

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
June 1, 2020

Selectboard Members Present: Bruce Duchesne, John McClallen, Patricia Pranger, Rose Regula, and Nelson Tift. The meeting was held via audio conference call.

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Phil Baker, Shannon Pytlik, Diane Baker, Michael Luzader, Lisa Cotrupi, Lawrie Roundy, Trisha Nash, Maria French, and Carol Macleod.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Amendments. None.

Minutes. P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the 05/18/20 Minutes. Motion carried (5-0). P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the 05/21/20 Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

Pay Orders. By consensus the Board directed the Town Clerk/Treasurer to refund 5K Race donations totaling \$1,050 and add those refunds to the pay order. P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the pay order total of \$70,190.67. Motion carried (5-0).

Road Commissioner Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker requested permission for the Town to provide culverts to Justin Filskov for a project that would improve drainage on Centerville Road. He said Mr. Filskov would provide the labor for installation. He said the material expenses to the Town would be under \$1,000 and would save the Town about \$1,000 in labor and equipment costs. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed by consensus.

Mr. Baker provided an overview of a driveway project being proposed by Justin Filskov for 339 Seward Hill Road. The Board had no objections as long as the Driveway Permit application was approved.

N. Tift noted Road Foreman Steve Lanfear had informed him he was scheduled for surgery later in the month and would use his sick time to cover the days not at work. Mr. Baker recommended Charlie Woods serve as road foreman in his absence.

Mr. Baker recommended the road crew use up the gravel budget by June 30. N. Tift said the road crew should haul and stockpile it if necessary.

It was noted the contractor had begun roadside mowing.

FY'20 Budget Line Items. Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon provided an overview of the voter approved funds – Building, Highway, Reappraisal and Recreation. There was a discussion regarding what to do with funds remaining in line items at the end of FY'20 on June 30. Board members were in receipt of the relative state statutes.

It was noted a Recreation CD (over \$14,500) had been earmarked for improvements to the basketball court. A portion of those funds came from a Baxter Family donation to the Town.

Cemetery funds were a mixture of money from the budget and donations. The Building Fund comes from cell tower income.

Carol Macleod indicated Conservation Commission funds were a combination of the line item budget as well as donations, including money donated by Vermont Country Store as a result of Marc Pramuk's volunteer hours as a Conservation Commission member.

After further discussion, the matter was tabled until the July 6 meeting when the end of the fiscal year totals would be available.

Investment Report. Board members reviewed the Investment Policy and the semi-annual Investment Report prepared by the town clerk and treasurer. P. Pranger thanked J. Sharon for her work on both the FY'20 line item budget and fund information as well as the Investment Report.

COVID-19 – Control Plan; Elfin Lake Maintenance; Transfer Station Operations. Board members reviewed the COVID-19 Control Plan required by the state in order for the Town to open to the public. P. Pranger congratulated Town Administrator Sandi Switzer on drafting the plan.

B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger to approve the COVID-19 Control Plan. Motion carried (5-0).

There was a discussion regarding what maintenance should be performed at Elfin Lake during the summer months even though the facility is closed. By consensus, the Board agreed to water tests and garbage removal. They agreed ropes and buoys would not be installed and the gate would remain locked.

By consensus, the Board agreed with a transfer station employees' recommendation to start accepting appliances and construction debris as long as haulers were pulling debris. They agreed to accept tires once Rutland County Solid Waste District allows it as tires are transported to the Gleason Road facility.

Summer Recreation. Summer Recreation Co-Director Lisa Cotrupi provided a detailed overview of the steps program directors planned for the three-week program, including obtaining personal protective equipment (PPE), scheduling activities to ensure safe distancing, limiting enrollment, staggering arrival times, using Elfin Lake and library facilities, routine temperature checks and more.

Michael Luzader said the Gilbert Hart Library Board of Directors would be discussing allowing the program to use the facility with options for meeting in separate spaces to ensure safe distancing.

The town administrator asked if Rosie Phillips would be available as a lifeguard and Ms. Cotrupi confirmed she was available along with another individual who had a lifeguard certificate.

Health Officer Trisha Nash, who also serves as Recreation Committee Chair, spoke in opposition to operating the program this summer. She emphasized she felt program directors were capable of running a safe program. However, she said PPE was difficult to secure, maintaining 6-foot safe distancing with children would be a challenge, and she said there were too many unknowns when it came to the virus. She said the Town sponsored event would make the Town liable if anyone were to get sick. Lisa responded she along with Co-Director Lawrie Roundy wanted to offer youngsters something to do this summer and they would likely join programs outside the community if Wallingford's was unavailable. She said she preferred to keep them in town.

B. Duchesne expressed appreciation for all of the effort Ms. Cotrupi and Ms. Roundy put into planning, but he said he preferred to wait until next summer for the safety of the children and employees.

J. McClallen asked whether the co-directors could operate the program on their own without Town sponsorship.

There was a brief discussion regarding recent vandalism at Elfin Lake.

B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger not to run the Summer Recreation program this year. Motion carried (3-2). N. Tift and J. McClallen voted in the minority.

Shannon Pytlik asked if board members would wait to make a final decision in a few weeks as the state continues to relieve restrictions related to COVID-19. N. Tift responded the Board had already voted on the matter.

Public Comments. None.

Basketball Court Usage. Mr. Luzader said the close contact nature of basketball made it a challenge to maintain safe distancing. He said area youths garnered respect for exploring safe options in order to run a 4 on 4 tournament. He asked the Board to consider tabling a decision on allowing a basketball tournament until the next meeting to see what state restrictions were at that time related to COVID-19. Board members agreed to table the matter.

Wallingford Day. Maria French outlined a plan for a Wallingford Day fireworks display with visitors attending drive-in style and parking at the ballfield. She said Barbara Kaminski had generously offered to donate funds to cover the cost of fireworks. She said theoretically the Recreation Committee was in favor of it weather dependent.

B. Duchesne said the ballfield was the site of the Town water supply and, therefore, parking would not be allowed on a large portion of the field.

Health Officer Trisha Nash expressed opposition to the gathering. She indicated she was opposed to any events that would draw crowds. She acknowledged some would stay in their vehicles while pedestrians would likely congregate.

By consensus, the Board agreed they were not in favor of public gatherings at this time.

NEMRC Assessor Agreement. P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve NEMRC's Assessor Agreement starting in July 2020 through June 2021 at \$95 an hour and \$47.50 for travel time with senior appraiser work at \$145 an hour. Motion carried (5-0).

Creek Road Solar Proposal. Board members were asked if they had any questions regarding the latest Creek Road Solar project for developer Thomas Hand. No questions were raised.

Selectboard Concerns. None.

Other Business. J. McClallen asked about reviewing the Driveway Policy to ensure new driveways were not causing negative impacts to town roads. It was agreed the Driveway Policy would be an agenda item at the next meeting.

B. Duchesne asked about rude comments left on the Town's Facebook page and whether the comment section could be disabled. Ms. Pytlik said the Facebook page reached a lot of people. It was agreed the town administrator would ask the town clerk/treasurer to disable the comment section if possible.

There was a brief discussion regarding whether Town committees and commissions could return to in-person meetings. Health Officer Trisha Nash recommended continuing meetings via Zoom as gatherings should not be allowed. Board members agreed to continue municipal meetings via Zoom.

Ms. Pylik asked the Board to reconsider appointing her and Kathy Luzader to the Recreation Committee. N. Tift said he did not think it would be appropriate to appoint Ms. Pytlik to the committee at this time as she was engaged in a matter over bike jumps at Stone Meadow, which he said was the topic of ongoing discussions between the Recreation Committee and Conservation Commission. Ms. Pytlik responded she cared about the Town and that was why she wanted to join the committee. N. Tift suggested Ms. Pytlik wait until this matter was resolved before requesting appointment. J. McClallen said the appropriate first step to be appointed to the Recreation Committee would be to contact that committee's chair and express interest in an appointment. He said the committee would then forward any recommendations to the Selectboard. Recreation Committee Chair Trisha Nash and Recreation Committee member Diane Baker agreed with J. McClallen and said appointment requests should start at the committee level. Ms. Nash noted no action would be taken on bike jumps/trails until a public forum could be held to gather community input. Ms. Pytlik described information she had obtained from the Secretary of State's Office regarding appointments. N. Tift said a VLCT attorney had indicated the Board followed proper protocol. After further discussion, P. Pranger reminded meeting attendees Rules of Procedure required all comments and questions be directed to the Board and cross conversations were not allowed.

By consensus, the Board agreed municipal employees may carry over unused vacation time to the next fiscal year due to travel limitations as a result of COVID-19.

J. McClallen said the loud blast that prompted recent speculation as to the source of the noise was a sonic boom from a jet breaking the sound barrier.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Date Approved: 06/15/20

Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator