

THE VALE NEWS

Vol. 36 Issue No. 42 (Spring Conferences Month) - May 9, 2012

35 members attended

1 guest – Ben White

Welcome back to John Daniels

Birthdays – Art Conway on May 11

Anniversaries – None

Club Anniversaries – Stan Neddleman – 7 years on May 10

Guest speaker – Sal Spinso in his new role as Chair of the Waitsfield Select Board

Announcements

Next week's speaker is RJ Austin from Sugarbush

Hans Estin – co-founder of Peter Estin Ski School died on May 4, 2012

Ken Quackenbush – General Manager of Mad River Glen passed away at the age of 95

Corporate sponsors – Lorraine announced new silver sponsor Mad Marathon - \$250 brings total to \$10,550

Mad Marathon - Dori will be looking to Rotary once again for help with marathon on July 8

Dues – Dave reported on the proposed increase in dues to \$175 (\$150 for 2nd household member). E-mail was sent explaining the proposal for the dues increase. The last increase was in 2005. E-mailed other clubs and found that dues on the average were \$160. The club is barely breaking even mainly because of cost increases: Rotary international and district dues increase approximately 3% each year; club is losing 3 to 4 members; increase in meal costs is currently being subsidized by club (\$.50) and club pays for meal for guests; \$500 for website; and reserves are down because of items that needed to be replaced this year. With this increase it is hopeful that it will be sufficient to cover cost increases and build reserves without any further increases for the next 3 or 4 years. Please review the e-mail before the meeting next week. By-laws require 10 days notice to members so vote on the increase will be taken at May 16 meeting.

Exchange students – Joe asked for volunteer to pick up exchange students (3 from Waitsfield and 1 from Waterbury) at District Conference on Saturday, May 18 so they can attend Harwood prom. Transportation to the conference is being provided by Doug Stoehr and Gene Scarpatto on Friday, May 18.

GSE Team – a team (2 women and 3 men) from South Africa is currently visiting our District. We will be hosting them during the day on Saturday, June 2. Host families to provide lodging are not needed. Activities include the Food Hub, Waitsfield's farmer market, Yak farm, tour of Sugarbush, and tour of Joe Klemek's vineyard and a late afternoon or evening BBQ or gathering.

Golf tournament – Manny reported that the tournament was only 5 weeks away. 10 to 12 teams are currently being formed with 4 of those composed of women. Needs volunteers, prizes for raffle, and soft drinks and water. Thank you to Ken for donation of leather products, Jim for donation of \$25 for "Lola", and Adam for

donation of golf membership for hole-in-one. Manny is hopeful that we can seek raffle items from businesses other than our corporate sponsors.

Fayston Barn – Dave reported on the team of 8 Rotary members who joined other community members to help with the raising of the Fayston Barn on Saturday, May 4. There was a total of 30 from Rotary and the community. They concentrated on outside sheeting and roof. Dave had pictures of the barn – nice job!

Club Visioning – Doug asked for members to respond and RSVP

Mega Bucks – Jack Minor chose the King of Spades – total \$63

Happy Bucks

Jim L – Introducing our guest speaker – Sal Spinosa

Monk – plenty water in rain

Bruce – good trip to California to visit grandchildren

Carol – Daughter’s first book won 3rd prize in International contest.

Betty – had fun at “Connect the Dots” event last Saturday. Discovered a personal connection with Rosemarie White and a nephew in Pennsylvania

Art – discovered that his road was sliding down the bank – happy it was caught in time

Gene – managed not to drown during yesterday’s rain storm

Joe K – for team that put Fayston barn back in shape over the week-end

John D – nice to back so let summer begin!

Bob – to pick up son from school

Al and Dave were just happy

Personal thank you from Vickie for all the help!

Program

Sal Spinosa started his presentation by sharing with us the process he had to go through to become Chair of the Waitsfield Select Board. He stated that he looked around the table for a possible replacement when Kate left the Board and realized that it was probably up to him so he “volunteered” if nobody else was available. He then missed the next meeting which he never does. There was no political campaign.

Lots of administrative responsibility.

Board has worked hard to reduce the length of the meeting. It was not uncommon for meetings that started at 7:00 am to last until 12:30 pm. Over the last few years there has been a concerted effort to spend extra time with Valerie before the meetings to fine tune the agenda and stick to agenda during the meeting. The fine tuning and focused have shortened the meeting times.

Sal has also found that the televising of the meetings has made them more subdued. The television has helped to inform community members who cannot attend the meetings. In return, community members can communicate back to the board.

Vermont is not a home rule state and a Select Board’s authority is based on statute. Local regulations help with implementation of those statutes.

Issues for the board include the budget, bonding, enforcement of regulations, and litigation.

A huge issue for the board budget – focus is spent on line items, capital improvements, and reserves.

Special items such as non-profits looking for a contribution are also considered. Prior to the town meeting starting in January, the Board meets every Monday to work on the budget. A group of volunteers comprise a

Budget Task Force and they assist the Board with the budget process by going line by line through the budget and then reporting back to the board.

Board looks at bonding for big projects. Projects are financed with bond that require voter approval and are repaid over 20 to 30 years.

Zoning Board is responsible for enforcement of regulations. Select Board coordinates with Zoning Board and Planning Commission. For instance Zoning Board and Planning Commission will propose an amendment. The amendment is then discussed and goes out to the public for approval. Role of Select Board includes backing of Zoning Board and Planning Commission if litigation occurs.

Select Board handles all litigation issues (permit appeals, violation of regulations, and defense of suits). The Board works to resolve the issue without litigation.

Board prepares booklet, budget, and capital plan for town meeting.

Commissions and committees who assist the Board have no independent authority. They investigate an issue and then report and make recommendations to the Board. The buck stops at the Select Board.

Questions

Does the buck stop with the Select Board? Yes – commissions and committees have no independent authority. They investigate an issue and then generate a report making recommendations to the Select Board.

Is central sewage dead? Focus has shifted from centralized sewage to decentralized sewage because \$ from government is available for decentralized sewage.

Executive sessions – 40 separate issues can be discussed at private meetings. Private meetings are held mostly for litigation, personnel, and land acquisition. These sessions are held without the public, television, etc.

Are you going to be able to learn and remember your lines for the Valley Players?