

Townshend Planning Commission

May 8, 2013

Present: Art Monette; John Evans; Susan LeCours; Stan Holt; Bob DeSiervo

In Attendance: David Dezendorf; Craig Hunt, recorder

1. **Call to Order:** Monette called the meeting to Order at 7:18 P.M.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Holt made a motion: **To approve the Planning Commission Minutes of April 24, 2013**, seconded by LeCours and carried by those present.
3. **Correspondence:** None at this time.
4. **Reports: Town Hall Renovation Committee:** None at this time.

Invasive Bugs: DeSiervo presented Commissioners with pamphlets prepared by the University of Vermont, the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and the U.S.D.A. Forest Service regarding three particularly devastating insects which are or are likely to invade Vermont and devastate trees. These insects are: the emerald ash borer, the asian long-horned beetle and the hemlock wooly adelgid. The hemlock wooly adelgid is the only species presently confirmed to be in Vermont, but the other two are expected. DeSiervo predicted that Vermont will lose most of its ash trees in the coming years to the borer, but that as the asian long-horned beetle could decimate Vermont's maple trees, the financial impact could be extensive.

Lengthy discussion ensued about how the Planning Commission might assist in educating the public about what signs to look for and why not to transport firewood from infested areas into Vermont. The State is recommending that every Town create a plan to increase public awareness and DeSiervo agreed to make a presentation to the Select Board at an upcoming meeting for that purpose.

5. **Members of the Public:** None at this time.

6. Old Business: Fire Station Study Committee Representative: David Dezendorf conveyed to the full Commission the Select Board's request that a Planning Commission member be appointed as a representative to the Fire Station Study Committee. John Evans offered to be that representative and was unanimously confirmed.

Town Hall Renovations: DeSiervo stated that a contract proposal from Ingram Construction for installation of the fire doors in the Town Hall should be arriving soon for the Select Board's review. The Planning Commission has already endorsed Ingram for receiving this contract and the Select Board, which has studied this project, is waiting to see the details. DeSiervo indicated that Ingram would probably undertake the installation next fall.

Commissioners spoke at length and with appreciation about concerns and timelines presented by Tiz Garfield and agreed that the Town Hall Renovations Committee should continue with its work, soliciting new members, if possible, to assist in prioritizing all that needs to be done.

Flood Plain: Commissions again reviewed the Flood Hazard / Townshend Property map drafted by the Windham Regional Commission. Monette felt that, while comprehensive, the map was too extensive in listing more than 150 parcels at least partially in the hazard zone. Revised property maps that should be forthcoming from Dauchy-Creamer may provide help in limiting the parcels. In the meantime, Hunt will endeavor to identify the 52 property owners that WRC could find no property identification numbers for and Monette will seek hazard zones from FEMA more current than 2007.

7. New Business: None at this time.

8. Meeting Schedule: May 22, 2013 at 7:15 P.M.

9. Adjournment: Holt made a motion: **To adjourn at 8:30 P.M.**, carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt