



**Town of Green Mountain Falls  
Regular Board of Trustee Meeting Agenda  
10615 Green Mountain Falls Road  
Tuesday, Aug 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Online Meeting ONLY\*. Join the Zoom Meeting by clicking on the following link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83854358126?pwd=MGwwZnpTSIBjZDBlUkZjUjgzT2pSdz09>

Meeting ID: 838 5435 8126; Passcode: 869996; Dial-in Only: 346-248-7799

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Board Members Present**

Mayor Jane Newberry  
Trustee Margaret Peterson  
Trustee Dyani Loo  
Trustee Katharine Guthrie  
Trustee Chris Quinn

**Town Manager**

Angie Sprang

**Town Clerk**

**Board Members Absent**

**Town Attorney**

**Public Works**

**Marshal's Dept.**

Virgil Hodges

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**Regular Meeting:**

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Jane Newberry called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and roll was taken.

**2. Additions, Deletions, or Corrections to the Agenda**

Mayor Newberry wanted to discuss the Trail Ambassadors first.

Mayor Newberry made a motion, seconded by Trustee Loo, to accept the Agenda. Motion passed.

**3. Consent Agenda**

- a. Bring into record Accounts Payables for July 8 to August 4, 2020
- b. Approve Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes from July 21, 2020

Mayor Newberry made a motion, seconded by Trustee Loo to accept the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

#### **4. New Business**

##### **a. Consideration of the Removal of Planning Commission Member, Rocco Blasi**

Mayor Newberry talked about how this is a matter of legal issues and is nothing personal. Trustee Loo asked to hear from Rocco.

Rocco spoke to refute allegations. He emailed the clerk and some trustees specific files he used to help refute the allegations as well. He believes this is personal. He talked about disagreeing with Mac in meetings but always being kind in person. He said that it's hard to believe that these allegations are against him, they seem fictional. He talks about meeting with the Mayor, Pro Tem, and Manager on the Friday before and how they asked him to resign. He believes they failed to provide enough justification, so he did not resign. He then disputed each claim one by one listing his own evidence. Secretary please include this in the minutes "while there may be some in the world who have a knack for burning bridges, I will proudly a line myself with the bridge builders in this community". He then thanked the community for coming around him in support and helping to ease his burden. He calls for a full public retraction of these allegations and believes they are asking the wrong person to resign.

Trustee Quinn spoke about not knowing enough information and spoke of abstaining. He doesn't see a real need for removal but has little history on the situation. Trustee Loo asked about Rocco's current PRT application. Rocco talked about how that was submitted before the last meeting. Trustee Peterson talked about all the passion is feeling like bullying. All the support Rocco is getting seemed to be focused on attacking the board. Trustee Peterson says she accepts the responsibly of allowing this kind of behavior because they all allowed this to happen. Trustee Peterson believes that the attorney has reviewed the evidence and that it is enough to remove Rocco. This is about going through the proper channels, and the culture we have made. We have allowed people to ask for forgiveness rather than permission. Trustee Peterson talked about the staff not needing to be bullied. The Mayor agrees. Mayor Newberry comments on the open records problems, and how important they are. Mayor Newberry doesn't like the ideas of the staff being in a hostile work environment. She talked about the main 3 reasons to remove a volunteer and how all three showed up in the evidence list.

Mayor Newberry clarifies that her motion is to allow everyone to heal and Trustee Loo asked if Rocco can still help any groups and the Mayor recommends that he continues to help. Trustee Loo talked about the staff and board trying to update everything and how things can be misconstrued because of that. Trustee Guthrie knows how difficult and sad this has been for everyone. She is so appreciative of Mr. Blasi's work and all the inspiration he brings to the community. He is a valuable asset and she hopes he will continue to be. She also respects all the rules and procedures we must follow, even when not convenient or efficient. We must follow the law to stay legal. This isn't easy for anyone, she then thanks everyone for the input. Mayor talks about how important it is for people to speak and give input and thanks everyone.

Mayor Newberry made a motion, seconded by Trustee Peterson, to remove Mr. Blasi from PC with allowing him to submit an application in 6 months. Trustee Quinn abstained and the motion passed.

## **5. Old Business**

### **a. Website Demonstration: New Town Website Goes Live!**

Victor M showed everyone the new website and many plans and features

### **b. Advisory Board Membership Applications**

Mayor Newberry explained the options on how to proceed. Trustee Loo talked about getting a quorum together.

Trustee Peterson made a motion, seconded by the Mayor to appoint Goody Goodwin to the PRT. Motion Carried

Trustee Loo wants to appoint two. She wants to appoint a former trail person because of their knowledge, Rocco and Judith, and Dick. Judith said she would not work on a committee that Mr. Gafford is on. Trustee Peterson asked what the exact plan is. Trustee Quinn said he would like to see 3 to get them a quorum.

Mayor Newberry made a motion, seconded by Trustee Peterson to appoint Donald Walker to the PRT. Motion carried

### **c. Proposed Trails Ambassador Program – Susan Davies**

Ms. Sprang explains when the Mayor asked. 3 volunteers and they would train them. This conversation took place before any other item. Trustee Peterson asked about starting this sooner or if we needed a committee. Ms. Sprang talked about how it can be done sooner. Trustee Loo wants to be the liaison for this group and the parks and rec committee. Trustee Loo talked about grant money being able to hopefully help. The Mayor thinks moving forward without the committee would be okay. Trustee Loo wants to be involved with the training they receive.

Mayor Newberry made a motion, seconded by Trustee Peterson to approve the Ambassador Program. Motion carried.

## **6. Public Input – 3 Minutes Per Speaker**

Kathleen M; She talked about how hard it was for hikers to get past the creek, she told the trails committee about the issue, and Don walker built a bridge and strong men from the trails committee brought it up there. She is grateful that the committee tried so hard to make the trail safer.

Rocco B; Thanks the trustees who considered him for the parks committee and then mentioned people on social media asking “what can we do” he then gives information about petitions and recalls if someone believes government have crossed a line.

Liz I; She brought clarity involving the previous minutes, she is a nurse and understands the health issues, she was talking about how she doesn't understand why the Town board and staff can't provide hand sanitizer and open the bathrooms. She then talks about how she was on the committee that helped rewrite the Comp Plan, and how she was against having a Town manager for various reasons. She then lists the staff and questions why tax money is paying for them with the current performance.

Dorrie G; She is personally appalled at the board's actions towards Mr. Blasi. She believes her words were twisted and states; Mr. Blasi was removed for being threatening, now you must remove Mr. Gafford because he is also threatening. She doesn't believe her email was bullying and re read it. Were in the news for being immature.

Lamar M; These last two meetings feel like we were in an alternate reality. This is a continued waste of Town resources. Talks about the Mayor and hiring more help for the parking and hikers and trail ambassadors and how she doesn't believe it was appropriately addressed or mentioned in previous minutes. She wants us to plan better for our volunteers. She thinks many of our resources have been wasted.

Clay G; He asked if the documents about what Forest and Town property is, that Mr. Bratton had mentioned in an earlier meeting had be acquired yet. Ms. Sprang told him they had not been.

David D; He talked about in his management experience, noticing that many people who are high achievers are accused of being bullies who create hostile work environments. Most accusers are low achievers who are incompetent. He thinks Rocco's case was completely ignored. He also is in complete agreement with Rocco. He also offers help to Rocco.

Judith P; She is sad at the standard we are setting for community involvement and unity. And believes the board is overlooking so many of the community's comments. She believes that the board is ignoring so many serious issues of the Town, and Rocco has been scapegoated. She wants the board and staff to become more trained. She wants our leaders to get stronger at leading us to unity.

Mac P; He believes that the volunteers misunderstand their position. Volunteers have no authority or decision-making ability; they serve the people who they are volunteering to. The board is the legal authority and the volunteers must heed to that. The board gets professional advice, and takes nothing lightly, and they hear the many sides of the story, and they make decisions based on facts. If you want to get involved with the board run in the next April election in 2022.

Eric C; I was the PC chair for most of Rocco's time on it. No one asked me for emails or records. People left on good terms.

Carolyn B; She asked that we keep our politics to the appropriate Facebook page.

Mike L; He believes people are signing his name on documents.

## 7. Correspondence

- a. Rosalea Carttar, 4 Aug 2020 BOT agenda Item 4a Mr. Rocco Blasi. A letter to the board of trustees.
- b. Peter Carttar, A letter to the board of trustees.
- c. Judith Piazza, A letter to the board of trustees about Mr. Blasi.
- d. Dorrie Gyuan, A letter to the board of trustees about Mr. Bratton and Mr. Blasi
- e. Lamar Mathews, GMF BOT Letter Rocco.

## 8. Reports

Trustee Loo; Let's look forward and try to do all we can to better our community, let's set up dates for the new park committee and get the ball rolling.

Trustee Guthrie talks about the grants and thinks a grant workshop would be really good.

Trustee Quinn asks about the dates for applications and they discuss having the Wednesday before being a cut off so we can review them.

The Mayor talked about parking and porta potties. She talked with the state rep about fire mitigation, talked about training and a board retreat.

Trustee Peterson talked about how pleased she was with bronc day.

## 9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

  
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Jane Newberry, Mayor

  
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Angie Sprang, Town Manager