

Wallingford Selectboard

Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2024

Selectboard Vice Chair Mark Tessier called the regular Selectboard meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard Members Present: Rob Barker, Carolyn Behrendt, and Mark Tessier. Justin Jankus and Kathy Luzader did not attend the meeting.

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Julie Sharon, Tom Fort, Michael Hughes, and Devon Neary.

Agenda Amendments. By consensus, donations to a Boy With the Boot fund and a Building Use Request were added.

Minutes. R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the 09/03/24 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (3-0).

Pay Orders. C. Behrendt made a motion that was seconded by R. Barker to approve the 09/17/24 pay order total of \$81,080.98. Motion carried (3-0).

Road Commissioner's Report. None. R. Barker (as tree warden) said he would be meeting with the road commissioner regarding trees on East Street to be cut. M. Tessier noted Phil Baker's roadside mower was being repaired. He suggested contacting neighboring towns about rental options.

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer passed on a resident's concerns about faded crosswalks near the Route 140W bridge. Road Commissioner Phil Baker said he would discuss it with the road crew.

Honorable Mentions. Dennis Duhaime for removing a fallen tree from a trail at Stone Meadow; Rutland Reg. Planning Commission's Nic Stark for creating street maps free of charge for Wallingford Rescue.

Public Comments. None.

Center for Tech and Civic Life Grant Agreement. By consensus, the Board directed Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon to sign the Center for Tech and Civic Life Grant Agreement. The award in the amount of \$5,000 with no local match would be used to purchase a laptop and printer for voter registration and a security camera for Town Hall.

Town Hall Heating and Cooling. Board members reviewed the lone estimate for a Town Hall heat pump project that was submitted by Bill Lohsen Plumbing and Heating. After review, C. Behrendt made a motion seconded by R. Barker to approve \$14,150 for System 1 as outlined in the bid. Motion carried (3-0). R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve \$11,280 for System 2 as outlined in the bid. Motion carried, (3-0). Once installed, the Town would be eligible for rebates.

Energy Committee Chair Tom Fort said an Efficiency VT representative confirmed the Town would be eligible for rebates for systems detailed in the bid. He noted Green Mt. Power offered \$10,000 in additional incentives to the Town to move away from fossil fuel systems. He said the next step

would be to obtain estimates for the electrical component of the heat pump installation project. There was a brief discussion regarding concrete pads verses brackets for condensers installed in the rear of the building. M. Tessier said stands on pads (poured by the road crew) would be part of the project. He noted no components should be attached to the building.

R. Barker raised the issue of boiler replacement. Mr. Fort said the Board agreed to gather one year of data from the heat pumps before deciding the next course of action for heating and cooling at Town Hall. R. Barker asked how much was in the Building Fund for a new boiler. J. Sharon replied \$127,000. C. Behrendt reiterated the Board made the decision at a previous meeting to wait and see how the new system worked this winter.

Mr. Fort advised solar could offset electrical costs of the heat pumps. He said two options included municipally owned and solar leased. He said the remote net metering program was being phased out, therefore a Certificate of Public Good would need to be obtained by the end of the year. There was a discussion about rooftop solar on the town garage and whether the building could support the load. Mr. Fort said he would research it and report back to the Board at the next meeting. Board members deferred action on the Energy Committee drafting a Request for Proposal for solar.

Wallingford Fire Dept. Coin Drop. By consensus, the Board approved Wallingford Fire Department Fire Chief Michael Hughes' request to hold a coin drop on Main Street on October 12 with a rain date of October 13.

Rutland Reg. Planning Commission Road Erosion Inventory Agreement. By consensus, the Board approved an agreement between the Town and Rutland Reg. Planning Commission (RRPC) to conduct a Road Erosion Inventory as required by the state's Municipal Roads General Permit. Total to be paid to RRPC is \$8.096 (20 percent in-kind local match) with work to be completed by 10/31/27. The Town was awarded a Better Roads grant for this project.

Selectboard Concerns. R. Barker asked if the Board should post an item in the monthly newsletter urging voters to approve an article on the November election ballot related to amended zoning regulations. Board members agreed on a newsletter item reminding residents to vote on the article.

Rutland Reg. Planning Commission Transportation "The Bus" Representative. RRPC Executive Director Devon Neary called into the meeting to urge the Board to appoint a municipal representative to the Marble Valley Regional Transit District Board or The Bus. He said there were only two municipal representatives currently serving with the likelihood of two more joining. He said Wallingford is on the Manchester route and should be represented on the district committee. The group meets on Tuesday mornings once a month and only 9 times per year. Board members agreed to post the opening.

Other Business. By consensus, the Board approved a Building Use request by Jordan Jankus to use the second floor of Town Hall for a Green Mt. Neighbors gathering on October 24, 2024 for a program on Vermont assistive technology.

By consensus, the Board agreed to establish a donation fund for Boy With the Boot repair/restoration or related projects. Checks should be made out to Town of Wallingford, 75 School Street, Wallingford, VT 05773.

By consensus, the Board approved a grant application Letter of Support for the implementation of erosion reduction measures at Elfin Lake public beach.

R.; Barker made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 7th Day of October in the year 2024:

Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Rob Barker _____

Justin Jankus _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Mark Tessier _____