

Re: Dissolving Inc. Village of Perkinsville Vt

Officers and interested persons from the Inc. Village of Perkinsville met with the Weathersfield Town Select Board on Mon. Aug. 5, 2019 to present them with our request, per vote at annual meeting in June 2019, for the dissolving of the Incorporated Village of Perkinsville VT.

Anmarie Christensen, President of the Inc. presented the request to the board and the Town Manager. She stated the desires of the voters at Inc. Village's annual meeting in June 2019. These include: 1.) The request for the Town to assume the payment of the streetlights for the Village which cost about \$2500.00 to \$2800.00 each year. 2.) That the Town keep the villagers posted when some new plans are in the works or being planned for the village so that we are aware of what is happening. 3.) That the money in the check book at the time of dissolving the Inc. be allowed to be donated to the Friends of the Perkinsville 1879 Schoolhouse for use toward finishing the restoration of said building.

There was some discussion of the requests and the issue was then moved and seconded with more discussion following.

It was noted that the Village is all set to continue as usual for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

It is believed that the Town of Weathersfield Selectmen were the ones, to grant the petitioners from the village the status of "Incorporated Village of Perkinsville, VT." * (see note below)

The motion was passed unanimously and the board will work on the details involved in granting the dissolving of the present Incorporated Village. This may involve checking with the State of Vermont to be sure we are proceeding properly.

* NOTE: Upon checking deeper into the old records, Clerk Dorothy Richardson found some paperwork stating the granting of the Incorporated Village of Perkinsville in 1928 was by the Weathersfield Selectmen.

Report respectfully submitted by
Dorothy A. Richardson clerk Aug. 5, 2019

The Annual Meeting of the Incorporated Village of Perkinsville VT was called to order at the Community Church at 7:02 by President Annmarie Christensen. There were 10 voters present.

FloAnn Dango, Treasurer of Town of Weathersfield was present to swear in the elected officers for the coming year. She was kind to come to our meeting to save us all time by giving the oath of office to all of the officers at the same time.

It was moved and seconded to vote on Article 8, the election of officers, first. The only Trustee going off the board, Alison Roth, agreed run for another five year term if elected. Carol Sylvia moved that "The boards of Officers remain as now stands" Motion seconded, no discussion and motion passed. All Officers were then sworn in.

Meeting then proceeded as we considered and voted on the other Articles as below:

Article 1) Voted to accept the reports of the Officers after hearing them. The Treasurer, Angel Cioffi and the Clerk, Dottie Richardson. President had no report. The minutes of the only Trustees meeting held this year were read as well.

Article 2) Voted to authorize the Board of Trustees to borrow money, if necessary to pay current expenses in anticipation of taxes .

Article 3) Voted to authorize the Board of Trustees to expend grant monies, gifts and bequests which may be received by the Village.

Article 4) Voted to fix the compensation of the Village Treasurer and the Village Clerk at \$150.00 each for the coming year.

Article 5) Voted to authorize the Treasurer to pay \$150.00 as a donation to the West Weathersfield Fire Dept.

Article 6) Voted to authorize the Treasurer to pay \$300.00 as a donation to the Friends of the 1879 Perkinsville Schoolhouse.

Article 7) Voted to approve the expenditure of \$3575.00 (Three-thousand- Five hundred-Seventy five Dollars) per the proposed budget for 2019-2020 for the

support and operation of the Village's general Fund, of which \$3500.00 (Three thousand Five hundred Dollars) shall be raised by taxation.

Article 8) was voted "The board of Officers remain as now stands" (This article was voted on first so as to allow FloAnn Dango from the Town Office of Weathersfield to leave after swearing in all the officers for the coming year.)

Article 9) New Business.

Dottie Richardson, clerk read a Thank You note from the Friends of the 1879 Schoolhouse Committee for the most generous donation of \$300.00.

President Annmarie Christensen requested that the Clerk send copies of her clerk reports, (for the years she has served as Clerk), to the Weathersfield Historical Society for safekeeping for future generations to be able to read and see how things were in our Village in our time here. It was agreed by all that this would be a good idea.

Next was a lengthy discussion of the question on the Warning, "Shall the voters of the Village vote to dissolve the Incorporated Village of Perkinsville status?"

In the Village Records that we have, the first Incorporation of this Village was in 1928. Over the years many of the Village papers have been lost .

In the January 21, 1977 edition of the local Weathersfield Weekly, there was an article and a revised map of the boundaries showing an extension to the Village.

Then again in the Jan. 25, 1985 edition of the Weekly there appeared the first of a two part Article on "The Birth and Subsequent Hibernation of the Village of Perkinsville" by Barbara Norton Woodbury. The information in this article was gleaned from some old records Mrs Woodbury had seen in Town Records!

These records showed that a petition to establish an Inc.Village to be called Perkinsville was presented to the Selectmen of the Town of Weathersfield and it was they who, on Jan. 7,1928 did "Hereby Incorporate the Village of Perkinsville as follows ..".

The article tells of how in 1935 at the Annual Meeting, a discussion took place on dismantling and selling the streetlights which were no longer being lit as nobody wanted to be the one to turn them on at dusk and off at midnight! And other problems with the price being charged by Mr. Hicks of the local electric Co. for the electricity.

In 1938 it was voted 15-13 not to resume the streetlights. This is when the article states, that the Corporation went into 'Hibernation'!

The second part of the article appeared in the next week's Weekly on Feb. 1, 1985. (I am including this newspaper article in the Village Records.) It goes on to tell of how in 1945 a Village Improvement Society was formed.

Then on Sept. 28, 1946 a meeting was called at the Grange Hall to see what action voters wished to take in regard to reviving the Incorporated Village. At this meeting it was decided to hire lawyer, Fred Spaulding to check out some legalities and he did this and his letter makes it plain that he considers the village a legal municipal corporation. (This letter we do have in the Village Records)

So between this date in 1946 and in 1947 when the Village was voting to levy a tax for streetlights, the Incorporated Village was up and running again! It has been in existence since then I believe.

Back to the present

Tonight it was noted that of June 12, 2019 74 individuals Residing in the Village and who are also registered voters at Town of Weathersfield Town Meeting (the requirements for voting at Village Meetings), only 10 of the 74 came to the meeting.

It has been this way for many years now. It was noted that the Town now does most of the things the Villagers under the corporation did. Care of the Park, listing the properties, sending out and collecting the taxes. The only thing the Village does now is meet and set a tax rate and pay the electric Co. each month for the electric used to light the streetlights.

Questions asked: What has being incorporated done for the Village? Is there a point to keeping this corporation, other than to keep the streetlights?

Some points were that it hasn't helped to keep our store, post office, town office, elementary school or to get speed signs with lights. The Town has graciously saved the little old brick schoolhouse and formed a committee to oversee the renovation of the building and repurposing process. The Weathersfield Food Shelf is housed in one room there now on a conditional use permit. The ell has been completely renovated, the North Classroom is now being remodeled and will become a community room for meetings and other gatherings, and a possible Library corner. As soon as the ADA ramp is built, a requirement needed for a Certificate of Occupancy, this certificate will be issued and the building can be used for the public.