

## Wallingford Selectboard

### Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2023

**Selectboard Members Present:** Carolyn Behrendt, Bruce Duchesne, and Kathy Luzader. Justin Jankus and Mark Tessier did not attend.

**Others present:** Sandi Switzer, Julie Sharon, Art Peterson, Elizabeth Blaisdell, Ira Frederick, Shannon Pytlik, and Eric McKee.

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 08/07/23 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (3-0).

**Pay Orders.** K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the 08/22/23 pay order total of \$11,383.45. Motion carried (3-0).

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

~ Deer Run Lane. Elizabeth Blaisdell and Ira Frederick requested their private road off Route 7 be named Deer Run Lane. B. Duchesne noted the E911 Coordinators would appropriately number it. He said he had no objection as long as they paid for the street sign, post and freight. They agreed. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to name the private road Deer Run Lane after Elizabeth Blaisdell and Ira Frederick paid for the sign, freight and post. Motion carried (3-0).

**Grader Financing.** Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon said she obtained a quote from Community Bank for a 7-year loan to finance the grader in the amount of \$266,500 with 4.93% interest. She said the State of Vermont only loans up to \$110,000 and TD Bank had a higher interest rate than Community Bank the last time she checked.

K. Luzader said the Revenue Augmentation Trust could be used in the future to reduce or payoff the loan. B. Duchesne added there was no penalty to pay off the loan early. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to borrow \$266,500 from Community Bank at 4.93% interest over 7 years for the purchase of a new grader. Motion carried (3-0).

**Honorable Mentions.** Jerry Reynolds for voluntarily mowing the transfer station property with his own tractor; Jane Quigley and Dennis Duhaime for mowing the walking paths and trimming at Stone Meadow; and Sandi Switzer on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Wallingford Town Administrator.

**Flag Football.** Eric McKee introduced himself and said he would be taking over flag football from Art Peterson (who operated the program under the auspices of Town Recreation). He requested use of the recreation fields for two practices a week and one game on the weekend. B. Duchesne said the Town required waivers from participants. Mr. Peterson said he would provide and collect the waivers. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said if the Board approved the request he should get keys from Mr. Peterson for the storage shed and gate. Mr. Peterson agreed. The town administrator asked Mr. McKee to ensure all gates entering/exiting the ballfields were secured to prevent injuries to citizens or damage to vehicles. She advised they would need to coordinate all flag football activities and use of the ballfields with the Recreation Committee. Shannon Pytlik (a member of the Recreation Committee) noted the conditions of the fields after the July flood. By consensus, the Board approved Mr. McKee's request.

**Public Comments.** The town administrator said she along with Mr. Peterson, Emergency Management Director Jim Bagnall and several members of Gov. Phil Scott's cabinet toured flood damaged Creek Road and River Street last Friday. She said they met with a number of residents who provided detailed accounts of evacuating homes during the flood, damage to their properties, and post flood recovery efforts. Mr. Peterson said state Agency of Natural Resources should study the river and take necessary action to reduce the impact of future flood events.

Shannon Pytlik shared her concerns as a private citizen regarding the process by which projects were undergoing municipal review/approval in the flood way. She questioned whether thorough reviews were being performed by the Development Review Board (DRB) and zoning administrator; she said meetings were not Warned properly; DRB and planning meeting Minutes were not available within the required 5 days; and she advised more oversight was needed especially in the industrial zone. She expressed concern regarding Town liability as a result of decisions being made. K. Luzader asked if Ms. Pytlik would put her concerns in writing for the Board and Ms. Pytlik agreed.

**Ballroom Dancing.** By consensus, the Board approved the Recreation Committee's request for Patti Panebianco to teach Ballroom Dance classes at Town Hall for a small fee as long as she provided an insurance certificate and collected waivers from participants.

The town administrator said an individual led a yoga class at Elfin Lake for the Summer Recreation program. She said she asked the program director for the individual's contact information to find out whether there was interest in holding yoga classes at the lake next summer for all ages. The town administrator said she would provide details to the Recreation Committee.

**Elfin Lake Public Beach Erosion.** B. Duchesne said Fitzgerald Associates was moving forward with preliminary erosion reduction designs as follows for the three zones at Elfin Lake Public Beach as depicted in renderings:

*Zone 1 Exit - Option 2, Trench Drain and swale/rain garden*  
*Zone 2 Hill - Option 1, Rocky Swale and Basin; Path to remain*  
*Zone 3 Beach - Option 2, Two Basins with Boulders + fishing dock*

B. Duchesne said survey results showed those were the most popular choices among attendees of an onsite gathering with Fitzgerald Associates as well as those studying the renderings post gathering. Ms. Pytlik expressed support for removal of the existing walkway to the north of the concession stand as the impervious surface was contributing to erosion problems. She said traffic flow would be improved with a main entrance to the south of the structure and she added the Recreation Committee was exploring options for building renovations and a new layout. Ms. Pytlik’s email outlining her comments and concerns was provided to Board members at the start of meeting. There was a discussion regarding the process by which design decisions were being made with Ms. Pytlik stressing public funds were being used for the project and decisions made should be part of a public process.

**Health Officer Appointment Recommendation.** K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to recommend Trisha Nash be appointed Town Health Officer by the state Dept. of Health. Motion denied (2-1). C. Behrendt voted “no.” She asked for the position to be advertised.

**Recreation Committee Resignation.** By consensus, the Board accepted Raven Crispino’s resignation from the Recreation Committee. The vacancy will be posted.

**Town Hall Boiler Replacement.** This matter was tabled until the full Board was present.

**September Selectboard Meeting.** By consensus, the Board moved the first meeting next month to Tuesday, September 5 as the first Monday was a holiday.

**Selectboard Concerns.** K. Luzader said she would like to see Elfin Lake public beach stay open later in the summer if the workforce was available.

**Other Business.** There was a discussion regarding the Vermont Emergency Management Buyout Program for flood prone properties. The town administrator said two property owners were interested in participating and the item would be on the September 5 agenda.

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Motion carried (3-0)

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 5th Day of September, 2023 Wallingford Selectboard

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

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

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

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

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