

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
April 5, 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, Trisha Nash, Cassie Ahearn, Monica DeLorme, Dan Garceau, Tom Truex, Phil Baker, Lisa Cotrupi, Maria French, Martina Barnes and Robert Faley.

Selectboard Chair Nelson Tift called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Amendments. By consensus, the Board amended the agenda to move district ranger discussion toward the top of the agenda.

Minutes. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by Duchesne to approve the 03/15/21 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

Pay Orders. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to approve the 04/06/21 pay order total of \$32,977.46. Motion carried (5-0).

Road Commissioner Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker reported on road grading activities and indicated Sugar Hill Road would be graded soon.

Mr. Baker described a plan to reduce an ongoing water issue on Prospect Street near Chris Garrow's property by digging a ditch and installing a 4-inch pipe so water will run into a nearby catch basin. Board members by consensus agreed after a brief discussion.

VTrans Plans for Bridge 15 and Village Street Dead End. Mr. Baker relayed a conversation he had with VTrans Robert Faley regarding the state's draft proposal to eliminate Bridge 15 and have the Town take over maintenance of Village Street in East Wallingford. Mr. Baker he would not want any proposal to increase truck traffic on Route 140E. He also advised the state would have to install a turnaround for municipal highway vehicles, pave Village Street, and provide an allotment for sand and salt.

N. Tift expressed support for the state proposal if the state continued to maintain Village Street.

VTrans Robert Faley said the state was at the initial phase of exploring the proposal and wanted to know if the Town was open to taking over maintenance of Village Street and under what conditions or stipulations.

J. McClallen expressed opposition to the proposal and said he thought the state should rehabilitate Bridge 15.

After further discussion, N. Tift indicated the Town would send a letter to Mr. Faley with an overview of the discussion.

District Ranger. Green Mt. National Forest (GMNF) District Ranger Martina Barnes introduced herself to the Board and provided an overview of her coverage territory and duties. She indicated a Scope of Proposed Actions was published quarterly for those interested in GMNF activities. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer indicated the Scope of Proposed Actions was posted on the Documents page of the municipal website.

Road Commissioner Report. N. Tift returned to this agenda item and asked about inviting Project Worksafe to inspect the town garage. J. McClallen suggested a safety person should be appointed to conduct weekly inspections of the garage. N. Tift responded Road Foreman Steve Lanfear was ultimately responsible for maintaining a safe work environment at the facility. R. Regula indicated the stones and rocks around the garage should be removed before the area is mowed. N. Tift reminded Mr. Baker that Safety Data Sheets must be kept up to date. B. Duchesne added secondary containment systems must be used as needed.

Mr. Baker said he would discuss inviting Project Worksafe with the road foreman.

Public Comments. None.

Memorial Day Events. Dan Garceau, Commander of American Legion Post #52, asked what Memorial Day events the Town would authorize. N. Tift responded any activity would be allowed that was within the state COVID-19 regulations.

K. Luzader provided information regarding indoor capacity for gatherings. The town administrator said she had learned from the Mill River Union High School band director that they would not be available. She suggested a cemetery service with possibly a single musician. Mr. Garceau said he knew someone who played the bugle.

Mr. Garceau said the legion would place flags on the gravesites.

After further discussion, Mr. Garceau and Tom Truex agreed to work with Recreation Chair Trisha Nash on a plan for a cemetery service in line with state regulations.

Local Emergency Management Plan. Board members reviewed the annual updates to the Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) as well as the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement.

By consensus, the Board approved both documents.

Board members by consensus approved the town profile for the Emergency Management Preparedness Guide for the Mountain Times.

Bulk Mail Permit. By consensus, the Board approved Susan Cobleigh's request to use the Town's bulk mail permit for a Gilbert Hart Library fundraising letter.

Wallingford Day. Maria French said a committee working on Wallingford Day was interested in organizing another pallet project, yard and tag sales, musical performances at the ballfield in late afternoon and early evening, bring your own picnics, and fireworks. She indicated all state protocol would be met, including safe distancing.

Health Officer Trisha Nash spoke in favor of the event. N. Tift recommended face masks especially with Covid variants found in the state.

Ms. French said her committee would work with the health officer on compliance.

By consensus, the Board agreed with Ms. French's request as long as all state regulations in place at the time were followed.

Summer Recreation Program. Summer Recreation Program Co-Coordinator Lisa Cotrupi said time was becoming a crucial factor in running a summer program this year. She said organizers could utilize the Elfin Lake concession stand and pavilion for morning and afternoon drop off and pickup sites. N. Tift said he would like to see the program run as long as state regulations were followed.

B. Duchesne also expressed support as long as the program was in compliance with state regulations.

K. Luzader indicated other communities were offering summer programs and she favored offering one in Wallingford.

Ms. Nash expressed support for the program. By consensus, the Board agreed to offer a Summer Recreation Program.

Ms. Cotrupi said she would discuss the Board's decision with Co-Coordinator Lawrie Roundy to see if they would both be available to oversee the program this year. She indicated she would offer her support for the program if unavailable.

Elfin Lake. By consensus, the Board agreed to open Elfin Lake for the season. The cost of lifeguard certifications would be reimbursed to employees at the end of the season.

Selectboard Concerns. K. Luzader asked why some Board members were not wearing face masks. R. Regula said she was unable to wear a mask for the duration of the meeting. B. Duchesne said safe distancing protocol was being followed.

Other Business. J. McClallen recommended a timeframe for the pallet project display with a recommended date for pallets to be removed. N. Tift said that suggestion would be forwarded to committee organizers.

Board members agreed to issue a Request for Proposal to paint all exterior wood surfaces at Town Hall, including the clock tower.

K. Luzader asked about a proposal for free Wifi Hotspots in town. Board members said they had explored this proposal in the past and it was initially free, but there were costs associated with it down the road. The town administrator indicated she had posted the

Wifi Hotspot proposal twice on Front Porch Forum for any community organization leaders or business owners interested.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator Date Approved: