

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting  
Minutes  
August 2, 2021

Selectboard Members Present: Bruce Duchesne, Kathy Luzader, John McClallen, Rose Regula, and Nelson Tift.

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Julie Sharon, Phil Baker, Trisha Nash, Dave Castonguay, Carol Macleod, Bill Brooks, Luke Molaski, Steve Lanfear and Charlie Woods.

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. at Town Hall. N. Tift made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to enter executive session with Phil Baker, Steve Lanfear, Charlie Woods and Luke Molaski for the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee. Motion carried (5-0).

Executive session ended at 6:38 p.m.

**Agenda Amendments.** The Board added sidewalk discussion with Bill Brooks by unanimous consent.

**Minutes.** B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the 07/19/21 Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

**Pay Orders.** K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the pay order total of \$27,385.90 after \$210.00 was added for Awesome Graphic signs and \$1,475 was added for Jeff Duchesne's Town Hall emergency/exit signs.

Motion carried (4-0). B. Duchesne abstained.

**Road Commissioner Report.** Road Commissioner Phil Baker said the road crew was preparing the White Rocks Picnic Road area for the Grants in Aid work. He said Wilk Paving did a very good job paving Route 140W, a section of Church Street, and Olde Pine Lane.

B. Duchesne said East Street needed roadside mowing and he noted the letter of concern from Eric Davenport. N. Tift noted a complaint about the lack of roadside mowing on Ice Bed Road. Mr. Baker said the Town should double the mowing contract next year as one week was not enough. He also suggested the purchase of a mowing attachment for the excavator at a cost of \$3,000 to \$4,000. P. Baker agreed to ditching on East Street on Tuesday.

J. McClallen asked if a section of Maple Street that was excavated could be smoothed out. Mr. Baker said the road crew would take care of it within the next three weeks.

**Public Comments.** Ron Boucher said Wilk did an excellent job paving Olde Pine Lane. He said the trees near the blinking radar sign on School Street needed to be trimmed. He thanked the road crew for patching potholes on Wallingford Pond Road. He said more material was needed for that road.

**Sidewalks.** N. Tift said he had spoken to Prudential Committee member Bill Brooks about sidewalk maintenance and both sides understood there was an issue with ownership. Mr. Brooks said only Fire District #1 residents would pay taxes on maintenance if it were included in the district budget even though the whole town uses the sidewalks. He recommended both the Town and FD#1 budget \$2,000 each for sidewalks to use as a match for state grants.

Phil Baker asked whether the Historical Society would have input on some sidewalk sections and he wondered about state Right of Way.

B. Brooks and K. Luzader agreed to create a priority list of sidewalks with immediate needs.

B. Duchesne said it was important that both the Town and the fire district agreed to work together.

**Municipal Tax Rate.** K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to set the municipal tax rate at \$0.3936, down from last year's \$0.3972. Motion carried (5-0).

The state set the education homestead rate at \$1.5713 and the non-homestead at \$1.5880.

**Conservation Grant.** Carol Macleod announced Outer Limits, a new bike path at Stone Meadow constructed by Rodney Ward and G.E. volunteers, was completed. She asked if new signage could be installed. By consensus, the Board agreed.

Ms. Macleod said she intended to apply for the ERSA recreational grant with a minimum \$25,000 amount and had asked the Recreation Committee to be a partner. She planned to participate in a grant webinar and the initial paperwork was due August 27. The grant would assist with work on the Rim Trail, cutting back trees, bee equipment, possibly Book Path stations and more.

N. Tift said Ms. Macleod and Recreation Committee Chair Trisha Nash should work together on the application. There was a discussion about an ice rink, a roller rink and other recreation ideas. K. Luzader noted the Recreation Committee had a Wish List and she said possibly some of those projects would fit into the grant.

**Recreation and Energy Minutes.** B. Duchesne said Energy Committee meeting Minutes often featured multiple pages of unnecessary conversation. He said Minutes should not be word for word discussions. K. Luzader said it was difficult to understand topics and the decision-making process detailed in the Minutes. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said she annually provided committee members with VLCT's Rules of Procedures and Open Meeting Law information that included details required in Minutes. Dave Castonguay said he agreed Minutes should be concise and he would address it at the Energy Committee's September meeting.

B. Duchesne asked about the 80-page Energy Plan. Mr. Castonguay said it was bogged down at the Rutland Regional Planning Commission. He said the Energy Committee planned to discuss it in September.

B. Duchesne said the Recreation Committee voted to appoint two new members to create a seven-member group despite being told by the Selectboard a few meetings ago it was a five member group. K. Luzader said Recreation Committee July Minutes indicated there was a

unanimous vote to appoint Shannon Pytlik and Andrew Hjelmhaug. Ms. Nash responded the Minutes were in error and would be revised. K. Luzader said the Minutes needed to be amended to reflect those individuals were not appointed. N. Tift said the Recreation Committee could request the Selectboard seek VLCT advice on removing a member for not attending meetings.

B. Duchesne said at the last meeting, Michael Luzader had scolded the Selectboard for taking no action on water at the ballfield despite the Board instructing Ms. Nash to explore installing water inside the shed. After further discussion, J. McClallen agreed to contact Chris Hayes of Simonds Operation about water at the pump house rather than the shed.

There was also a brief discussion that the Town would not be applying for a grant to address erosion at the Elfin Lake public beach. Ms. Nash agreed the Recreation Committee would not bring up the subject again.

J. McClallen said plates had been ordered for the basketball backboards in an effort to adjust hoop height.

**Heating Oil Bids.** The Board reviewed per gallon heating oil bids from Champlain Valley \$2.45; Sam's U-Save \$2.45; Johnson Energy cost plus 35 cents capped at \$2.599; and Gecha \$2.50. B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to accept Champlain Valley's low bid. Motion carried (5-0).

**Liquor License.** Tabled as there was no application.

**Selectboard concerns.** B. Duchesne raised a concern about parking along Main Street blocking the view of motorists coming off Florence Avenue. R. Regula agreed and said it was the same issue on Elm Street. B. Duchesne asked about making Florence Avenue one way.

N. Tift said the security camera installation estimate for the Elfin Lake public beach was over \$1,000 so he instructed the town administrator to cancel the camera order.

N. Tift said the Stone Meadow bike jumps constructed without permission had still not been removed. K. Luzader said the Selectboard wanted them gone.

B. Duchesne suggested the Conservation/Recreation ERSA grant application could include money for security systems at the ballfield and public beach.

N. Tift said the road commissioner would like to interview the latest applicant for the road crew vacancy. It was agreed that B. Duchesne and J. McClallen would participate in the interview.

**Other Business.** None.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Date Approved: 08/17/21

Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator