

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2022, 6:00 p.m.**

Those attending in Person: Mike Hogan, Fred Ducharme, Skip Bothfeld, Ian Ackermann, Michelle Leclerc, Lisa May, Paul and Rhonda Coates, Jenn Miner, Frank Kampf, Ben Davis, Larry Gochey, via zoom: Betty Ritter, R. D. Eno, Bridgette Connelly, Kris Schmidt, Simon Villa, Ruth Goodrich

1. Call meeting to order – the meeting was called to order by Mike Hogan at 6:00 p.m.
2. Approve Agenda – A motion was made by Fred with a second by Skip. Mike stated that he had a couple of items to add to the agenda – Capital Communication System. Motion carried.
3. Approve Minutes from Minutes from August 16, 2022 – A motion was made by Fred with a second by Ian. RD – Item 4b – strike Dana attending representing CCA, it should read Cabot Arts. Motion carried with the change.
4. Public Comment –
  - a. Lisa May – There are a few kids in town that are vandalizing political signs and throwing rocks in the port-a-potty. Mike would like to have her send the pictures to the Town Clerks Office.
  - b. Ben Davis – to discuss the stop sign on Cabot Plains and 215. – They are going to have paint markings at the end of Cabot Plains Road after the apron has been paved with stop signs on both sides of Cabot Plains
  - c. Jenn Miner – Wendy at CVRPC no longer works there, but Brittany is in contact with Rick and he will adjust the map for VCD.
  - d. Simon Villa – I live on Jug Brook Road – his driveway is the ROW is for the house behind his house. Part of his driveway is a Class 4 road – he is not getting deliveries any more because of the bridge. Ian Ackermann and Mike Hogan will look over the situation and meet with him.
  - e. RD – he read a disclosure of conflict of interest – please listen to the recording of August 2 to hear this completely (and it is attached to these minutes).
  - f. Bridgette Connelly – would like to comment on graffiti on Hookerville – she will discuss under Item #8.
5. Capital Regional Communication Systems – They did a presentation on the communication system. Please refer to the audio for the complete presentation.
6. Coyote Festival – August 27, 2022 discussion – Paul and Rhonda Coates – had some concerns regarding Coyote Festival noise and parking along with the other neighbors. The Town is not responsible for what a neighbor does on his property.
7. Recycle Center Building Improvements – discussion on bid process for gates and roof placement – Dan is going to do the back door which has been approved, and we will get bids for the gates and the roof. Mike would like to look at other options for the roof before we go out to bid. Ian wants to buy the gates and put out to bid to install them.
8. Hookerville Bridge graffiti – discussion – Bridgette – her concern is that it could lead to further damage.
9. Continued discussion and possible decision on Cabot Creamery use of Town Water – Mike contacted Aaron Page and Jim Brimblecombe. Mike would like to have the questions forwarded to Aaron and Jim. RD would like to know what the cost of any equipment, maintenance, and replacement. Mike will call RD and discuss this as his connection kept going in and out..
10. Trails – Approval of Grant – still no approval from the State
11. Intersection off 215 Ben Davis (Please see 4b).
12. Water/Wastewater
  - a. Island Pond is looking for air blower for their WW facility and we have two extras and Jim would like to sell one to them for \$800, it was brought in 2002. A motion was made by Mike with a second by Fred to sell this to Island Pond. Motion carried.
  - b. Other business
13. Highway
  - a. Back entrance to Willey Building – This will be done this week.
  - b. Stormwater and Catch Basin Certification – discussion – Ian will check into this.
  - c. Culvert Policy discussion – Auditors asked Michelle who owns the culvert when it is installed. When we install

them, we would need to charge sales tax and report this to the State. Aldo would not like to do this anymore as we are having a difficult time getting culverts. Mike will redo the culvert policy for next meeting so the landowner will be required to purchase the culvert from another source besides the Town.

- d. Sandy from Charlebois will come and see if they would like to purchase Dave and Rusty's truck or do we want to go out to bid for someone to buy the trucks.
- e. Bid for winter sidewalk – do we want to go out to bid.
- f. Ian would like to sell the skid steer – we will discuss this at next meeting.
- g. We will be running over our fuel amount.
- h. Believe that the beaver problem is taken care of.
- i. Michelle discussed about leasing the truck – the auditors do not agree with leasing. We went with the leasing.
- j. Herkimer Farm has a driveway and they do name the road because there are selling properties. They would like to Herkimer Way. It is a private road but still needs a name. Mark Christensen will be bringing in a plat. The SB can just name it. The SB agreed with the name Herkimer Way.
- k. Frank wanted to have permission to weed whack McKinstry Road. Ian suggested that he should check with the neighbors. Ian has no problem with this.

14. Town Clerk's Office

- a. Orders – they have been signed.
- b. Other Business

15. Other Business –

- a. The Rec Committee was using PayPal. The Auditors have asked that all the bills be paid through the Town and not used PayPal. They are using this to collect their money. This is not the correct way. She should collect checks or cash for these programs. We have a credit card program they could use. Mike will contact the Rec Committee to not use PayPal.
- b. Saw Mill Dam – Previously we decided not to do this. CVRPC would like to come in at the next meeting for a discussion regarding what is available at this time which would have no cost to the Town. RD had a question about ownership. That would be part of the discussion.

16. Adjourn – A motion was made by Fred with a second by Ian. Motion carried. We adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Betty Ritter Town Clerk/Treasurer

In a written statement presented to the Selectboard at our meeting of July 19, Bill Walters made several false and defamatory allegations about me: that I have a conflict of interest with respect to the bandstand question by virtue of being an incorporator and board member of Cabot Arts, Inc.; that I did not disclose to the Selectboard my connection to Cabot Arts when the topic of the bandstand was under discussion; that I have a financial interest in Cabot Arts; and that I held a private conversation with the Town Attorney, at a cost to the town of \$600. His allegations have been amplified in Front Porch Forum posts by Ruth Goodrich.

I wish to respond.

The audio recording and published minutes of the meeting of April 5<sup>th</sup> at which the bandstand was discussed show unequivocally that I disclosed that I am a director of Cabot Arts, Inc.

But my connection to Cabot Arts is beside the point, because Cabot Arts was not the sponsor of the bandstand proposal, nor is the bandstand a project of Cabot Arts. This was also made clear at the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. The bandstand was a project of an informal committee of Cabot residents. I am not a member of that committee. There was no conflict of interest.

Cabot Arts, Inc. is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) organization, subject to federal law that prohibits distribution of assets to directors. The Articles of Incorporation state: *No part of Cabot Arts assets or net earnings shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to Directors, trustees, officers or other private individuals except to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered or goods provided, and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article 3* [which specifies Cabot Arts' charitable purposes]. The directors of Cabot Arts (as distinct from the executive director, who is under contract to the organization) receive no compensation for their services and provide no goods. To assert that I have a financial interest in Cabot Arts is false.

I do not know where the rumor originated that I held a private conversation with Mike Tarrant, our Town Attorney, but Mr. Tarrant will dispel it. Other than in company with other Selectboard members and town officials on May 5 and at the Selectboard meeting of July 16, I have had no contact with Mr. Tarrant other than a single email on June 23, fully disclosed to the Selectboard, asking whether he had communicated with the town regarding questions put to him on May 5. He responded to the town the following day. My email did not cost the town \$600, as, again, Mr. Tarrant or his invoices will attest.

Bill Walters' statement contains other inaccuracies as well, but I have addressed those accusations directed exclusively at me. It is probably too much to expect a retraction, let alone an apology, from either him or Ruth. But the injection of this kind of poison into public affairs has become all too common in our national life. Is it unrealistic to hope that we can keep it from contaminating the community we all call home?

R.D. Eno