

**TOWN OF WAITSFIELD, VERMONT**  
**Special Selectboard Meeting Minutes of**  
**Wednesday, May 6, 2015**

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:30am by Paul Hartshorn at the Waitsfield United Church of Christ.

Members Present: Paul Hartshorn (Chair), Kari Dolan, Sal Spinosa.

Staff Present: Valerie Capels, Town Administrator.

Contractors Present: Christopher Kaufman (John Turner Consulting), Jim Ligon (Alpine Construction).

Others Present: Chris and Mary Ellen Alberti (Peasant Restaurant), Rebecca Baruzzi (MRV Chamber), Savitri Bhagavati (Mint), Jere Brophy, Lisa Davis (MRV Chamber), Kim and Jim Donahue (Round Barn Inn), Peter Edlund, Barbara Gulisano, Dori Ingalls (Mad Marathon), Anthony Italiano (MRVTV), Troy Kingsbury (Village Grocery), Lori Klein (Artisan's Gallery), Kaiya Korb (Waitsfield Elementary School), Suzee Lynn, Nancy McHugh (UCC), Bonnie and Gaelic McTigue (All Things Bright and Beautiful), Karen Nevin (VT Arts Festival), Asah Rowles (Big Picture Theater), Gordon Sparks

**II. Community Information / Strategy Meeting for the Covered Bridge rehab and Bridge Street improvements projects.**

**1. Introductions.**

Ms. Capels introduced the Jim Ligon, project superintendent of Alpine Construction and Chris Kaufman, Waitsfield's resident engineer of John Turner Consulting and provided an overview of the various projects involved.

**2. Project Overview.**

Ms. Capels, Mr. Ligon, and Mr. Kaufman outlined various aspects of the projects. Summary:

- Temporary relocation of the utility pole northward of the bridge is expected to get underway Tuesday, May 12. It will require major excavation at the top of the bank to accommodate the drill machine that will core a socket into the bedrock for the temporary pole. It may take one to two weeks for the power and phone lines to then be transferred to the temporary pole and the existing pole to be removed.
- Bridge Street will be closed beginning Monday, May 18.
- Work will begin on the stormwater system replacement, which will require substantial excavation of the roadway. It will be completed and backfilled by July 8 to accommodate the Mad Marathon.
- Deconstruction of the bridge will begin during this time beginning with the roof. Pedestrian access across the bridge in one form or another is expected to remain available until mid-June.
- The sidewalk must be removed with the decking because of the way it is attached to the bridge.
- Work on the abutments will begin after July 12, which will require considerable excavation along the riverbanks.
- Work on replacing the sidewalks will begin after July 12, which will result in temporary disruption for pedestrian access.

- The contractors will be working four 10-hour days from 7:00am to 5:00pm and will leave the site as clean and orderly as possible for the weekends.
- The contractor will install “No Trespassing” signs on the bridge during the construction.
- Repair of the retaining wall destroyed by Tropical Storm Irene must be completed by September 1, 2015 or the FEMA grant funding will be lost.
- Replacement of the stormwater system must be complete by December 31, 2015 or the EPA STAG grant funding will be lost.

### **3. Questions, Issues, Concerns.**

Below is a summary of questions, issues, or concerns discussed:

- There needs to be a parking plan.
- There needs to be adequate signage to let visitors and others know Bridge Street shops are open and to direct visitors where to park.
- Safety concerns / vandalism related to folks hanging out at and jumping from the bridge.
- Impacts of increased traffic on Tremblay Road, North Road, Common Road, and Joslin Hill Road.
- Will there be power interruption during the utility line transfer?
- How will deliveries be accommodated?
- Mid-May through mid-July will be the most disruptive for construction.
- Last year the Selectboard learned that the month of August and Columbus Day were most critical for the street not be closed or disrupted with construction. Construction through August cannot be avoided. Although the bridge will need to be closed for the abutment and new sidewalk installation, the road may be open for vehicles to park and deliveries.
- Paddlers will not be affected by the construction.

### **4. Brainstorm / Strategy Session.**

Below is a summary of the ideas, suggestions, and recommendations that were discussed:

- Could Church parking lot be used by business and office employees temporarily?
- Troy offered to make the parking area behind the Village Grocery available for employees and patrons.
- Troy will explore whether a Lawson’s event could be arranged for Bridge Street.
- Troy offered to erect a tent at the Village Grocery green for Bridge Street businesses to sell samples of their products.
- The Round Barn Inn and Mad Marathon will offer a Scavenger Hunt / Punch Card type of promotion to bring customers to Bridge Street.
- Regular Web site updates at [www.waitsfieldvt.us](http://www.waitsfieldvt.us).
- Increase traffic patrols on Tremblay Road, North Road, Common Road, and Joslin Hill Road.
- Can the red bollards by the fire hydrant be removed?
- Will the existing street trees be replaced? Replace them with a heartier variety.
- Silkscreen a photo of a vibrant Bridge Street onto a banner and install on Route 100 in advance of the Village, such as on the knoll by the Spaulding farm.
- Allow use of the Farm Stand for parking and signage.
- “Follow the Stars to Bridge Street” / “Story of the Stars” promotions.

- Plan ahead to take time lapse photos of the project progressions.
- Install a live Web cam at 40 Bridge Street to monitor progress.
- Spotlights inside the bridge during construction for security.
- Is the Miramar parking lot available?
- Move port-o-let to east side of the bridge.
- Troy offered to let Bridge Street merchants share his 12:30pm spot on WDEV to promote Bridge Street activities. Lisa Davis offered the same for her 4:20pm Thursday spots on WDEV.
- Signs erected by the Town are exempt from the sign regulations.
- Set up the “Road Closed” barricades at the top of Bridge Street to create a pull-off or loading lane for deliveries that would be width of the street. For larger trucks, parking on Main Street in the area of the bus stop might be an option depending on the time of day. The Bridge Street Marketplace parking area may also be an option. Extra coordination might be necessary between the shop owners and delivery services with regard to timing so shop owners can block off an area of parking with “No Parking – Reserved for Deliveries” signs to make sure space is available for the delivery truck.
- Keep track of the milestones.
- The street being closed to traffic could be an opportunity to host events in the street on weekends.
- Barbara Gulisano agreed to be a liaison for Bridge Street businesses and property owners at project meetings.

#### **V. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45am.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Capels  
Town Administrator