

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
May 17, 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, Phil Baker, Shannon Pytlik, Keith Whitcomb, Rodney Ward, Ralph Nimitz, Debbie Scranton, and Carol Macleod.

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

Agenda Amendments. None.

Minutes. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to approve the 05/03/21 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

Pay Orders. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to approve the 05/18/21 pay order total of \$47,813.09 after \$14.99 was added for Zoom. Motion carried (5-0).

R. Regula asked about the high cost of trees purchased as part of the Arbor Day Grant. Shannon Pytlik said Tree Warden Rob Barker selected the trees in keeping with grant size requirements.

Public Comments. Keith Whitcomb of the Rutland Herald asked if callers would identify themselves when addressing the Board.

Summer Recreation Program. The Board reviewed an email from Lisa Cotrupi outlining plans for the Summer Recreation Program, including meeting COVID-19 requirements and creating a meeting spot at the Elfin Lake concession stand. N. Tift advised enrollment be limited to 15 to 20 children. B. Duchesne questioned whether there was space inside the building to keep children a safe distance in order to comply with state COVID-19 requirements. R. Regula expressed concern no lifeguard would be on duty during the morning hours.

By consensus, the Board agreed to proceed with Ms. Cotrupi's recommendations for the Summer Recreation Program. It was noted program coordinators would have to ensure the general public did not access the lake before it opens during the weeks the program meets.

Road Commissioner Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker recommended paving two sections of Church Street, Olde Pine Lane and Florence Avenue this summer with the \$50,000 paving budget. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said she would schedule a site visit with Mr. Baker and paving contractors.

Mr. Baker said the grader, over 20 years old, was out of service and needed repairs. He said it was time to think about purchasing a new one. He said he would research lead time for purchasing a grader as it could take a year.

Mr. Baker said he ordered the road crew to haul gravel until they use up the FY'21 budget.

By consensus, the Board agreed to invite Project WorkSafe to inspect the Town Garage.

Multi Use Trail. Conservation Commission Co-Chair Debbie Scranton provided an overview of the recent history of bikes at Stone Meadow having been banned from all trails except the main trail to the lake. She said there were several people interested in a bike trail. She presented a map prepared by Rodney Ward with a proposed multi-use trail south of the Rim Trail. Ms. Scranton said the Conservation Commission supported creation of the multi-use trail.

Rodney Ward noted there were good site lines for the new trail and it would only have a slight impact on the Lower Bog Trail. He estimated it would be 3/10 of a mile long.

There was a discussion about removing the bike jumps. N. Tift said he had no objection to the multi-use trail but wanted to see the bike jumps removed first. Mr. Ward said volunteers would use material from the bike jumps for construction of the new trail.

After further discussion, K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to approve the multi-use trail at the south end of Stone Meadow as depicted on the map to include material from the bike jumps. Motion approved (3-1). R. Regula voted in the minority and J. McClallen abstained.

Appointments. J. McClallen made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to appoint Tom Fort to a 4-year term on the Conservation Commission. Motion carried (5-0).

R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to appoint Lucy Thayer as a planning commission alternate. Motion carried (5-0).

Honey Sales. There was a discussion regarding the \$340 income from Stone Meadow bee hive honey sales. J. McClallen said he'd like to see honey sales income used to buy more bees. N. Tift said it should follow the business model with revenue coming in and expenses going out with this income going into the general fund.

Ms. Scranton asked if the Conservation Commission could meet in person. N. Tift responded municipal groups could meet on the Town Hall second floor stage with visitors remaining seated on the floor and not the stage. Those not fully vaccinated for COVID-19 were required to wear face masks. All state protocols in place at the time of meetings must be followed.

Water at the Ballfield. N. Tift said the Board had reviewed a similar request for a water source at the ballfield in the past. He said installation and fees were too expensive. B. Duchesne said the water line had been disconnected and capped off.

Ms. Pytlik said there was \$1,200 left in the Little League bank account that could be used to cover costs of installing a water source or repairing the line. She said Cassie Ahearn had contacted Bill Lohsen to inquire if he knew the location of the water line issue. N. Tift said he would like to see water at the ballfield. Ms. Pytlik said the Fire District #1 clerk had informed her water bond fees would be waived and the Town would only be responsible for usage costs. She said an automatic shutoff valve would prevent the water from running when not in use.

N. Tift said Ms. Pytlik should explore all costs and revisit the matter at a future meeting.

Face Masks and COVID-19 Signs. By consensus, the Board agreed COVID-19 related signs at Elfin Lake public beach, the transfer station and ballfield should be removed.

Visitors not fully vaccinated for COVID-19 must wear face masks inside Town Hall and concessions at Elfin Lake, and practice safe distancing on all municipal properties. Protective shields on Town Hall counters and desks would remain in place.

Zoning Administrator Alternate. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to appoint Bill Brooks as zoning administrator alternate to fill in for Erika Berner as needed. Motion carried (5-0).

Town Hall Paint Bids. No bids were submitted for exterior painting at Town Hall. By consensus, the Board agreed to revive the Building Committee for a limited period to consult on major Town Hall projects. Experienced builders, architects, painters, electricians, and plumbers were encouraged to seek appointments.

Northeast Delta Dental. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by J. McClallen to continue with Northeast Delta Dental for municipal fulltime employees with no changes. Motion carried (5-0).

Transfer Station Stickers. After a brief discussion, the Board by consensus agreed to value each sticker at 50 cents or four stickers per small bag.

Town Hall Use Request. By consensus, board members approved Peg Harvey's request to use Town Hall for a scholarship meeting on May 27.

Family Dollar Liquor License. J. McClallen made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve Family Dollar's second class liquor license request. Motion carried (5-0).

Town Hall Lighting Estimate. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader approving Jeff Duchesne's \$1,100 estimate to repair the elevator emergency light and install two new lights near the basement food shelf. Motion carried (4-0). B. Duchesne abstained.

Selectboard Concerns. J. McClallen said he would talk to Jerry Reynolds about being a substitute at the transfer station as needed.

K. Luzader renewed discussion about the Versacourt tile system at the basketball court.

J. McClallen expressed opposition to the municipal use of federal stimulus dollars.

R. Regula noted Jim Regula had repaired and cleaned the concession stand gutters.

B. Duchesne said most of the Elfin Lake public beach retaining wall should be removed except the area near the lifeguard chair.

Other Business. None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator Date Approved: 06/07/21