

## Wallingford Selectboard

### Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2023

**Selectboard Members Present:** Carolyn Behrendt, Bruce Duchesne, Justin Jankus, Kathy Luzader and Mark Tessier.

**Others present:** Sandi Switzer, Julie Sharon, Steve Lanfear, Laura Stone (VTrans), David Peterson (VTrans), Mark Barone, Greg McKirryher, Gary Fredette, Buster Seward, C. Seward, Kevin Bruno, Sandra Bruno, Vicki Seward, Dave Seward, Denise Young, Ethan Young, Lea Ann Denno, Karen Smith, Steve Hazelton, Sandra Hochberg, Alan Hochberg, Liz Filskov, Dana Rider, Nan Dubin, Joe Eaton, Tony Masuck, Bruce Jones, Kim Jones, Cecile Betit, Charlie Beer, John McClallen, Mark Shea (RCSWD), Breanna Franzoni (RCSWD), Tom Fort, Joseph Donohue, Paul Rondinone, Bob Allen, Barbara Hazelton, Pat Daly, Ron Daly, and Bruce Dobbins. Some members of the public did not sign the visitor sheet.

Selectboard Chair Bruce Duchesne called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Agenda Amendments.** None.

**Minutes.** K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the 03/20/23 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

**Pay Orders.** K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the 04/04/23 pay order total of \$15,837.01. Motion carried (5-0).

**Road Commissioner's Report.** None.

**Honorable Mentions.** Erika Berner for providing homemade baked goods for the Town Hall Concert Series; the Conservation Commission for donating a bench to Town Hall made from the plastic materials brought to the transfer station by residents as part of the Trex program.

**Public Comments.** Gary Fredette requested the Selectboard call for a Board of Civil Authority (BCA) meeting as soon as possible to re-address actions taken at the March BCA meeting; copies of documents/emails from February 15 to March 2 between Town officials and the Secretary of State's office pertaining to the BCA meeting; and the name and contact information of the attorney representing Bruce Morton who contacted the selectboard chair. B. Duchesne said record requests go through the Custodian of Public Records, which is Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon. He added J. Sharon had provided all BCA members with her email exchange with the Secretary of State's office. He agreed to ask the town clerk and treasurer about another BCA meeting.

**Local Concerns Meeting Regarding Bridge 15 and VT Route 155.** VTrans Laura Stone gave a slideshow presentation regarding Bridge 15, VT Route 155, and the Route 103 and 140 intersection with proposed alternatives: do nothing (not an option); convert Bridge 15 into a pedestrian bridge and upgrade the Route 103 and 140 intersection at an estimated \$2 million (preferred alternative); replace Bridge 15 and upgrade the 103 and 140 intersection at an estimated \$20 million. She said federal funds would cover 80 percent of the cost with the state responsible for the remaining 20 percent. Construction would take place in the spring/summer of 2025.

Ms. Stone opened the presentation to comments. Tom Barone spoke in opposition to the permanent closure of Bridge 15. He said the state highway was not wide enough for trucks to maneuver the 103 to 140 intersection without encroaching into the opposing lane. He favored replacement of Bridge 15 along with improvements to the intersection. Mark Barone spoke in favor of full replacement of Bridge 15. Several other residents remarked about the geometric challenges at the intersection, which created issues for cars, trucks and especially commercial vehicles entering/exiting the area. Bruce Dobbins recommended installation of a traffic light and several residents agreed. Sandra Hochberg said Village Street was too narrow for the volume of traffic and she added the 103/140 intersection needed to be widened. Paul Rondinone, Cecile Betit and Dave Seward noted Bridge 15 survived Irene and was an evacuation route when other roads/bridges were closed. Dave Seward also expressed concern on behalf of the East Wallingford Fire Department that the current detour prohibited left turns from the village onto Route 103. He said Bridge 15 should not be closed permanently for safety reasons. Lea Ann Denno asked VTrans to look into the accident reports for the 103/140 intersection. Dennis Contrea, a school bus driver, said the 103/140 intersection was problematic in both directions and signage was an impediment. Several residents requested improved detour signs as well as better placement. Joe Donohue expressed concern about traffic speed on Village Street and Route 140 and requested the installation of rumble strips or speed bumps. Road Foreman Steve Lanfear opposed construction of a cul-de-sac to be used as a turnaround should the bridge remained closed. A few residents expressed support for Bridge 15 to be converted to a pedestrian bridge with improvements to the 103/140 intersection. Several other residents supported full rehabilitation of the structure with intersection upgrades. A couple asked about Right of Way issues involving private property.

Ms. Stone said she would share the public input with VTrans officials for short term and long range planning, review options for detour signage and consider a traffic signal.

**Rutland County Solid Waste District USDA Grant.** Rutland County Solid Waste District's Mark Shea provided an overview of a USDA Grant to spearhead an effort to increase recycling and compost rates in 12 Rutland County towns (including Wallingford) through educational and community outreach. He explained the process would include surveys, mailings, webinars, in-person and Zoom meetings, and presentations at gatherings throughout the spring, summer and fall. He noted there would be incentives

for participation with the goal to increase diversion rates with fewer recyclables and compostable items mixed into the solid waste stream saving the Town and residents money.

**Phil Baker and Sons Road Maintenance Agreement.** By consensus, the Board authorized B. Duchesne to sign the Phil Baker and Sons Road Maintenance Agreement.

**Elfin Lake Concession Stand and Lifeguard Applications.** By consensus, the Board agreed to hire Adam Luzader, Annika Heinz, Charlie Burch and Kathleen Ahearn to work at the Elfin Lake concession stand this summer and hire Ari LeFebre as lifeguard. Board members confirmed the minimum hiring age of 16, including a Summer Recreation Program junior counselor.

C. Behrendt asked if a deadline should be set to hire a counselor for the Summer Rec program in order to provide ample notice to participants should it not operate this year. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said she would discuss this matter with Co-Directors Lisa Cotrupi and Lawrie Roundy.

**Tobacco and Liquor License Permits.** By consensus, the Board approved tobacco and/or liquor license requests as presented in a spreadsheet by the town clerk and treasurer.

**Local Emergency Operational Plan and NIMS; Emergency Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement.**

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to approve the Local Emergency Operational Plan and NIMS. Motion carried (5-0).

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to approve the Emergency Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement. Motion carried (5-0).

**Selectboard Concerns.** M. Tessier said he would be exploring the collection of property taxes for utility poles in right of ways.

Board members agreed to review and revise a Request for Proposal for Town Hall exterior painting at the next meeting.

**Other Business.** Gary Fredette asked for the name of the attorney who contacted the selectboard chair as part of the BCA matter last month. B. Duchesne replied it was Rodney McPhee.

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to adjourn at 9:07 p.m.

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 17th Day of April, 2023 Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt \_\_\_\_\_

Bruce Duchesne \_\_\_\_\_

Justin Jankus \_\_\_\_\_

Kathy Luzader \_\_\_\_\_

Mark Tessier \_\_\_\_\_