

## Wallingford Selectboard

### Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2024

Selectboard Chair Kathy Luzader called the regular Selectboard meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

**Others present:** Sandi Switzer, Julie Sharon, Tom Fort, Phil Baker, Denise Eddy, Ralph Nimtz, Steffanie Bourque and Zach Cavacas.

**Agenda Amendments.** None.

**Minutes.** M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the 09/16/24 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (3-0). J. Jankus and K. Luzader abstained as they did not attend the meeting.

**Pay Orders.** M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to approve the 10/08/24 pay order total of \$64,019.17. Motion carried (5-0).

**Honorable Mentions.** Wallingford Conservation Commission on their 20th year as a commission; the Town is very thankful to receive 30 donations to the Boy With the Boot fund for a total to date of \$2,890.

**Public Comments.** None.

**Center for Tech and Civic Life Grant Agreement.** M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to approve Jeff Duchesne's estimate of \$1,463.42 to wire a surveillance camera at Town Hall front entrance. Motion carried (5-0). Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon said a Center for Tech and Civic Life grant would pay for the installation. M. Tessier and J. Jankus suggested a web-based system.

**Rutland Regional Plan Update.** Rutland Reg. Planning Commission's Steffanie Bourque provided an update on Phase 2 of RRPC's regional plan. She encouraged Board members and citizens to review the data and take the online survey ([rutlandrpc.org/plan2026](http://rutlandrpc.org/plan2026)).

**Transfer Station Compost.** Music Mountains Compost owner Zach Cavacas offered an overview of composting services available to the Town at \$20 per bin and he said they accepted items, such as compostable bags, cutlery, bones and paper plates. Mr. Cavacas indicated they have 650 accounts, including Towns of Middletown Springs (4 years), Barnard (3 years), Chittenden (3 years), Tinmouth (1 year). Other notable clients include Gifford Hospital, Marble Valley Correctional Facility and 30 schools.

After a brief discussion, R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to transition from Casella (which no longer accepted compostable bags, bones, and other items) to Music Mountains Compost. Motion carried (5-0).

**Town Hall Heating and Cooling.** Tom Fort advised Board members of solar options available to the Town, including a municipally owned version with remote net metering. He said remote net metering was being phased out and a Certificate of Public Good (CPG) would have to be secured by the end of the year. There was a discussion regarding installing solar panels on the Town garage to offset utility usage in multiple municipally owned buildings. Mr. Fort said Jay White conducted an assessment and indicated the structure could support the panels. He said the Energy Committee would be willing to draft a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selectboard review at the next meeting with bids due in November and the chosen contractor required to obtain the CPG by late December. M. Tessier said the \$55,000 estimate for the solar project would not likely be paid with ARPA funds needed for the over budget School Street sidewalks. M. Tessier asked about any Green Mt. Power costs associated with the solar project and Mr. Fort agreed to look into it.

After further discussion, the Board by consensus approved the Energy Committee drafting an RFP for solar panels on the town garage to be reviewed at the 10/21 meeting.

Board members reviewed two bids for electrical work associated with heat pump installations at Town Hall. They tabled the matter until the next meeting in order to seek costs using the siren service and adding whole building surge protection.

J. Jankus made a motion that was seconded by R. Barker authorizing K. Luzader to sign the Green Mt. Power incentive agreement (associated with heat pump installation) after a request was made to revise the completion date to the end of the year. Motion carried (5-0).

**Road Commissioner's Report.** Road Commissioner Phil Baker said the road crew had been hauling sand and had worked on salt shed repairs. He said at budget time the Board should consider funding additional work on the structure that ought to be doubled in size. He said he was unsure what local and state permits would be needed for a 9- to 12-foot-high block structure with a pitched roof. M. Tessier suggested connecting it to the sand shed with attached solar panels. Mr. Baker cautioned corrosion could be an issue.

By consensus, the Board approved Cargill's bid of \$87.25/ ton for winter salt and Pike Industry's bid of \$9.10/ton for winter sand.

Mr. Baker said he was exploring roadside mowing options while his tractor was out of order.

**Elfin Lake Concession Stand – Update on Building Plans.** Denise Eddy and Ralph Nimitz from the Rec Facilities Committee provided an overview on plans for the Concession stand as well as funding:

- 50k budget based on \$50/sq foot for renovations
- Renovations to be prioritized
- We are hoping the Selectboard will support an application to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for the project
- LWCF has a 50% match
- The 25k match *MAY* be able to be covered if we receive the erosion implementation grant funds
- Shannon is signed up for the LWCF webinar 10/22 to learn more details about the grant application
- Submission deadline is 12/13 for a pre-application with final submission in March if our proposal is selected for the full round

Ms. Eddy said one goal was to ensure the structure was in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Board reviewed the sketch prepared by Ralph Nimitz. C. Behrendt noted unisex changing stalls would offer more privacy by the creation of individual changing rooms. R. Nimitz said the floor plan would offer improved visibility of the grounds by employees working in Concessions. He noted plumbing fixtures would need to be updated and electric codes upgraded. He suggested burying power lines. C. Behrendt indicated the garage would be a dedicated summer camp area for the five-week program. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer cautioned any new windows or entries should include security measures given the recent rash of break-ins at the facility.

By consensus, the Board agreed the power to the structure should be turned off for the winter.

**Wallingford Day Resignation.** By consensus, the Board accepted Jane Duda's resignation from the Wallingford Day Committee.

**Boy With the Boot.** Board members reviewed one estimate obtained for Boy With the Boot repairs. The town administrator said a representative from Filabot, a company based in Barre, would be at Town Hall on Tuesday to look at the statute and then provide an estimate. The Board tabled the matter.

There was a discussion regarding whether to offer a reward for information leading to the conviction of the person(s) who vandalized the statue. C. Behrendt said she would prefer funds be used to restore the structure or preventative measures related to possible future vandalism rather than reward someone for offering information they could have provided weeks ago. She said the Town should put resources into rebuilding the statue and moving forward. Other board members agreed. R. Barker asked about Agency of Transportation installing cameras at the intersection.

**Gilbert Hart Library Bulk Mail Permit Request.** R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to approve Gilbert Hart Library's request to use the Town's bulk mail permit to distribute a fundraising letter. Motion carried (5-0).

**Selectboard Concerns.** None.

**Other Business.** K. Luzader said Come Alive Outside sent the Town a check in the amount of \$273 to cover the cost of boat rentals over the summer at Elfin Lake public beach as part of a program to cover the cost of free one-time rentals to citizens.

K. Luzader noted Cecile Betit was awarded ARPA funds for a Telecommunication Risk and Needs Assessment Survey in the amount of \$1,395 for a project related to East Wallingford internet (or lack of). She said the Town's ARPA agreements included an Oct. 15, 2024 deadline for completion as the federal government required proof of spending by a certain date. But that deadline was no longer necessary as voters approved establishing a Town account with those ARPA funds allowing the Town to report it as spent.

K. Luzader said there was a Town Hall concert on Wednesday, Oct 9 at 7 p.m. and she donated \$200 of her Selectboard salary for the band.

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to adjourn at 8:14 p.m.

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 21st Day of October in the year 2024:

Wallingford Selectboard

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

Rob Barker \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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