

Wallingford Board of Civil Authority  
Minutes  
March 23, 2022

Board Members Present: Justice of the Peace Wendy Savery, Chair, Maureen Duchesne, Sandy Eddy, Curtis Lidstone, Tom Truex, Kate Goetz, Maria French, and Tony Petrossi; Selectboard member Carolyn Behrendt, Bruce Duchesne, Justin Jankus and Kathy Luzader, and Town Clerk & Treasurer Julie Sharon

Others Present: Ken Fredette, Tony Masuck, Nan Dubin, and Paul Masuck

Board Members Absent: Nik Houghton, Stanley Seward, and Nelson Tift

Chair W. Savery called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

No additions or deletions were made to the agenda.

The minutes of the January 31, 2022 meeting were approved on a motion made by K. Luzader and seconded by K. Goetz. Motion carried. W. Savery and C. Behrendt abstained.

Wendy stated that the purpose of this meeting was to challenge a voter who appears not to live in the town any longer. A petition, signed by 18 residents, was submitted to the Town Clerk on March 3, 2022 requesting that the Wallingford Board of Civil Authority verify the residency of Bruce Moreton. Mr. Moreton currently serves on the Mill River Unified School District board. The petition stated that Mr. Moreton resided at 121 Depot Street until September 2021 when the property went on the market. The petition states that he now appears to be living at 145 Adams Street in Rutland. Although when asked by Ken Fredette, Mr. Moreton told him he was living at his seasonal camp on Wallingford Pond Road in East Wallingford.

T. Petrossi indicated that he had a written response from B. Moreton but declined to read it aloud just yet.

C. Lidstone asked why the Board is changing the challenge procedure. The Board is only choosing to challenge this one voter at this time. However, the Board will still continue to perform its' bi-annual review of the checklist as required by law. J. Jankus arrived late.

Questions were raised whether Mr. Moreton can run for office if his voter status is being challenged or whether he can remain in office.

B. Duchesne made a motion to authorize the Town Clerk to challenge the voter, based on the request put before the Board, and to send challenge letters regularly on its behalf. The motion was seconded by K. Luzader. Motion carried, with C. Lidstone voting no.

Ken Fredette stated that your primary residence determines where you are eligible to vote. He presented a Facebook post of Mr. Moreton's from December 16, 2021 that read "Leaux and I spent some time at camp today.....". Mr. Fredette believes this post does not reflect that Mr. Moreton lives there.

Nan Dubin is a firm believer that school board members should live in the town that they represent. Tony Masuck said that he lives in East Wallingford as well and took the photo of the driveway at Mr. Moreton's property on Wallingford Pond Road. He noted that there was no disturbance of the snow on February 19<sup>th</sup> and observed that to be the case all winter. He never saw smoke from the chimney and knows that this property is a summer camp.

J. Sharon reviewed T.17 §2150, which is the procedure for removing names from the checklist; specifically (5) "in the case of voters who fail to respond to the challenge notice". The statute states that the BCA shall remove the voter's name after the second general election following the date of such notice if he does not reply to the notice. However, Mr. Moreton will have to complete an affirmation of residence before he will be permitted to vote in the future while in the challenged status.

T. Petrossi declined to read Mr. Moreton's response.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m. on a motion made by C. Lidstone and seconded by K. Luzader. Motion carried.

Julie M. Sharon, Town Clerk