

Wallingford Selectboard

Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2025

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, Phil Baker, Anne Awad, Erika Berner, Tom Fort, Jay White, Michael Luzader, Glenn Mayer, and Greg McCormack.

Agenda Amendments. None.

Minutes. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the 02/03/25 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

Pay Orders. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Barker to approve the 02/18/25 pay order total of \$41,435.72. Motion carried (5-0).

Road Commissioner Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker reported the road crew had cleaned up after the snowstorm and had been hauling sand.

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer asked on behalf of Fire District #1 about fine sand for the sidewalks. Mr. Baker said concrete sand would work.

Recreation Committee – WUV Implementation RFP for Project Manager. R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to authorize issuance of a Request for Proposal for a project manager for the Elfin Lake public beach erosion reduction implementation project. Motion carried (5-0).

Honorable Mentions. John Duncan and Barbara Barhydt, David and Susan Hostage, Carol and Blake Ellison for donations to the Boy With the Boot fund.

Public Comments. None.

Wallingford Day Fundraiser Request. Michael Luzader on behalf of Wallingford Day requested permission to install signage for a specified period of time on the transfer station fence as a thank you to large businesses/corporations for a certain level of donations to the annual Wallingford Day event. R. Barker expressed opposition to the Town being in the commerce business. M. Tessier said business signs were installed on the ballfield fence. J. Jankus said the signs thanking the businesses would be a big draw to donate to the annual event. C. Behrendt said it would be a way to collect revenue to cover the event costs without burdening taxpayers. After further discussion, M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the request to install signs at the transfer station for a limited period of time thanking large donors. (Motion denied, 2-1). K. Luzader and J. Jankus abstained.

Lifeguard at Public Beach. There was a brief discussion regarding lifeguards at the Elfin Lake public beach. K. Luzader indicated there would be lifeguards for the Summer Recreation program, but she said there was no budget for lifeguards at the public beach on a daily basis.

Employee Handbook. Board members by consensus approved the following updates on the following pages of the Employee Handbook: page 2 – Overtime; page 9 – add Juneteenth to list of federal holidays; page 10 – no carry over of Combined Time Off (CTO) unless employee obtains Selectboard approval; page 21 – updated language on opt out payment for health insurance; page 22 – alert town administrator of application for Medicare at least 30 days in advance.

Town Sand Shed Request for Proposal. Energy Committee Chair Tom Fort and Energy Co member Jay White attended the meeting to discuss recommendations for a Request for Proposal to replace the sand shed. Mr. White expressed the opinion that a civil engineer should be hired to draft and oversee the RFP and permitting process as well as act as project manager. He said replacing the sand shed with a structure 10 percent larger would trigger Act 250. Zoning Administrator Erika Berner clarified setbacks. J. Jankus asked at what point should the Town's focus of the solar project be shifted from the sand shed to the ballfield. Mr. Baker said the first step would be to clarify the size of sand shed structure allowed on that parcel and what permits would be involved. M. Tessier asked about the cost of a civil engineer. Mr. White said he did not have that information, but he said a bond would cover the installation of the sand shed, solar panels and engineer. After further discussion, the Board by consensus agreed the next step would be to find out whether an Act 250 permit was needed.

M. Tessier offered his continued support for the project after his Selectboard term expires in March.

No Appeals of Grand List. The Selectboard b consensus agreed to sign a document indicating there were no pending appeals related to the April 1, 2024 Grand List.

March Selectboard Meeting and annual Informational Meeting. By consensus, the Board agreed the meeting on March 3rd would be held at Wallingford Elementary School at 6:00 p.m. with the annual Town Meeting to follow at 7:00 p.m.

C. Behrendt and J. Jankus offered to assist with annual meeting video recording requirements.

Selectboard Concerns. M. Tessier said as a soon to be citizen and taxpayer rather than Selectboard member, he preferred to see signs at the transfer station thanking donors for contributions instead of using tax dollars to pay for the annual Wallingford Day event.

C. Behrendt thanked Mr. Baker and the road crew for their storm preparation with access to sand and salt inventories as other towns ran out.

Other Business. None.

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. Motion carried (5-0).

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 3rd Day of March in the year 2025:

Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Rob Barker _____

Justin Jankus _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Mark Tessier _____