

Wallingford Selectboard

Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2024

Selectboard Members Present: Carolyn Behrendt, Rob Barker, Justin Jankus, Kathy Luzader, and Mark Tessier.

Others present: Sandi Switzer, David Cornwell, Shannon Pytlik, Mark Noble, Sandra Hochberg, Theresa Ahlers, Robert Ahlers, Jessie Prucnal, Martina Barnes, Stacy Stratton, Maria French, Barbara Boucher, Lawrie Roundy and Greg McCormack from Peg-TV.

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer called the reorganizational meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked for nominations for Selectboard Chair. R. Barker nominated K. Luzader and J. Jankus seconded the nomination. C. Behrendt nominated M. Tessier and K. Luzader seconded the nomination. K. Luzader was elected chair, (4-1).

K. Luzader asked for nominations for Vice Chair. K. Luzader nominated R. Barker and C. Behrendt nominated M. Tessier. J. Jankus seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. M. Tessier was elected vice chair (5-0).

J. Jankus made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to designate the Rutland Herald as the newspaper of record. Motion carried (5-0). M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to set the date and times of twice monthly Selectboard meetings to be the first and third Mondays of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall. Motion carried (5-0). J. Jankus made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to adopt Rules of Procedure for Municipal Bodies and consensus decision making. Motion carried (5-0).

Agenda Amendments. By consensus, the Board added a Sidewalk Committee appointment to Appointments and Reappointments.

Minutes. J. Jankus made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the 03/04/24 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (4-0). R. Barker abstained as he was not on the Board.

J. Jankus made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to approve the 03/04/24 Informational Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (4-0). R. Barker abstained as he was not on the Board.

Pay Orders. J. Jankus made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the 04/02/24 pay order total of \$51,769.80. Motion carried (5-0).

Road Commissioner's Report. None. By Consensus, the Board approved the Annual Financial Plan for the Highway Dept. based on the voter approved fiscal year 2025 budget as required by VTrans to be eligible for paving and structures' grants.

M. Tessier said Elan City had sent the wrong flashing radar signs as they do not meet state specifications (amber only with no messaging). The company shipped three replacement signs and would retrieve those previously sent. By consensus, the Board agreed to an even swap rather than keep any extra signs.

By consensus, the Board agreed the Town would not purchase private road street signs (Jessup Way), but would install them if a resident(s) pays for the actual sign and freight.

Honorable Mentions. Dennis Duhaime and Denise Eddy for putting together the newest Trex bench given to the Town for plastic recycling efforts; Anthony & Kim Fahoury for donating to the monthly newsletter;

Public Comments. None.

Green Mt. National Forest (GMNF). Martina Barnes, Stacy Stratton and Jessie Prucnal provided an overview of plans for the year. M. Barnes said GMNF was in the process of acquiring 468 acres abutting the White Rocks Gateway (just west of the entrance) from Trustees of Public Land and expected to close on the sale within this calendar year. She said a parking area may be created. She noted flood damage repairs to the Homer Stone Trail would be undertaken along with replacement of a nearby Appalachian Trail bridge. J. Prucnal outlined logging operations and provided a map to be available at Town Hall. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer asked about road damage from the logging operation. S. Stratton responded GMNF had no jurisdiction on public roads but would be willing to facilitate a meeting between the Town and logging operators. Theresa Ahlers said she lived near the logging operation and could attest to the road damage.

Municipal Committee/Commission Chairs. K. Luzader said the Selectboard wanted to meet annually with municipal groups to discuss roles, budgets and activities.

Wallingford Day's Maria French provided an overview of the annual event's activities with music, food trucks, fireworks, bike parade, and more. She said the group was working on a banner for Route 7 as the Board gave permission last year for the display. She said Wallingford Block would be celebrating its 200th birthday and would be hosting a dessert event. M. French said Wallingford Day subcommittee members were interested in including an item on next year's Town Meeting Warning to create a Reserve Fund for donations dedicated to the annual event.

Shannon Pytlik of the Recreation Committee said workdays for the recreational area and ballfields had been scheduled on April 6 and 27th. She requested permission to bring items from the ballfield to the transfer station. She noted Rutland County Little League would be supporting the clean up effort and purchasing bases for the ballfields. M. Noble said the clay washed away in the July flood would need to be replaced. S. Pytlik requested permission to apply for a Vermont Community Foundation grant available to towns impacted by last summer's flood. She said the grant amount of \$4,550 would be used as a match toward FEMA funds to repair the flood damage, a mural, movies, music and possibly a community breakfast.

S. Pytlik said the \$1,200 allotted to bring water to the park would be used to replace the faucet with a vandal proof handle. D. Cornwell suggested at some point installing a water station that could be turned on and off for events.

S. Pytlik said the committee was working on items identified during a VLCT inspection of the park facilities last year that needed to be addressed. There was a discussion regarding creation of a soccer field and purchasing balls and other equipment. Other Rec activities being discussed included a Chess night, pickleball events, and summer movies.

By consensus, the Board approved replacing the faucet with a vandal proof handle, applying for the Vermont Community Foundation grant, repairing flood damaged fields in anticipation of FEMA reimbursement, and bringing workday clean up items to the transfer station.

Dog Registration Late Fees. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to move late fee penalties for dog registrations from April 1 to April 8, 2024 due to the weather related cancellation of a rabies clinic. Motion carried (5-0).

Annual Appointments/Reappointments. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to appoint/reappoint as follows: Denise Eddy, Ralph Nimtz and Debbie Scranton for 3 year terms on the Conservation Commission; Constable Robert Cook for 1 year; Beth Blaisdell on DRB for 3 years; Dog Warden Joseph Elwell 1 year; E911 Coordinators Dale and Eric Davenport 1 year; Emergency Mgt Director Jim Bagnall 1 year; John Armstrong, Katherine MacLaughlan and Ken Welch 3 years on Energy Co; Michael McMahon Fire Protection Budget Committee 1 year; Erika Berner, Kevin Mullin on the Planning Commission 3 years; Bruce Dobbins as Rutland County Solid Waste Rep and Rutland Reg. Transportation Council Rep 1 year each; David Cornwell, Shannon Pytlik, Brian Ferguson, Mark Noble for Recreation for 1 year; Erika Berner as Rutland Reg. Planning Commission Rep 1 year; and Tree Warden Rob Barker for 1 year. Motion carried (4-0). R. Barker abstained as he was up for reappointment as tree warden.

S. Pytlik questioned why Recreation Committee appointments were for one year rather than three years. By consensus, the Board changed the term to three years.

By consensus, the Board appointed Tammy Heffernan as town moderator for one year; Chelsey LaRock as auditor to serve until Town Meeting; Phil Baker as road commissioner for one year; Carolyn Behrendt on the Scholarship Committee for one year; and Bruce Duchesne on the Sidewalk Committee until it disbands.

Summer Employees – Positions for the Public Beach and Summer Camp to Hire and Hourly Rates. Lawrie Roundy said she would be willing to serve as director (she's been co-director for several years) and requested to run the camp for five weeks rather than four. L. Rounds said Olive Skiathitis would return as counselor and Max Roundy (Lawrie's son) was interested in being a junior counselor. She presented the budget and hourly rates as follows:

Weeks- June 24-28; July 1-5 no camp on the 4.; July 8-12 {additional week}; Aug 5-9; Aug 12-16. Camp Hours 8:00-4:30.

Hourly Rates and Approximate Hours : \$10,000 budgeted.

Lisa Cotrupi-\$20, Lawrie Roundy- \$20, Olive Skiathitis- \$16.50, Max Roundy - \$15.50.

Lisa- 20 hours, random-\$400; Lawrie 7:45-2:15 6.5 per day \$130 x 24= \$3,120 includes +40 prep hours before, during, and after camp=\$800; Olive 10:00-4:00 daily for \$99 x 24= \$2,376; Max 10:30-4:30 daily for \$93 x 24=\$2,232; Total \$8,928. L. Roundy said this would leave enough leeway for field trip days when all three counselors would be needed. She said if the camp takes 20 children per week, the income would be \$1700 weekly. At 5 weeks, the total would be \$8,500. L. Roundy said she thought with three strong staff scheduled everyday, the camp could safely take 24 children, equaling \$2,040, which would bring our 5-week revenue to \$10,200.

C. Behrendt noted L. Roundy was the only adult operating the camp and would need to be present during camp hours. After further discussion, the camp hours were amended to 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily with L. Roundy or Lisa Cotrupi as backup present during those hours. By consensus, the Board agreed on five weeks with recommended hourly rates for Lisa Cotrupi, Lawrie Roundy, Olive Skiathitis and Max Roundy. It was noted funds were not budgeted for public beach lifeguards this summer. Olive Skiathitis would seek her lifeguard certification for the camp. The Board agreed to rehire Autumn Farmer and Kate Ahearn for concession operations at minimum wage. K. Luzader noted two other people would still need to be hired for concessions.

Sandra Hochberg suggested unique t shirts for campers so the lifeguard could readily identify campers.

Local Emergency Operational Plan (LEMP). M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Barker authorizing the Board chair to sign documents adopting the LEMP and NIMS. Motion carried (5-0).

Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement and Designees. M. Tessier made a motion seconded by J. Jankus to approve the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement and designees. Motion carried (5-0).

Development Review Board Alternates. K. Luzader noted the Development Review Board had its own set of Rules of Procedure and ought to review wording and amend language as needed related to alternates participation at hearings (as a town official and as a private individual). C. Behrendt noted they needed to further define alternate(s) and when they should be used. J. Jankus questioned why the DRB did not use the Municipal Rules of Procedures. After further discussion, the Board agreed to recommend the DRB review the municipal and DRB rules, merge where possible; and clearly define alternate procedure language.

Second Class Tobacco and Liquor Licenses for Family Dollar. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to approve second class liquor and tobacco licenses for Family Dollar. Motion carried (5-0).

Selectboard Concerns. R. Barker said he was exploring a Shade Tree Preservation Commission to conduct an inventory of trees in rights-of-way and public places and identify sites for future plantings. He said an ordinance would eventually need to be adopted related to this work.

Other Business. K. Luzader noted Rutland County Solid Waste District wanted to conduct three rather than two Household Hazardous Waste Collection days at the Wallingford Transfer Station which would necessitate the facility be opened on one of the days for an hour longer. There was no objection.

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. Motion carried (5-0)

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 15th Day of April in the year 2024:

Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Rob Barker _____

Justin Jankus _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Mark Tessier _____