



**NVDA**  
*Northeastern Vermont  
Development Association*

~ MINUTES ~  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**June 25, 2020 6:00 PM**

**THOSE ATTENDING:**

**Directors:** Rudy Chase, Ed O'Leary, Ken Linsley, Shari Cornish, Tomasz Jankowski, Woodman Page, Mark Whitworth, Laura Dolgin, Fred Saar, William Davis, Joshua Griffes, Thomas Robinson, Stephen Amos, Paul Brouha, Joel Cope, Paul Monette, Martha Feltus, Brian Smith, Grant Spates, Gina Vignault, Brent Smith, Amanda Carlson

**Guests:** Danielle Owczarski

**NVDA Staff:** Judy Butson, Tina Gonyaw, Alison Low, Frank Maloney, David Snedeker

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The meeting was called to order by President Feltus at 6:04 PM.

**Update Agenda**

None

**Minutes**

A motion by Fred Saar, seconded by Paul Brouha, to accept the minutes of the December 5, 2019 meeting as mailed, carried unanimously.

**May 2020 Financials**

A motion by Stephen Amos, seconded by Paul Brouha, to accept the May 2020 financial statements subject to audit, carried unanimously.

**Exclusion of Officers for Workers Compensation**

A motion by Fred Saar, seconded by Paul Brouha, to exclude NVDA's President, Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President Caledonia County, and Vice President Orleans County from Worker's Compensation Coverage, carried unanimously.

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PO Box 630 36 Eastern Avenue, Suite 1 St. Johnsbury, Vermont 05819-0630 802 748-5181 Fax: 802 748-1223

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The regional planning and development commission serving The Northeast Kingdom: Caledonia, Essex and Orleans Counties  
NVDA is an Equal Opportunity lender, provider and employer

## **FY2021 Budget**

Judy Butson addressed the board with regard to the proposed FY2021 Operating Budget. Questions were answered.

A motion by Fred Saar, seconded by Stephen Amos to approve the proposed FY2021 budget giving the Executive Committee authority to adjust the budget to account for any revenue reductions from the state or federal government either by finding ways to finance the shortfall or by decreasing expenditures but that any increase in the overall budget would come back to the Board of Directors for consideration, carried unanimously.

## **Approval of Hardwick, UTGs, Brunswick, Wheelock, Newport Town, Derby and Troy Plan**

Alison Low presented to the Board the recommendation of the Town Plan Approval committee for the Hardwick, UTGs, Brunswick, Wheelock, Newport Town, Derby and Troy. A motion by Brian Smith, seconded by Mark Whitworth to regionally approve the Hardwick, UTGs, Brunswick, Wheelock, Newport Town, Derby and Troy Town Plans carried unanimously.

## **Public Hearing**

Motion by Grant Spates, seconded by Mark Whitworth, to open a Public Hearing to confirm the municipal planning efforts of Hardwick, UTGs, Brunswick, Wheelock, Newport Town, Derby and Troy. Alison Low explained that confirmation now only needs to occur twice within an eight-year period, whereas NVDA used to confirm eligible municipalities annually.

A motion by Paul Brouha, seconded by Mark Whitworth, to confirm the planning efforts of Hardwick, UTGs, Brunswick, Wheelock, Newport Town, Derby and Troy carried unanimously.

Motion to close the public hearing by Fred Saar, approved unanimously.

## **Basin Planner – Danielle Owczarski**

Presentation and Review of Basin 14 Stevens, Wells, Waits, Ompompanusic, CT River direct Tactical Basin Plan. Head waters begin in Peacham and drainage to the low point Norwich VT. NVDA towns in the basin are Peacham, Barnet, Groton, and Ryegate. Because it is a Connecticut River drainage basin it is subject to the Long Island Sound Nitrogen TMDL. Vermont is a tiny portion of the overall drainage and its contribution is also minimal. Mostly good news to report on water conditions in the area. Peacham Bog is now a Class 1 wetland, two others in Groton State Forest are candidates. Harvey's Lake recognized for excellent esthetics some concern for increased phosphorus. Lake Shore development is reason to monitor conditions. Outreach to Lake Shore landowners is being done through the Vermont Lake Wise program. Rivers and Streams protection efforts through the Municipal Roads General Permit are supported in the basin plan. Tickle Naked Pond has its own TMDL for phosphorus, the effort has proven to make a difference in phosphorus reduction thanks to the community around the pond.

## **Election of At-Large Board Members**

A motion by Grant Spates seconded by Fred Saar, to elect Tomasz Jankowski, Health Care Services; Thomas Robinson, Banking; Amanda Carlson, Local Government Administration; and, John Morley, Municipal Management as NVDA's At-Large Board Members representing citizen interest groups. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Outcome of County Caucusing for Appointment to the Executive Committee**

Caledonia County appointed Paul Brouha to a 3-year term; Orleans County appointed Grant Spates to a 3-year term and, Essex County representatives for 1- and 3-year terms to be appointed at the Annual Meeting in September.

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### **Nominating Committee Appointment**

President Martha Feltus appointed Stephen Amos and Ken Linsley from Caledonia County, Paul Lefebvre and Joel Cope from Essex County, Rudy Chase and Ed O'Leary from Orleans County and Tomas Jankowski At-Large to serve on the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee will meet at a set date in the near future

### **Executive Director Updates**

David Snedeker updated the board on economic recovery legislation passed by the legislature. \$70M will come from the Tax Dept. (\$50M) and ACCD (\$20M) for business grants. Guidance from ACCD is expected by June 28<sup>th</sup>. There will also be \$1.5M in grants coming from the CDBG program for sole proprietors.

### **Other Business**

There being no further business, a motion by Fred Saar and seconded by William Davies to adjourn the meeting, carried unanimously.

President Feltus adjourned the meeting at 6:59 PM