

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
February 17, 2020

Selectboard Members Present: Bruce Duchesne, John McClallen, Patricia Pranger, Rose Regula and Nelson Tift.

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Carol Macleod, Debbie Scranton, Cecile Betit and Marc Pramuk.

Chair N. Tift called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Agenda Amendments. None.

Minutes. P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the 02/03/20 Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to approve the 02/11/20 Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

Pay Orders. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger to approve the pay order total of \$48,355.68 after \$100 was added to pay Carol Macleod for Communication/Event Committee gift certificates and \$104.61 was added to pay Carol Macleod for the Conservation Commission's Winter Fun Day expenses. Motion carried (5-0).

Road Commissioner Report. None.

Stone Meadow Bike Trails/Jumps. N. Tift acknowledged receiving a memorandum outlining comments from resident Steve Pytlik regarding construction and use of bike trails and jumps at Stone Meadow as well as comments about a Stone Meadow management plan, habitat site map, citizen input opportunities and more.

Carol Macleod, Debbie Scranton and Marc Pramuk attended the meeting on behalf of the Conservation Commission. Ms. Macleod indicated the commission had planned to meet with the Recreation Committee after the bike trail issue first arose in 2018, but she said the Rec Committee had difficulty reaching quorums so a meeting was never held. Ms. Macleod said signs detailing Stone Meadow rules were installed with the Selectboard's approval. One of the rules prohibited making changes to trails without Selectboard permission. She said a bike jump crosses a walking trail with a second jump right after the trail.

Ms. Scranton said the Conservation Commission had sought Selectboard approval for all work at Stone Meadow ranging from the installation of bee hives to trail maintenance and construction. She said she had no authority to install a garden or dog park on Town

property without prior approval. She said the same should be required of bike trail/jump construction.

Mr. Pramuk said the Conservation Commission met on March 25, 2019 with Steve and Shannon Pytlik and others to discuss bike trails and they made tentative plans to meet again in warmer weather. He said interest seemed to wane after that meeting. Mr. Pramuk expressed concerns that bike trail work had included unauthorized removal of trees and that work on Town property without prior approval would set a precedent.

After further discussion, the Selectboard by consensus directed the Conservation Commission and Recreation Committee chairs to schedule a public meeting to discuss bike and walking trail plans at Stone Meadow. They further agreed no work on bike trails and/or jumps was permitted on Town property until an approved plan was in place.

Newsletter. By consensus, the Board agreed to a request by Carol Macleod - representing the Communication/Events group - to raise municipal newsletter advertising rates from \$50 to \$75 for 12 issues with revenue to be used to offset newsletter expenses.

Public Comments. Cecile Betit shared concerns about the impact of power outages on telephone services in Town, especially in areas such as East Wallingford. She said prior to VTel's fiber optics update, citizens had telephone service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week even during power outages. She said now citizens have no telephone service when VTel batteries deplete in a power outage. Ms. Betit said residents were unaware of the potential impacts prior to the VTel upgrade. She said it was important for Towns to offer input to the Public Utility Commission, which is overseeing an investigation into this matter. Ms. Betit planned to attend the PUC meeting on February 18 on behalf of the Town. She welcomed Board and citizen input.

Mowing Bids. By consensus, the Board accepted F.A.S. Trucking and Landscaping's mowing bid for the 2020 season with rates unchanged since 2019. No other bids were submitted.

Bulk Mail Permit Request. P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve Susan Cobleigh's request on behalf of the Friends of Gilbert Hart Library to use the Town's bulk mail permit for a fundraising letter. Motion approved (5-0).

Selectboard Concerns. None.

Other Business. By consensus, the Board approved signing a letter to the Rutland County legislative delegation in opposition to H.673, the Tree Warden bill.

There was a brief discussion regarding an inquiry from Attorney Charles Merriman. Board members were firm on a course of action detailed to the attorney earlier this month.

B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to adjourn. Motion carried (5-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.
Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

Date Approved: 03/02/20