

MINUTES
CABOT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – MARCH 3, 2015

Pursuant to the Warning as recorded and legally posted, the legal voters did meet at the time and place indicated and the following business was transacted:

The 227th Cabot Town Meeting was called to order at 10:04 am by Selectboard Member Caleb Pitkin.

Article 1 – Selectboard Member Caleb Pitkin read the Article; moved by Fred Ducharme and seconded by Walter Bothfeld, Jr. to elect a Moderator for the ensuing year. Ed Smith nominated; seconded. No further nominations and nominations declared closed; Ed Smith elected Moderator unanimously by voice vote. Moderator began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence to remember family, friends and neighbors who will not be with us this year. The Moderator asked to suspend the rules to hear from our District Representative, Kitty Toll. Representative Toll provided an update on Education funding and other issues before the Legislature. The Moderator recognized Jack Daniels, Selectboard Chair, who memorialized Carlton Domey and thanked those Cabot volunteers who have done so much to make our Town better. Jack recognized Tara Rogerson for seven years of service as Town Clerk and Town Treasurer, Caleb Pitkin for seventeen years of exemplary service as a member of the Cabot Selectboard, many serving as Chair; and David Pike for thirty years of service and over four-hundred thousand miles of travel as a member of the Cabot Road Crew. The Moderator made opening remarks concerning the meeting process and procedure.

Article 2 – Shall the Town vote to approve the minutes of the previous Annual town Meeting of March 4, 2014? Moderator read the Article. Moved and seconded. Jessica Miller asked why the responses of speakers at the town meeting are not complete and why paper ballot numbers are not reported in the minutes. Tara responded that the minutes represent a synopsis of the meeting and not a transcript; to her knowledge all votes are reflected accurately in the minutes. Moderator stated the question. Article 2 adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 3 – To elect a Town Clerk for a term of two years? Australian Ballot issue; discussion not allowed.

Article 4 – To elect a Town treasurer for a term of two years? Australian Ballot issue; discussion not allowed.

Article 5 - To elect a Selectperson for a term of three years? Australian Ballot issue; discussion not allowed.

Article 6 – To elect a Selectperson for a term of two years? Australian Ballot issue; discussion not allowed.

Article 7 – Shall the Town vote to hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers? Moderator read the Article. Moved and seconded. Jack Daniels discussed the Selectboard Report and informational handouts provided to attendees and then updated attendees on the Town Garage project. Cecilia Gulka asked that people verify their mailing address as they vote. Jessica Miller asked if the \$50,000 approved for the Town Garage salt shed is in the Town budget. Jack responded that it is and requested that this be discussed when Article 22 is being acted on. Jessica asked why the FEMA money was located in miscellaneous income instead of HW FEMA Reimbursement line item. Tara responded that it was accounted for in the item at the recommendation of the auditors. Jessica asked where the Better Back Roads Grant was located in the Town Report. Tara responded that it is included in 2014 Miscellaneous Income. Amy Hornblas suggested that all town committees have a budget listed in the Town Report. The Moderator asked that this be discussed under Other Business at the end of the meeting. Jessica Miller asked if the amount paid in Town Salaries includes all income earned by Town employees? Tara responded that it did.

Article 8 – Shall the Town vote to pay its Real and Personal Property taxes to the Town Treasurer on or before November 19, 2015, with delinquent taxes having interest charges of one percent per month for the first three months and on an one-half per month thereafter and an eight percent penalty charged from the due date? Moderator read the Article. Moved and seconded. Kate Chatot asked why we keep the penalty at 8%, as other towns have lowered these penalties. Caleb responded that the amount is the income of the Delinquent Tax Collector. The Moderator stated the question. Article 8 adopted unanimously by voice vote.

Article 9 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot elect all Town officers required by law, according to law? Moderator read the Article. Moved and seconded. Moderator called for nominations for the following offices: LISTER – one 3 year term. Tara Rogerson nominated and seconded. Tara Rogerson regretfully declined the nomination. Tara Rogerson nominated Charlie Marian. Jenny Gilbert stated that Charles Marian was unable to accept the nomination. Skip Bothfeld, Jr. nominated Kate Chatot; seconded. No further nominations. Moderator requested a motion for the Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Kate Chatot; so moved and seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Kate Chatot elected for a 3 year term. LISTER – one 2 year term. No nomination. SB will appoint the position. AUDITOR – one 3 year term. Jeanne McCallum nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Moderator requested a motion for the Town Clerk to cast

one ballot for Jeanne McCallum; so moved and seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Jeanne McCallum elected for a 3 year term. DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR –Susan Carpenter nominated and seconded. Stephen Hogan nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Susan Carpenter was elected for a 1 year term by standing vote. GRAND JUROR – David Pike nominated and seconded. No further nominations; David Pike elected Grand Juror for a 1 year term by voice vote. LAW AGENT – Chip Taylor nominated and seconded. No further nominations; Chip Taylor elected Law Agent for a 1 year term by voice vote. CEMETERY COMMISSIONER – five year term. Ruth Goodrich nominated and seconded. No further nominations; Ruth Goodrich elected Cemetery Commissioner for a 5 year term by voice vote. LIBRARY TRUSTEE – one 3 year term. Stephanie Burtt nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Stephanie Burtt elected for a 3 year term by voice vote. LIBRARY TRUSTEE – one 2 year term. Beth Wade nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Beth Wade elected for a 2 year term by voice vote. LIBRARY TRUSTEE – one 1 year term. Linda Gabrielson nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Linda Gabrielson elected for a 1 year term by voice vote. UDAG COMMITTEE – one 3 year term. Jeanne Johnson nominated and seconded. Jeanne Johnson declined the nomination. Frank Kampf nominated and seconded. No further nominations; Frank Kampf elected to the UDAG Committee for a 3 year term by voice vote. WILLEY BUILDING COMMITTEE – Niels Larsen nominated and seconded. No further nominations; Niels Larsen elected to the Willey Building Committee for a term of 3 years by voice vote. Caleb announced that appointments made by the Selectboard will be made tomorrow night, March 4, 2015, for the positions listed on page 6 and any interested persons should contact a Selectboard member if they wish to be considered for an appointment.

Article 10 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot authorize the Library Trustees to apply for and receive grants and gifts and to spend any grants and gifts received? Moderator read the Article; moved and seconded. No further discussion. The Moderator stated the question. Article 10 adopted by voice vote.

Article 11 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot grant to the Cabot Community Association (CCA) the sum of \$10,000 from UDAG funds in 2015 for the purpose of supporting economic and community development efforts such as providing educational and marketing programs for local producers and crafters, and attracting consumers and visitors to patronize Cabot businesses, activities and attractions? [Australian Ballot] Moderator read the Article. Motion moved and seconded. Jessica Miller stated that as last year’s funding for the coordinator position failed, why are we requesting funding for the coordinator again? The Moderator stated the request is not for funding a coordinator. No further discussion. Article 11 approved by Australian Ballot; YES - 197
No - 138.

Article 12 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot grant to the Cabot Community Association (CCA) the sum of \$7,500 from Town funds in 2015 for the purpose of supporting economic and community development efforts such as providing educational and marketing programs for local producers and crafters, and attracting consumers and visitors to patronize Cabot businesses, activities and attractions? Moderator read the Article. Moved and seconded. No discussion. RD Eno asked why this Article was being voted from the floor. Jack responded that it is being considered a Town Appropriation and those are voted on the floor. Jessica Miller stated that she cannot understand the CCA income expense report. Jan Westervelt responded that the CCA, as a 501c3 entity, acts as a fiduciary for some organizations in town; the funds show the activity of those organizations. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 12 approved by voice vote.

Article 13 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve the sum of \$44,000 to support the Cabot Fire Department? Moderator read the Article. Moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 13 approved unanimously by voice vote.

Article 14 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve the sum of \$57,600 to support the Cabot Library? Moderator read the Article. Moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 14 approved unanimously by voice vote.

Article 15 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve the sum of \$20,000 to support the maintenance of the Cabot cemeteries? Moderator read the Article. Moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 15 approved unanimously by voice vote.

Article 16 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve the sum of \$15,000 to support the Cabot Emergency Ambulance Service? Moderator read the Article. Moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 16 approved unanimously by voice vote.

Article 17 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve the sum of \$500 to support the Cabot Senior Citizens group? Moderator read the Article. Moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 17 approved unanimously by voice vote.

Article 18 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve the sum of \$8,000 to support *The Cabot Chronicle*? Moderator read the Article. Moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 18 approved unanimously by voice vote.

Article 19 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve the sum of \$10,000 to support the Cabot Recreation Committee? Moderator read the Article. Moved and seconded. Jessica Miller asked about the purpose of the Recreation Account? Tara responded that the Rec Account is a side account of the recreation department, used to offset their operating expenses. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 19 approved unanimously by voice vote.

Article 20 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve the sum of \$350 to purchase flags for Memorial Day? Moderator read the Article. Moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 20 approved unanimously by voice vote.

Article 21 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve the sum of \$1,000 to establish a Cabot Conservation Fund, which may receive grants, gifts or other monies to be used by the Cabot Conservation Committee for the following purposes: conduct studies of natural resources in the community, develop recreational trails, undertake conservation projects, control invasive plant species, manage the town forest, conduct educational activities on natural resources conservation, and conserve land of significant public value consistent with the Cabot Town Plan? Moderator read the Article. Moved and seconded. Gary Gulka provided additional background on the Conservation Committee and the purpose of the conservation fund; with modest contributions over time these funds can be used to protect resources in town. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 21 approved by voice vote.

Article 22 - Shall the voters of the Town of the Cabot issue bonds in an amount not to exceed two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) toward the construction of a new town garage, to be repaid from UDAG investment income? [Australian Ballot] Moderator read the Article. RD Eno asked whether UDAG income would be derived from dividends and interest income and how that affects the UDAG fund. Jan Westervelt responded that last year \$200,000 was approved by the voters which reduced the fund principal and the possibility for fund growth; after discussion with the SB, it made better sense to borrow the money and use the income of the UDAG fund to repay the loan over time. This will reduce how much is available in annual UDAG grants, but the principal will be preserved for future years. Jack provided an update on the Town Garage project. Jessica Miller stated that the \$60,000 for the land, under a separate Article in 2014, was not included in the \$1.3 million budget. Jessica asked about the bond payments. Tara responded that the anticipated 2014 HW bond payment is a combination of the paving and Town Garage bond in the Town Report, but payments will be split and accounted under the right line item when the payment is made. Jack Daniels stated that the \$700,000 CDBG-D/R grant have not yet been received by the Town and is consequently included in the proposed 2015 income. Jessica asked about the \$60,000 for the land purchase. Caleb responded that the \$60,000 is part of the original \$1.3 million budget, but was voted for separately so the land could be purchased if the other related articles were not approved by the voters. No further discussion. Article 22 approved by Australian Ballot; YES - 235 No - 100.

Moved to recess the meeting until 1pm. Moved and seconded. Approved by voice vote. The 2015 Town Meeting recessed at 12:08am. The Moderator brought the Meeting back from recess at 1:02pm.

Article 23 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot issue bonds in an amount not to exceed five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to purchase an excavator and grader? [Australian Ballot] Moderator read the Article. Moved and seconded. Jack described the Capital Budget and necessity for replacing very old and poor conditioned highway equipment. It was moved to suspend the rules and allow Jeffrey Haslett to speak during Town Meeting. No objections. Jeffrey Haslett stated that having the necessary equipment to keep our highways in good order is important; financing the purchase today is wise. Jackie Folsom thanked the Select Board for putting together the Capital Budget. No further discussion. Article 23 approved by Australian Ballot; YES - 191 No - 137.

Article 24 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot authorize the expenditure of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) in local tax revenue toward the purchase of 0.58 +/- acres of land between the Willey Building and Whittier Hill Road and will the Town further authorize the Selectboard to transfer 0.08 +/- acres of Town-owned land between the Willey Building and the brook to Michael and Ann Cookson as further consideration toward this purchase? Moderator read the Article.

Moved by and seconded. Jack Daniels provided an explanation of the cost of the land and details regarding plans to provide additional parking and park area for the Willey Building. Fred Ducharme supported the Article, emphasizing that it would provide parking and beautify the Town. Walter Bothfeld, Jr. stated that the plans should be modified to allow access for fire vehicles and modifications should be made to the intersection at Whittier Hill to allow for increased vehicular visibility. Jessica Miller stated that the asking price for the land is very high versus the assessed value. Kempton Randolph asked whether of what the parking project will cost and whether the Town will seek grants? Jack stated that we aren't currently able to request grants as the Town does not yet own the property and the project is still in design phase. Jack stated that the Committee will incorporate the concerns of the FD and residents. The SB will pursue grants as we go forward. Caleb stated that paving of the entire area could be done in conjunction with another paving project and could be done significantly cheaper. Dan Dunham thanked the SB for their work on this and asked why this was not put to Australian Ballot? Caleb responded that it was a topic the Selectboard felt that people would want to talk about and possibly amend, and thus decided to have it as part of the regular meeting vice Australian Ballot. Quint Welters stated that it is a good idea for the direction of Cabot and a good deal for both parties; suggested keeping the parking area open. Lynn Rockwell expressed concerns and suggested the Conservation Committee be consulted regarding paving the area. David Carpenter stated that providing a return on the investment to the seller is not appropriate, the cost is too much and asked whether rent was paid for time the seller parked on Town land. Richard Hourihan asked if there could be a covenant on the deed to restrict car parking and possible contamination into the brook. Caleb stated that it would be unlikely we could get a covenant agreement before the deadline; the SB is not offering \$60,000 because it is what the seller deserves, but the best purchase price we could get after years of negotiation. RD Eno stated his support for the purchase, the additional parking and economic value for the Town. Judy Pransky stated that the Cabot Common also owns contiguous land that is not buildable and supports the purchase; she asked whether a trail for the senior citizens at the Cabot Common is being considered? Jack responded that a walkway from Whittier Hill is part of the conceptual plan. Judy asked the Town to consider putting in a park on the Cabot Common land. Caleb stated that the Town has worked with the Cabot Commons in the past. Terri Dailey asked if this is approved, will parking be allowed from the apartment buildings. Jack responded that we have parking ordinances in Town and will cross that bridge when we get to it. Jessica Miller moved to amend the cost of the land to \$13,500. Amy Hornblas seconded. Jack stated that reducing the amount would end the sale. Moderator stated the question. The motion to amend was opposed by a show of hands. Quint Welters asked if the cost is just for the land. The Moderator stated that it was. Seven voters stood to request a paper ballot: Yes – 70 , No – 43. Article 24 adopted by paper ballot.

Article 25 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot appropriation the following sums for the following purposes:

A.	American Red Cross	\$ 500.00
B.	Aquatic Nuisance Control Project at Joe's Pond	750.00
C.	A.W.A.R.E.	750.00
D.	Capstone Community Action Council	300.00
E.	Central Vermont Adult Basic Education	1,200.00
F.	Central Vermont Council on Aging	1,400.00
G.	Central Vermont Economic Development Corp	300.00
H.	Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice	2,900.00
I.	CIRCLE	600.00
J.	Family Center of Washington County	500.00
K.	Friends of the Winooski River	400.00
L.	Good Beginnings of Central Vermont	300.00
M.	Green Mountain Transit Agency	733.00
N.	Green Up Vermont	100.00
O.	Home Share Now	150.00
P.	Kingdom Animal Shelter	500.00
Q.	Northeast Kingdom Warrior Soccer Club	1,000.00
R.	Onion River Food Shelf	1,000.00
S.	OUR House of Central Vermont, Inc.	250.00
T.	Peoples Health and Wellness Clinic	100.00
U.	Retired & Senior Volunteer Program and Center	200.00
V.	Sexual Assault Crisis Team	350.00
W.	Twin Valley Senior Center	2,000.00
X.	Vermont Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired	300.00
Y.	Vermont Center for Independent Living	165.00
Z.	Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force	100.00

AA. Washington County Youth Service Bureau	250.00
BB. West Danville Community Club	500.00
CC. Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District	500.00
DD. Woodbury-Calais Food Shelf	345.00
TOTAL	\$ 18,443.00

Moderator read the Article. Moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question and asked voters to stand to be counted. RD Eno moved to suspend the Rules of Order to reread the Article as written; seconded. Moderator stated the question. Article 25 adopted unanimously by voice vote.

Article 26 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot appropriate the sum of \$2,560,800.00 to repair and maintain the highways of the Town including summer, winter and special treatment, of which an estimated \$1,907,000.00 is to come from income and \$653,800.00 from local taxes? Moderator read the Article. Moved and seconded. Amy Hornblas asked what the mowing situation for Cabot is. Karen Deasy stated that a mower will be leased and that all roads will be mowed this year. Jessica Miller asked if there is a change to the amount. The Moderator stated that there will be no change to this Article. Jessica asked what is included in the \$950,000 Town Garage Construction income amount. Jack responded that the anticipated income is comprised of \$700,000 for the CDBG grant; \$200,000 bond to be repaid by UDAG income and a \$50,000 salt shed grant. Jessica asked if we were budgeting the funds twice. Jack stated that it is anticipated to receive these funds in 2015, which is why it is in the proposed 2015 budget. Jessica moved to amend the budget to reduce it by \$950,000. No second. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 26 adopted by voice vote.

Article 27 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot appropriate the sum of \$726,273.00 to defray the general expenses of the Town, with an estimated \$392,830.10 to come from income and \$333,442.90 from local taxes? Moderator read the Article. Moved and seconded. Jack moved to amend the Article to read: Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot appropriate the sum of \$726,273.00 to defray the general expenses of the Town, with an estimated \$428,745.26 to come from income and \$297,527.74 from local taxes? Moved and seconded. Jack explained the reason for the amendment which resulted from a change in the carry forward amount identified by the external auditors. By increasing the amount of carry-forward to 2015, the change also lowers the 2015 property tax request. Moderator stated the question. Amendment to Article 27 adopted by voice vote. Moderator stated the question as amended. Article 27 adopted by voice vote.

Article 28 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot authorize the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District to appropriate and expend a budget of \$743,598, at no expense to the Town of Cabot? [Australian Ballot] Moderator read the Article. No discussion. Article 31 approved by Australian Ballot; YES - 242 No - 89

Article 29 - To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting. Todd Jones stated that the Cabot School 8th grade is doing an 'odd-jobs' drive to raise money for the Washington, DC trip. Ed Smith thanked the Cabot Ambulance Service for their dedicated assistance to those in our community. Karen Mueller-Harder encouraged everyone to attend the community Contra Dance, and the Cabot Community Theater is putting on a performance in March directed by students. Richard Aronson suggested that Australian Ballot Articles be placed in the beginning of the meeting. The Moderator responded with a suggestion that the rules can be suspended to ask for particular Articles to be moved. Amy Hornblas suggested that the SB require that all town committees submit itemized budget reports and be included as line items in future Town Reports. RD Eno gave an overview of upcoming Cabot Arts events. Judy Pransky gave an overview of the Lets Grow Kids program to help young children get ready for school. Caleb stated that the SB is meeting tomorrow and will make appointments as Town Officials; please let us know if you're interested in serving. Ed Smith thanked the Cabot Volunteer Fire Department. No further discussion.

Article 30 - To adjourn this meeting. Moderator read the Article. Moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 30 adopted by voice vote; 2015 Cabot Town Meeting adjourned at 2:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Tara Rogerson
Cabot Town Clerk

Approved by:

Ed Smith

Ed Smith, Moderator

Jack Daniels

Jack Daniels, Selectboard Board Chair