



**NVDA**  
*Northeastern Vermont  
Development Association*

~ **MINUTES** ~

**69<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Highland Center for the Arts**  
**Greensboro, VT**  
**September 26, 2019**

**THOSE ATTENDING:**

**Directors:** Keith Ballek, Joe Benning, Paul Brouha, Farley Brown, James Brown, Scott Campbell, Amanda Carlson, Rudy Chase, Shari Cornish, William Davis, Jeanne Desrochers, Laura Dolgin, Louisa Dotoli, Scott Dunn, Martha Feltus, Michael Gonyaw, Tomasz Jankowski, Jane Kitchel, Laurence Thompson, Paul Lefevre, Ken Linsley, Michael Marcotte, Mike Metcalf, Paul Monette, Ed O'Leary, Tom Robinson, Grant Spates, Robert Starr, Patricia Whitney, Mark Whitworth

**Guests:** Elaine Bixby, Carol Brown, Lorraine Brown, Meg Burmeister, Paul Costello, Eun-Young Denny, Vince Dotoli, Elizabeth Dow, Dianne Drown, Cheryl Ducharme, Shaun Fielder, Wendy Franklin, Jon Freeman, Patricia Giavara, Richard Geisel, Brian Gilmartin, Joseph Gresser, Ross Hart, Layne Higgs, Jon Jewett, Joe Kasprzak, Jim Kish, Richard Lyon, John Mandeville, Patricia Monahan, John Muese, Ann Nygard, Sheila Reen, Chris Saunders, Katherine Sims, Anita Starr, Chad Stearns, Tim Tierney, Laura Valcour, Mike Welch, Roena Whitehill

**Employees:** Judy Butson, Tina Gonyaw, Lorna Higgs, Bruce Melendy, Doug Morton, Irene Nagle, David Snedeker

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The 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting was called to order at 6:11 PM.

Grant Spates opened the meeting and welcomed all present. David Snedeker welcomed special guests, thanked the legislators, regional partners, municipal, and business partners for their support of NVDA.

**Meeting Minutes**

A motion by Robert Starr seconded by Paul Monette, to accept the minutes of September 13, 2018 Annual Meeting as mailed, carried unanimously.

**Appointment of ballot clerks**

President Spates appointed Scott Dunn and Judy Butson as clerks to count the election ballots.

A motion by Michael Marcotte seconded by Mark Whitworth, to accept the appointment of Scott Dunn and Judy Butson as clerks to count the election ballots, carried unanimously.

## **Approval of Norton & Peacham Town Plan**

Irene Nagle presented to the Board the recommendation of the Town Plan Approval committee for Norton's and Peacham's Town Plans.

A motion by Paul Brouha and duly seconded, to approve the Norton's Town Plan, carried unanimously.

A motion by Mike Metcalf seconded James Brown, to approve the Peacham's Town Plan, carried unanimously.

## **Public Hearing**

Irene Nagle opened the Public Hearing to confirm the planning efforts of Barnet, Brownington, Concord, Lyndon, Newport City, Newport Town, Norton and Peacham. She explained that confirmation only needs to occur twice within an eight-year period, whereas NVDA used to confirm eligible municipalities annually.

A motion by Mike Metcalf seconded by Patricia Whitney, to confirm the planning efforts of Barnet, Brownington, Concord, Lyndon, Newport City, Newport Town, Norton and Peacham carried unanimously.

Public Hearing closed.

## **Guest Speaker**

David Snedeker, NVDA Executive Director, introduced guest speaker Paul Costello, Executive Director of the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD).

Paul Costello began with a special mention of Paul Bruhn, long-time director of the Preservation Trust of VT, who recently passed. Mr. Bruhn was a great champion for preserving Vermont's villages and downtowns. Mr. Costello then spoke of the work of VCRD both in Vermont and in the Northeast Kingdom. Over recent years VCRD successfully completed Community Visits in St. Johnsbury, Craftsbury, Hardwick, Burke, Lyndon, Brighton, and Newport. Paul noted the importance of NVDA staff stepping up to help each community implement their priorities. Mr. Costello ended his talk speaking of climate change and the opportunities that this will provide for VT and our economy.

## **Election Results**

Judy Butson announced the results of the election of officers as follows:

President	Martha Feltus
Vice President, Caledonia County	Paul Brouha
Vice President, Essex County	Joel Cope
Vice President, Orleans County	Amanda Carlson
Secretary/Treasurer	Tom Robinson

A motion for ratification of the election results by Robert Starr and Michael Marcotte, seconded by Mark Whitworth, carried unanimously.

## **Other Business**

Grant Spates closed the meeting by thanking the guest speaker, the Highland Center for the Arts and the NVDA staff. A motion by Michael Metcalf and duly seconded, to adjourn the meeting, carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.