

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
August 17, 2021

Selectboard Members Present: Bruce Duchesne, John McClallen, Rose Regula, and Nelson Tift. Kathy Luzader did not attend.

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Anthony Fahoury, Steve Lanfear, Cassie Ahearn, Jay White, Carol Macleod, Ben Layden, and Phil Baker.

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

Agenda Amendments. None.

Minutes. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to approve the 08/02/21 Minutes. Motion carried (4-0).

R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to approve the 08/05/21 Minutes. Motion carried (4-0).

Pay Orders. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to approve the pay order total of \$164,138.98. Motion carried (4-0).

R. Regula noted the high cost of bus transportation for Summer Recreation Program field trips.

Road Commissioner Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker said the road crew installed a plate on the Creek Road Bridge to cover a hole. B. Duchesne said more visible warning signs were needed approaching each end of the bridge. Mr. Baker said the bridge needed full rehabilitation. He said VTrans Brian Sanderson had explained the road commissioner had applied for a Structures Grant this year for the Maple Street retaining wall rather than the Creek Road Bridge, so now the Town was lower on the queue for another bridge grant. N. Tift said floods had caused some of the bridge deterioration and asked about FEMA funds.

Mr. Baker said he would talk to Mr. Sanderson about the state inspecting the bridge to lower the weight limit.

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said residents expressed concern about the condition of the pavement on a section of Homer Stone Road near the Frederick house. Road Foreman Steve Lanfear agreed to inspect it.

Mr. Baker said he would install the logs by the skateboard ramp to prevent vehicles from accessing the area.

There was a brief discussion regarding the Salt and Sand Shed Report submitted by Building Committee member Anthony Fahoury. Mr. Baker said the discussion would need to continue at budget time.

Public Comments. Carol Macleod from the Conservation Commission provided an overview of the work on the Stone Meadow Rim Trail and ADA trail to be included in the state ERSA Trail Grant application due at the end of the month. She said the beach erosion portion would likely not be included in the ERSA grant application as it would not involve trails. B. Duchesne cautioned against doing any work within the 250-foot shoreline buffer. Ms. Macleod said she would get a price for a rain garden for the beach area. Ms. Macleod was thanked for her extensive effort on the grant application.

Town Hall Request for Proposal – Exterior Trim Painting. There was a lengthy discussion with Building Committee members Jay White and Anthony Fahoury regarding a Request for Proposal for Town Hall exterior trim painting, air sealing, blower tests and more. N. Tift and R. Regula said the 17-page document (including technical specifications) would discourage bidders. Mr. White disagreed. B. Duchesne questioned the requirement for blower tests. Mr. White said it would ensure contractors were aware the caulking/sealing was for energy efficiency.

There was a discussion regarding who would complete the final draft of the RFP. Mr. White agreed to remove the architect language in the technical portion and replace it with the term “Owner.” It was agreed the blower test would be included only as an additional expense separate from the main bid.

By consensus, the Board agreed an attorney would not review the RFP.

Mr. White agreed to provide the technical and addendum language in a Word document. Mr. Fahoury agreed to provide the bond and payment language. Mr. White said Building Committee member Joyce Barbieri offered to help the town administrator write the RFP.

Elfin Lake Request. By consensus, the Board denied Cassie Ahearn’s request to use the Elfin Lake public beach and concessions after the closure date.

Ms. Ahearn noted vegetation around the ballfield fences needed trimming. N. Tift said the Town would seek an estimate. S. Switzer asked if the Recreation Committee would consider a work day to spread the chips beneath the playground equipment.

Ms. Ahearn asked about increasing the size of the Recreation Committee to seven members. B. Duchesne said the request had been denied at a previous meeting.

Executive Session. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to enter executive session at 7:54 p.m. with Phil Baker, Steve Lanfear, and Ben Layden for the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee. Motion carried (4-0).

B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to exit executive session at 8:35 p.m. Motion carried (4-0).

N. Tift made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to offer Ben Layden a position on the road crew at a rate of \$23/hour with a \$4,000 health insurance buyout. Motion carried (4-0).

Transfer Station Hourly Rate. N. Tift made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to set Art Nemeth's hourly rate at \$15 once Jim Regula returns to work. Motion carried (4-0).

September Selectboard Meeting. By consensus, the Board agreed to meet on Tuesday, September 7 due to the Labor Day holiday on Monday.

Selectboard concerns. By consensus, the Board denied Jenna Whitehome's fireworks request for Wallingford Lodge.

J. McClallen said the Town should have doubled up on the transfer station cards included in tax bills since punches were doubled.

The town administrator noted the letter from Janice Lynch regarding the Hartsboro Road solar project.

Other Business. None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Date Approved: 09/17/21

Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator