and would like to discuss grants from the State of Vermont that do not require any matching. Emily Clark says of these grants, the Planning Commission has been looking at an Energy Assessment Grant which is a required first step for applying to the larger Energy Grants that are available. Emily Clark explains that the due dates for these non-matching grants often fall between selectboard meetings and planning commission meetings in such a way that makes getting approval in time to meeting application deadlines difficult. Emily Clark asks if the selectboard can give the Planning Commission an enduring blessing, a blanket authorization, to apply to the grants that do not require a financial match. The selectboard agrees that this is a good idea. Couper Shaw asks if they can have a time limit on the enduring blessing in order to reassess every year. Emily Clark agrees and says they can review it annually. ***Jeff Parizo makes a motion to authorize the Planning Commission to apply for any grants that do not require financial matching from the town and to come back to the selectboard at the Organizational Meeting each year for re-approval. Ellen Howrigan seconds. No further discussion. Couper Shaw calls the vote which passes unanimously.***

Highway Department Update: Ron Bushway says they have been filling potholes and clearing brush on East Shore North. Ron Bushway asks if the new curb cut application is on the town website, Angie Low says yes, that it was posted to the website a couple weeks ago.

Buildings Facilities Manager Update: Ron Bushway says that Control Technologies is scheduled to address the CO2 detectors on Wednesday May 3rd. Ron Bushway says they are preparing the Historical Society buildings for their opening. Ron Bushway explains that computer equipment was installed in the basement that is blocking the fuel lines and the filter, Couper Shaw says he will contact Rural Solutions in regards to that issue. Ron Bushway says that they discovered they have Comcast cable there and would like to schedule Comcast to come install a router to be able to provide wifi at the Transfer Station. The selectboard says that is great and to proceed with the install. Couper Shaw asks Ron Bushway about Joe Longo's question about getting running water to the transfer station. Jeff Parizo explains that there will be a housing development abutting the transfer station that will be running water lines and they should be able to run another line off of them for the transfer station.

New Business

Trail Cams- Donaldson Road Locations: The selectboard discusses installing trail cams at on Donaldson Road to see if they can find out who is dumping trash on that property. They discuss that they would need someone to get the memory cards in order to review the footage, whether wi-fi access would be needed, and where the locations of the cams might go.

Liquor Licenses: *Jeff Parizo makes a motion to approve the liquor licenses, first class, for Ellison Estate Vineyard LLC and The Island Hub. Ellen Howrigan seconds. No further discussion. Couper Shaw calls the vote, which passes unanimously.*

Jeff Parizo makes a motion to approve the liquor licenses, second class, for Ladd's Landing Marina and Emmon's Supermarket. Ellen Howrigan seconds. No further discussion. Couper Shaw calls the vote, which passes unanimously.

Jeff Parizo makes a motion to approve the liquor licenses, outside consumption, for Sunset Vista Enterprises LLC, Ellison Estate Vineyard LLC, and The Island Hub. Couper Shaw seconds. No further discussion. Couper Shaw calls the vote, which passes unanimously.

Jeff Parizo makes a motion to approve the liquor license, third class, for The Island Hub. Ellen Howrigan seconds. No further discussion. Couper Shaw calls the vote, which passes unanimously.

Jeff Parizo makes a motion to approve the liquor license, fourth class, for Emmon's. Couper Shaw seconds. No further discussion. Couper Shaw calls the vote, which passes unanimously.

Solar Panel Early Termination Agreement: Jeff Parizo explains that they have solar panels on the Fire Department and had a service agreement with Sand Hill Development Corporation and handled the solar credits. Jeff Parizo explains that the agreement was for 6 years and that term has come to an end and now the town owns the solar panels. ***Jeff Parizo makes a motion to approve the solar panel service agreement. Couper Shaw seconds. No further discussion. Couper Shaw calls the vote, which passes unanimously.***

Old Business

CD Rates: Jeff Parizo observes that rates have gone up and that they should do more research on moving the ARPA funds into a CD with these higher rates. The selectboard agrees to have Jeff Parizo do some more research.

3rd Quarter Reports Discussion: The selectboard discusses the 3rd quarter report. The selectboard asks Melissa Boutin if anything stuck out to her, she says property sales are down because there is no inventory. Jeff Parizo notes that recording fees, preservation records, and copier fees are down. Melissa Boutin goes over the deposit and what steps she took to research it when she saw it was lower than anticipated.

Personnel Policy: Tabled until the May 15th meeting.

ARPA Funds: Couper Shaw says he'd like to table this until all selectboard members are present and asks if there are members of the community present that would like to ask questions in regards to the ARPA Funds item. Emily Clark says that the Planning Commission would like to attend the May 15th meeting to discuss the ARPA Funds. Ellen Howrigan asks Emily Clark if she will warn that since more than two members of the committee would be attending. Emily Clark says she will warn it due to the Planning Commission voting to warn it to be on the safe side, but does not anticipate that they will conduct official business that would require a warning. Tabled until the May 15th meeting.

Town Report: Denise Abbott-Douglass says she cannot find when the town voted to stop the mailing of the Town Reports. Denise Abbott-Douglass says she thinks it may have been about ten years ago, and she thought that it was voted on by the selectboard at a selectboard meeting and that it was to be a one year trial period. Denise Abbott-Douglass explains that we have a lot of tax payers that live elsewhere, and that she feels as though this goes against the American's with Disabilities Act to not have it mailed. Melissa Boutin says she can research that and find out when that was voted on and what the results were. Jean

Prouty says she went through all the Town Reports and could not find where that was voted on. Anna Marie Demars says she remembers that vote, and thinks that the results would have to be in a Town Report. Jeff Parizo says that Melissa Boutin will research this and to give her some time to do so. Emily Clark asks if it's possible for the selectboard to vote on changing whether the Town Report is mailed, Jeff Parizo says that the voters have to vote on that, the selectboard cannot make that decision.

Road Signage: Ellen Howrigan asks if they could post signs indicating drivers should slow down for pedestrians, citing Pearl Street would be a good spot for such a sign. The selectboard and community members discuss other roads that would benefit from these signs. Ron Bushway says he will get a quote on some signs. Shannon Bundy comments that she has done research that indicated that signs have less of an impact than law enforcement patrol and suggests discussing with the Sheriff's Department about having the new officers patrol the areas of concern as well. Couper Shaw says he has talked to Ray Allen about these areas and that they are, or will begin, patrolling those areas. Denise Abbott-Douglass comments that the 35mph speed sign on Town Line Road by the park has tree growth covering it. Ron Bushway says they are aware of that will be addressing it.

Speed Limit Ordinance: Couper Shaw explains that they need to re-adopt this ordinance due to a time constraint that could not be met. Ellen Howrigan voted nay last time, and due to two selectboard members being not present, they will table this until the May 15th meeting to re-adopt.

Opioid Settlement: Ellen Howrigan says she did research on sharps containers and discusses her findings. Ellen Howrigan says she spoke to the principal at the school about possible curriculums, much like the D.A.R.E. program, and that Ray Allen would be the one to implement any such curriculum. Ellen Howrigan says that the town would be one to purchase the curriculum for the school. Jeff Parizo asks Ellen Howrigan to forward the sharps container information to Melissa Boutin so that they can be purchased, Ellen Howrigan says she will do so.

Jeff Parizo makes a motion to approve spending up to \$100 to purchase sharps containers. Couper Shaw seconds. Jonathan Debono asks who empties the containers, if it will be Ray Allen who would be emptying them. The selectboard says they will figure out that process once they get the containers and that Couper Shaw has discussed this with Ray Allen. ***No further discussion. Couper Shaw calls the vote, which passes unanimously.***

Review and Sign Warrants: ***Jeff Parizo makes a motion for Couper Shaw to review and sign the warrants. Ellen Howrigan seconds.*** Ellen Howrigan asks how the Planning Commission bills for the administrative assistant, asking if it's a stipend, Melissa Boutin says that it is a stipend. Emily Clark explains that the stipend is divided into 24 payments. Ellen Howrigan says that the unit listed is shown as one and that was throwing her off. Melissa Boutin explains that it's how it was set-up in the system. Ellen Howrigan asks if they can get WB Mason off the books. Melissa Boutin says yes, she was waiting for the seasons to change in order to order water, and once she can do that it will be off the books. ***No further discussion. Couper Shaw calls the vote, which passes unanimously.***

Adjournment: ***Jeff Parizo makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:22pm. Ellen Howrigan seconds. No further discussion. Couper Shaw calls the vote, which passes unanimously.***