

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

DEEP RIVER TOWN HALL

Regular Meeting – September 13, 2011

Attendance: Selectmen Dick Smith & Art Thompson. Selectman Dave Oliveria was absent. Also: Margo Hilfinger, John Greene (*videography*); Richard Strukus, Robert Blovin.

This regular meeting was called to order at 6:46 pm by Dick Smith

Minutes: Regular Meeting – August 23, 2011

A motion was made by Thompson, 2nd by Smith, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 23, 2011.

APPROVED 2 – 0

Executive Session – Pending Litigation

The scheduled session was cancelled at the request of the attorney representing the Town's insurance carrier.

Resolution

The following resolution regarding replacement of the Village Street Bridge was presented:

RESOLVED: That Richard H. Smith, the First Selectman, be and is hereby authorized to execute an Agreement Between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Deep River for the construction, Inspection and Maintenance for the Replacement of the Village Street Bridge (Bridge No. 04636) Over Deep River Utilizing Federal Funds (State Project No. 122-102; Federal Project No. 6122(005)). Thompson moved, Smith 2nd, that the Resolution be approved.

APPROVED 2 – 0

Appointments

Marian Rossi-Ondusky, who had expressed her interest in serving on the Economic Development Commission, was appointed to a term that will expire December 1, 2012. Motion by Thompson, 2nd by Smith.

APPROVED 2 - 0

Town Hall Restoration Committee

Thompson presented for discussion research he had conducted regarding the Deep River Town Hall Restoration Committee, Incorporated (DRTHRA). The outline included the establishment of the committee and the background of its activities. There was a lengthy discussion in regard to the scope of responsibility, finances and the state of the planned restoration. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the DRTHRA requesting that they attend the next regular Selectmen's meeting on September 27, 2011.

Thompson's outline appears below:

Deep River Town Hall Restoration Association, Inc.

Background

I'd like to bring up a matter for some conversation; not for specific action, but for discussion only.

It involves the Deep River Town Hall Restoration Association, and its relationship to the town government.

For a couple of reasons, I have, of late, begun to wonder about the status of the restoration effort; not about the quality of work previously done, but what appears to be any noticeable progress in the past few years. Will restoration ever be completed?

Secondly, usage permits are being issued by a non-resident, someone who lives in another community. Why?

During my two years on this board, I have been consistent in my expectation that appointed committees restrict their efforts to those duties and responsibilities that were clearly within their authorization. Any committee which thought it necessary to go beyond its authority, it needed to return to the Selectmen and/or Town Meeting for re-authorization. I began researching the matter in town records, trying to determine the tasks that had been assigned to Town Hall Restoration Association, and who authorized those duties. Briefly, here is what I learned:

***Town Hall Restoration began many years ago. For example, in the minutes of a Selectmen's meeting of June 26, 1978:

"Mrs. Wallace read a list of interested contractors for restoration of the Town Hall project."

It is dear that planning for restoration had been ongoing prior to June, 1978.

***Town Hall Restoration Association, Inc was incorporated by the State of CT on September 17, 1979, as a non-stock corporation.

***Selectmen's minutes, May 12, 1980: It was noted that the Restoration Association was to hold "Historic Status Ceremonies and affix a plaque to the Town Hall" on May 18, 1980. Thus, it was apparent the Association was active and had applied for and received approval of the Deep River Town Hall as a Historic Site.

***Minutes of Deep River Town Meeting held on February 25, 1981 approved the following Resolution:

"To adopt a resolution giving the Deep River Town Hall Restoration Association Incorporated, authorization for restoration of the Deep River Town Hall in substantial conformity with plans prepared by Luchs, Beckerman & Bird of Glastonbury, Connecticut, to the extent that funds become available for such purpose, and the authority to monitor the maintenance, upkeep, restoration and alteration of said building."

Conclusions

Deep River Town Hall Restoration Association, Inc. is legally incorporated in the State of Connecticut. As such, it is answerable only to the incorporators and association members, or their successors. The Association is governed in accordance with the statutes of this state.

Reports must be filed periodically, at least annually, with the Secretary of the State. Since 1997, a report has been filed annually with SOTS.

Questions

1. Related to: "restoration of the Deep River Town Hall in substantial conformity with plans prepared by Luchs, Beckerman & Bird of Glastonbury, Connecticut,"
 - a. What is included in the plans prepared by Luchs, Beckerman & Bird?
 - b. What work remains for the work on those plans to be considered complete?

2. Related to: “ the maintenance, upkeep, restoration and alteration of said building.”
 - a. Does the Association consider this to be their authority to undertake the restoration of the Town Hall Auditorium?
 - b. What remains to be done for the restoration of the auditorium to be considered completed?
 - c. What is a reasonable time frame for completing the auditorium restoration?
 - d. What authorizes the Association to act as booking agent for auditorium usage?

3. For the Selectmen:
 - a. Has the Deep River Town Hall Restoration Association, Inc., exceeded their assigned duties and/or responsibilities as authorized by the Town Meeting?
 - b. What action, if any, should be taken by the Deep River Board of Selectmen and/or the Town Meeting?

Suggestion

That this Board request the principals of the Deep River Town Hall Restoration Association Incorporated attend a Selectmen’s meeting in the very near future to provide information related to these and any other questions that may arise.

Any Other Business to Come Before the Board - Audience of Citizens:

Smith addressed several questions from resident Rich Strukus concerning the recent reclamation and paving of Winter Avenue.

Adjournment:

Thompson moved, Smith 2nd, to adjourn at 7:13 pm.

APPROVED 2- 0

Respectfully submitted,

Richard H. Smith,
First Selectman

RHS/jk