

## Wallingford Selectboard

### Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2023

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

**Others present:** Sandi Switzer, Phil Baker, Jim Bagnall, Anne Awad, Debbie Scranton, Robert Soule, Peg Soule, Carol Macleod, David Johnson, Cecil Betit, Bruce Dobbins, Robert Allen, Sumio Seo, and Michael Harlow-Jankus.

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

**Agenda Amendments.** None.

**Minutes.** M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to approve the 04/17/23 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (4-0). K. Luzader abstained as she was not at the meeting.

**Pay Orders.** K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to approve the 05/02/23 pay order total of \$1,536,782.05 after \$555 was added for However Wild Honey. Motion carried (5-0).

**Road Commissioner's Report.** Road Commissioner Phil Baker reported the road crew had been grading roads including Hartsboro, West Hill and Sugar Hill. He said the road crew started the Maple Street retaining wall project. It was agreed this VTrans Structures grant project would largely be done in-house with Phil Baker and Sons assisting with equipment and labor as needed per the Road Maintenance Agreement (due to the Town not owning all necessary equipment).

Mr. Baker said the Buffalo turbine blower was delivered to the town garage and would require a \$600 attachment plate for the loader. He said piping would need to be purchased if the Town ordered the mower attachment for the excavator. He said he would double check the \$155 estimate.

J. Jankus showed Mr. Baker a photograph of a sewer drain cover on Prospect Street that had separated. Mr. Baker said he would inform Chris Hayes of Simons Operations. C. Behrendt asked how long a section of Route 140E would be one-lane. Mr. Baker said he had not been apprised of the project by VTrans.

**Mower Attachment.** Mr. Baker provided an estimate from Rut Mfg. Inc. for an excavator tree slayer/Cat 307.5. He explained the company would provide a receipt after the signed purchase order was submitted along with a \$1,000 deposit.

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader authorizing B. Duchesne to sign the purchase order for the Rut Mfg. Inc mower attachment at a cost of \$5,989. Motion carried (5-0). Mr. Baker said it would be delivered within 6 to 8 weeks.

**Honorable Mentions.** Tom Fort for assembling a bench for the front steps of Town Hall with the bench material comprised of the plastics collected as part of the transfer station's Trex program; Wallingford residents who will be helping out on Green Up Day on Saturday, May 6.

**Public Comments.** None.

**Conservation Commission.** By consensus, the Board authorized B. Duchesne to sign a letter (as recommended by the Conservation Commission) to be sent to Rodney Ward requesting his status update as a commission member.

Debbie Scranton said commissioners Carol Macleod and Jane Quigley painted the bee hives at Stone Meadow.

**ARPA Funding Recommendations.** ARPA Committee Chair Peg Soule congratulated the Selectboard for selecting committee members with diverse perspectives who were effective in bringing different experiences/expertises to the committee to review applications and make recommendations. Ms. Soule thanked Town Administrator Sandi Switzer for her support throughout the process. The committee chair then summarized her report provided to Board members that featured 27 applications divided into sub-categories: Health and Safety; Impact the Whole Town; Impact Part of the Town; Recommended for Funding Now; Recommended for Funding later (wait to see if alternate grant applications were approved); did not recommend funding; applications withdrawn.

After a brief discussion, B. Duchesne advised the Board to schedule a separate meeting to review and act on the ARPA Committee's funding recommendations. K. Luzader said she appreciated the ARPA Committee's report with comprehensive explanations. ARPA Committee Vice Chair Anne Awad said the committee had been charged with funding projects in different parts of Town so South Wallingford and East Wallingford were represented in recommendations. B. Duchesne congratulated the ARPA Committee for their work and thanked members for their service to the community.

**Appointments.** By consensus, the Board appointed Bruce Dobbins to serve as Rutland County Solid Waste District representative. By consensus, the Board declined to appoint Mr. Dobbins as Development Review Board alternate as his wife serves as Zoning Administrator, which is a function of the DRB.

**Social Media Policy.** K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to approve the Social Media Policy with the municipal website and Facebook pages as Government Speech Forums rather than Limited Public Forums with the town clerk and treasurer as moderator for the municipal Facebook page and the town administrator as moderator of the municipal website. Motion carried (5-0).

**Town Hall Use Requests.** By consensus, the Board approved a request by Wendy Savery to use Town Hall on May 20<sup>th</sup> for a Delta Kappa Gamma Fellowship annual meeting and a request by Chris Heinz to use Town Hall on June 3 as a rain location for a Plumb Bob concert fundraiser to benefit cancer research (concert scheduled for outdoors at Wallingford Rotary on North Main Street). Board members waived fees and requested an insurance certificate from Wallingford Rotary for the concert.

**VEM Generator Grant.** Emergency Management Director Jim Bagnall said the Town had exhausted all avenues to move forward with the Vermont Emergency Management grant to purchase a generator for Town Hall. VEM/FEMA delays (still waiting for final EHP approval) would make it nearly impossible to meet the purchase and installation deadline of September 15. Mr. Bagnall suggested purchasing a smaller generator without VEM funds. M. Tessier advised considering the Wallingford Rescue Squad site as the emergency location as they were in the process of purchasing a generator with ARPA funds. Ms. Soule reminded board members town hall was the emergency evacuation site for Wallingford Elementary School. B. Duchesne said ARPA funds may be available for the Town Hall generator. He thanked Mr. Bagnall and the town administrator for all the time they had spent on the VEM grant application.

**Memorial Day Parade.** By consensus, the Board approved the Recreation Committee's request to have Town Constable Robert Cook assist with traffic control during the Memorial Day Parade with no Release required as he would be working in his capacity as a municipal official.

**Lifeguard/Counselor.** Board members reviewed Samuel Groom's application for counselor/lifeguard. K. Luzader said she had known Mr. Groom most of his life and believed he would bring his valuable experiences as an outdoor person, medic, skier, swimmer and lifeguard to the position. It was noted Mr. Groom would be in training starting August 12<sup>th</sup> and unavailable for the fourth week of the Summer Recreation Program. J. Justin made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to hire Samuel Groom as counselor and lifeguard. Motion carried (5-0). Board members tabled a decision on Olive Skiathitis' counselor/lifeguard application until Co-Directors Lisa Cotrupi and Lawrie Roundy can work out hours while keeping within the FY'24 Summer Rec Salary budget. Board members agreed to set Mr. Groom's hourly rate at the next meeting.

**Selectboard Concerns.** None.

**Other Business.** J. Jankus asked Recreation Committee Chair Sumio Seo when the baby swings would be installed at the Meadow Street park. Mr. Seo responded a new swing would be installed soon and he noted someone had slashed the other recently installed baby swing. B. Duchesne said the portable restroom at the ballfield had also been vandalized.

B. Duchesne reported 1,543 pounds of plastic had been recycled as part of the Trex Program at the transfer station. He said a new Trex bench would be located at the facility as a reward for the recycling.

B. Duchesne said the Sidewalk Committee was convening on Thursday to review an estimate for design. Bruce Dobbins said after that meeting he would be getting an update on the status of the Creek Road Bridge (town owned) and the Route 155 bridge (state owned).

B. Duchesne said both the Town and Tim Harte from Mill River Unified Union School District signed the Operations and Maintenance Agreement for the WES Stormwater System. By consensus, the Board directed the town administrator to contact Nanci McGuire of Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District to pursue construction funding.

B. Duchesne announced the River Mountain Valley Boys would be performing at the Town Hall Concert Series on Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to adjourn at 7:23 p.m.

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 15th Day of May, 2023 Wallingford Selectboard

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

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

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

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

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