

**Minutes of October 13, 2009**  
Warren Selectboard  
Warren Municipal Building  
7:00 PM

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Andy Cunningham, Vice Chair, Matt Groom, Kirstin Reilly.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Burt Bauchner, Chair

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Michael Ketchel, Reta Goss, John Goss, Ellen Strauss, Charlie Snow, Rudy Elliott, Barry Simpson, Ken Frey, Alex Maclay (TV44/45), Kara (VR), Miron Malboeuf, Caitrin Noel, Carl Lobel, Cindi Jones.

**7:00 PM** – Meeting called to order by Mr. Cunningham.

**7:01 PM** – Mad River Path License Agreement – Cancelled.

**7:04 PM** – Selectboard Candidate – Ken Frey – Mr. Frey introduced himself to the public and why he wanted to volunteer his time to be on the Warren Selectboard. Mr. Frey purchased a home in Warren in 2001 and has been a full-time resident since 2006. He is married and has children at the Warren School. Mr. Frey had three reasons why he wanted to volunteer: 1) – He has no agenda. 2) He brings a fresh prospective to the board and 3) he brings a sharp pencil analysis with common sense on finances. Mr. Frey has observed that when people move here, they make sacrifices to live in this community.

Mr. Elliott asked what he would like to see and make better in town. Mr. Frey indicated that he would like the process of issues to move along more efficiently and that taxpayer money was being properly spent. He also indicated that he wanted to make sure the budget was being used wisely and that the town was not digging itself into a financial hole.

Mr. Cunningham asked about problem solving. Mr. Frey responded in saying that he had a common sense approach to solving problems.

Ms. Reilly asked beyond the budget what his thoughts were on other issues in town such as the Path, Blueberry Lake Dam, and Safe Routes to School etc. Mr. Frey responded that he sees both sides of the issues and that the issues could be solved more expeditiously to spend taxpayer dollars more wisely.

Mr. Simpson inquired about what Mr. Frey's ideas were on attracting more young people to the community. Mr. Frey indicated that The Warren School attracts a lot of young people as it is an exceptional place to learn. The community and Valley as a whole does not offer jobs for people. Mr. Frey indicated that the Valley as a whole should focus more on this.

Mr. Groom inquired about affordability in Warren. Mr. Frey responded in saying that the education budgets really need to be looked at closely.

Ms. Reilly said that she was not in attendance at the last meeting and Mr. Cunningham inquired if Mr. Robinson would mind telling the board again why he wanted to run for Selectboard. Mr. Robinson stated that he has served on many boards in Warren in the past and knows a lot of the history. He also stated that he thinks ACT 60/68 is a terrible law and maybe the legislature should look into everyone paying an income tax. The current taxes we pay here are too much and the school education tax is unreasonable but felt the town tax was reasonable. He indicated that it is really hard for young people to afford to live here and thought that encouraging the building trade would help attract people here.

Motion by Mr. Groom to nominate Mr. Robinson, second by Mr. Cunningham,

Motion by Mr. Cunningham to nominate Mr. Frey, second by Mr. Groom. All in Favor:  
VOTE: 2-1. Mr. Groom against.

**7:40 PM – Municipal Building Update:** Architectural/Engineer Update: Ellen Strauss – Ms. Strauss updated the board that she has met with all the town employees concerning space and record storage. The Zoning and Planning would occupy ½ of the old library space with a small corner possibly for the DPW when the Blair House is torn down in the future. The rest of the space would become a meeting room.

The building does have some structural issues where it needs to be tighter; the attic would need reinforcement, insulation and some rooms need re-flooring. Currently the air ceiling fan runs in the attic and causes a chimney effect, extracting all the hot air out and pulling in the cold air.

The solution for the vault was adding onto the building extending out by the Town Clerks desk and that a new vault would be located in that corner. It was the least expensive route for adding a new vault which has three different sizes 12x12, 12x16 or 12x19 and it would have mobile shelving so there would be 4 times the storage space for records. The Treasurer's office would have a separate office with a door.

The second floor remains as it is currently. The Lister's office and Town Administrator's office would have more shelving and more file space. The old Planning and Zoning office space would be reorganized moving the plotter, bring the lateral files out from Town Administrators office and using them as table space. The computer would move into a larger lockable area.

The ending list is as follows: energy, structural and the asbestos tile would have to be sealed and covered. Mr. Cunningham inquired about cost. Ms. Strauss estimated that it would be about \$200/sq foot in cost for the walls, flooring, and ceiling. The Vault door is \$4,000, the 12x12 vault runs about \$13-\$14,000, where the 16' vault is \$18-\$20,000.

The building does not meet the current loading codes, and the roof for snow does not meet the current codes. She did not look at the roof.

The list of recommendations does not change the historic foot print of the building and is the least expensive way to go. Mr. Cunningham asked if Ms. Strauss would come back with a complete price cost.

**8:05 PM – Planning Commission Check in – Michael Ketchel –** The Planning Commission has been working on Zoning Updates changing a zone in Sugarbush for a Verizon Tower at Sugarbush. There are administrative being made currently. The Planning Commission is in hopes of getting these changes to the Selectboard sometime after Thanksgiving and will start working on the changes for the Town Plan. Mr. Cunningham also expressed that the Planning Commission should also consider reviewing the Town Garage again.

**8:15 PM – DPW Check in – Barry Simpson –** Mr. Simpson updated the board that the salt shed addition is coming along. He also presented to the board an engineering proposal for the Covered Bridge Project from CHA Company for Mitigation Grant Funding. Cost is \$18,870. These are planning funds only not construction.

Motion by Ms. Reilly to authorized Mr. Simpson to move ahead the Planning Mitigation Funding, second by Mr. Groom. All in Favor: VOTE: 3-0.

**8:30 PM – Library Request –Carl Lobel –** Mr. Lobel inquired of the Selectboard if they would put an article on the Town Meeting Warning to change the wording of the Capital Library Account. They would like to rename it as Town Hall/Library Fund to use the money for further and feature improvements to the Town Hall. The Library is pressing for new storm windows and Mr. Lobel indicated that Ms. Strauss had an estimate for \$9,000 for storms. The town would still contribute \$5,000 annually to the Capital Account. Mr. Cunningham indicated that the Library Commission should write up an article for the Town Meeting Report Agenda.

#### **8:55 PM – Other Business**

**8:56 PM –** Ms. Noel from the Conservation Commission inquired that they have been working with Ms. Walker at the VT Land Trust, about getting the Mad River Path along the Kingsbury Farm Parcel and continuing on the land behind Mac's Convenient Mart. However, the owner of Mac's does not want to assume the liability. The Conservation Commission was requesting with the Selectboard's blessing to higher a lawyer that would write a letter indicating that there is a landowner liability act that protects landowners. Mr. Cunningham indicated that he did not feel that a lawyer's letter was going to change the mind of the owners. He suggested that the Chair of the Selectboard could write a letter explaining the interest and the Town's support. Mr. Simpson suggested that the Commission present the Path License as an asset rather than a liability. That people that use that section of the Path, would probably stop in and get water, lunch etc. Also suggested was showing the owner of Mac's the license agreement that the Town is preparing between the Path and Town. She would take the suggestions back to the

Conservation Commission and will wait for the letter from the Chair of the Board. Mr. Cunningham will contact Mr. Bauchner about this.


**9:10 PM – Halloween Closing:** Ms. Reilly asked if again the Selectboard would again grant closing the streets from through traffic from 6:00-8:00PM on Halloween evening. Ms. Reilly would follow the same procedure as last year: notifying the VSP, Washington County Sheriffs, Fire Department and MRVAS and notifying the surrounding businesses. The board will take this up at the next board meeting.


**9:15 PM – Safe Routes To School –** Ms. Reilly also wanted to notify the public that the walk and bike to school would continue through October every Friday.

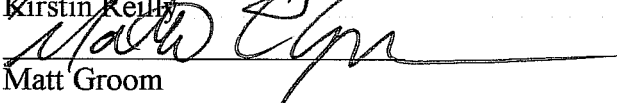
**9:20 PM – Motion to adjourn by Mr. Groom second by Ms. Reilly. All in Favor:**  
VOTE: 3-0.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,  
Cindi Hartshorn-Jones  
Warren Town Administrator

Warren Selectboard:

  
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Andy Cunningham

  
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Kirstin Reilly

  
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Matt Groom

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Burt Bauchner