

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
March 15, 2021

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

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Gary Fredette, Julie Sharon, Steve Libby, Shannon Pytlik, Trisha Nash, Jill Burkett, Debbie Scranton, Alan Held, Carol Macleod, Cassie Ahearn, Mike Robilotto and Tia Poalino.

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer called the Reorganizational Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

S. Switzer asked for nominations for Selectboard Chair. R. Regula nominated N. Tift. B. Duchesne seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. N. Tift was elected chair by a 4-0 vote. (K. Luzader was not in attendance)

N. Tift called for nominations for Vice Chair. J. McClallen nominated R. Regula. B. Duchesne seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. R. Regula was elected vice chair by a 4-0 vote.

By consensus, the Rutland Herald was designated the newspaper of record; date and times of twice monthly Selectboard meetings will be the first and third Mondays of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall (or via Zoom); and the Rules of Procedure for all municipal Committees/Commissions were adopted.

Agenda Amendments. By consensus, the Board added transfer station oil collection and tank removal estimates to the agenda.

Minutes. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by Duchesne to approve the 03/01/21 Informational Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (4-0). K. Luzader abstained as she was not a board member at that meeting. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to approve the 03/01/21 Selectboard Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (4-0). K. Luzader abstained as she was not a board member at that meeting.

Pay Orders. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by J. McClallen to approve the 03/16/21 pay order total of \$30,824.33 after \$30 was added for Initial Ideas - name plates. Motion carried (5-0).

Road Commissioner Report. None.

Annual Financial Plan. B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to approve the Annual Financial Plan to be submitted to VTrans. Motion carried (5-0).

Public Comments. Alan Held, a resident of Tinmouth, requested permission for a key to the tennis court so a group of residents from Tinmouth and Wallingford could use the facility for pickle ball. A discussion ensued. By consensus, the Board agreed to follow the tradition of unlocking the court in mid to late April after the tennis nets were installed.

Adult Dental Care. Tia Poalino, Executive Director of the Rutland Free Clinic, provided an overview of the group's free adult dental care program offered in Rutland County. She was seeking community partners and a space to host two annual events in Wallingford. The space would be utilized to hold private meetings with clients to assess dental needs as well as provide tobacco cessation and immunization information. Ms. Poalino said there would be no municipal financial obligation as she was applying for a grant to cover expenses.

Health Officer Trisha Nash and resident Cassie Ahearn offered to assist and requested the town administrator provide Ms. Poalino with their contact information. The town administrator agreed and said prior to the meeting she had forwarded Rotary, Wallingford Thrift and Gilbert Hart Library contact information to Ms. Poalino. By consensus, the Board agreed to provide a letter of support for the grant application to Ms. Poalino.

Little League. Rutland County Little League President Mike Robilotto provided an overview of the county program. He said Brian Ferguson, who had organized Wallingford Little League in the past, recommended joining the county program this summer.

There was a discussion about field maintenance as there were concerns the ballfields were in need of considerable attention.

K. Luzader asked if the Rutland County group would provide that maintenance in exchange for repairing the fields. Mr. Robilotto agreed to look into it. There was a discussion regarding use of the Long Trail bank account with a balance of about \$2,500 to fund field repairs. The Town has no control over the bank account.

M. Robilotto asked if Wallingford would be interested in joining Rutland County Little League if details regarding field maintenance could be resolved. N. Tift agreed under the condition that the Wallingford Recreation Committee was in charge of the operations.

The town administrator said Jesse Williams would likely be overseeing the softball program, so there would need to be a coordination of field time for practices and games.

By consensus, the Board approved Mr. Robilotto's request to begin advertising for Wallingford youngsters to join Rutland County Little League.

Brown Property. Conservation Commission Chair Carol Macleod said her group had a discussion with Steve Libby, the Executive Director of the VT River Conservancy, and Shannon Pytlik regarding the possible purchase of the Kevin Brown property at 122 Railroad Street to be used for recreational purposes. Selectboard members were provided Minutes of Conservation, Recreation and Fire District #1 meetings related to this

topic, a property map of the site, and emails from state Agency of Natural Resources Engineer Josh Carvajal.

N. Tift listed a number of challenges regarding that parcel, including no Right of Way, lack of parking, and the need for a pedestrian bridge for access. He said a bridge would require an engineering study and survey and he added there would be property tax and water bond obligations.

B. Duchesne said he had researched the cost of studies, design and installation of a 32-foot bridge as outlined by Mr. Carvajal. B. Duchesne estimated costs could run as much as \$96,000.

Mr. Libby said VT River Conservancy was aware of the access issues and he said there were a number of grant resources that could be utilized for the appraisal, property acquisition, land improvements, legal costs, and even the bridge. He estimated the pedestrian bridge would cost closer to \$20,000.

R. Regula raised safety concerns, no Right of Way across the railroad tracks, and parking challenges. R. Regula said the Town had plenty of recreational assets with Elfin Lake, fishing spots, a canoe launch site, ballfields, walking trails, a tennis court, and a playground.

Ms. Ahearn said there was sufficient parking at the nearby ballfield. She added people crossed the railroad tracks every day. N. Tift responded the railroad tracks were private property and crossing the tracks in that location was illegal.

Responding to a question, Ms. Pytlik said the pedestrian bridge would not connect with another private property but would span Roaring Brook from the Brown property to Route 140W. She commented the property would increase recreational opportunities by providing access to wonderful swimming and fishing sites.

K. Luzader asked whether the Town could continue to explore the purchase without investing funds. B. Duchesne said the Selectboard had informed the Conservation Commission months ago the Town was not interested in pursuing this project. He said he agreed with R. Regula there was no added value since the Town already had a lake, canoe access, hiking trails and more. He further noted the Development Review Board had denied permission to build a bridge there in the past.

Ms. Macleod commented it was a beautiful area with potential for walking trails, fishing and swimming. She requested permission to obtain an appraisal on the property, apply for grant funds, and speak to Mr. Brown about a purchase price.

After further discussion, B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by J. McClallen directing the Conservation Commission to cease activity related to the purchase of the Kevin Brown property. Motion carried (3-2). N. Tift and K. Luzader voted in the minority.

Arbor Day Grant. Board members reviewed copies of Ms. Pytlik's Arbor Day Grant application in the amount of \$1,000 for tree plantings at Elfin Lake and Main Street along

with replacing tree identification placards at Stone Meadow. She said there was no local financial match. Ms. Pytlik was provided information related to the municipal Grant Policy featuring required documentation.

Ms. Nash spoke in favor of the grant and said there was a need for shade trees at the lake. After further discussion, the Board approved by consensus Ms. Pytlik's request to submit the application on behalf of the Town. Jill Burkett thanked Ms. Pytlik for her efforts.

Appointments/Reappointments. J. McClallen made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to reappoint Conservation Commissioners Ralph Nimitz, Deborah Scranton 3 yrs; Develop Review Board Bill Brooks 3yrs.; Dog Warden Joseph Elwell 1 yr., E911 Coordinators Eric and Dale Davenport 1 yr.; Energy Committee Katherine MacLaughlan, John Armstrong and Ken Welch 3 yrs.; Fire Protection Budget Committee Michael McMahon 1 year; Planning Commission Erika Berner and Kevin Mullin 3 yrs.; Recreation Committee Diane Baker, Trisha Nash, Michael Luzader, and Tabitha Davis 1 yr.; Road Commissioner Phil Baker 1 yr.; Rutland Reg. Planning Commission Rep. Erika Berner 1 yr.; RRPC Rep Alternate Ken Fredette 1 yr.; Rutland Regional Transportation Council Erika Berner 1 yr.; RRTC Ken Fredette Alternate 1yr. Motion carried (5-0).

Jill Burkett was thanked for her tenure on the Conservation Commission.

B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to appoint Jim Bagnall as Emergency Management Director for 1 year. Motion carried (5-0).

B. Duchesne nominated Rob Barker as tree warden for 1 year. J. McClallen seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Motion carried (5-0).

There were no law enforcement officers appointed as special police officers. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to appoint Robert Cook as Constable for one year. Motion carried (5-0).

J. McClallen made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader authorizing R. Regula to sign weekly payroll warrants. Motion carried (5-0).

B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to appoint K. Luzader and Prudential Committee member Bill Brooks to the Scholarship Committee for 1 year. Motion carried (5-0).

N. Tift advised the town administrator to notify Tree Warden Rob Barker of the Arbor Day Grant.

By consensus, the Board agreed not to appoint a grand juror.

Summer Recreation Program and Elfin Lake. Board members agreed to invite Lisa Cotrupi and Lawrie Roundy to the April 5 meeting to discuss the Summer Recreation Program. K. Luzader offered to research Tapestry programs and swim operations in other communities for COVID related protocols. She said children needed recreational opportunities during the pandemic.

Transfer Station Recertification Plan. R. Regula noted there was a typographical error in the Transfer Station Recertification Plan drafted by Rutland County Solid Waste District's Daniel Hofman. K. Luzader thanked R. Regula, Jim Regula and the town administrator for their efforts the past few months in revising the plan.

B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader authorizing N. Tift to sign the plan with the correction and submit it to the state. Motion carried (5-0).

Pockette Pest Control. By consensus, the Board agreed to Pockette Pest Control's estimate of \$75/spray for hornet and fly management at Town Hall from May through October of 2021.

Vermont Elevator Inspection Services. Board members approved by consensus signing a three-year agreement with Vermont Elevator Inspection Services for fixed rate inspections with no increases.

Liquor Licenses. By consensus, the Board approved liquor license requests for Cumberland Farms, Midway Oil, Mac's Convenience, Sal's, Victorian Inn, and Main Street Cafe.

Transfer Station Oil and Tank Collection. The Board reviewed an estimate from Safety Kleen for the collection of the used oil mixture from the transfer station as well as an estimate from US Ecology for the used oil mixture collection, tank wash, and tank removal. By consensus, the Board approved the US Ecology estimate of \$5,364 as US Ecology was \$1,000 less than Safety Kleen on the used oil portion of the estimate. Safety Kleen did not provide an estimate for the tank wash and removal.

Selectboard Concerns. None..

Other Business. By consensus, the Board approved Jay White's request for the Masons and the Energy Committee to meet in person at Town Hall as long as all COVID related safety precautions were taken, including face masks, maintaining 6-foot safe distancing, and staying home if sick or exposed to someone with COVID.

N. Tift authorized the town administrator to purchase one Elfin Lake test kit from Endyne Lab in Lebanon, NH at a cost of \$25/kit plus \$15 for shipping.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator Date Approved: 04/05/21