

## Wallingford Selectboard

### Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2025

**Selectboard Members Present:** Anne Awad, Rob Barker, Carolyn Behrendt, Kathy Luzader, and Glenn Mayer.

**Others present:** Sandi Switzer, Tom Fort, Gary Fredette, Jane Campbell, Cheryl Maniery, Denise Eddy, Mark Tessier, Michael Welch, and Greg McCormack from Peg-TV.

K. Luzader called the meeting to order at Town Hall at 6:30 p.m.

**Agenda Amendments.** None.

**Minutes.** R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by A. Awad to approve the 03/17/25 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

**Pay Orders.** R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by A. Awad to approve the 04/08/25 pay order total of \$89,130.89. Motion carried (5-0).

**Road Commissioner Report.** None. Speed sign requests for Nash Drive and Parker Road were tabled until the road commissioner was present.

**VTrans Traffic Signal Upgrade Project.** VTrans Michael LaCroix joined the meeting via telephone to discuss a request for the Town to sign a Maintenance Agreement as part of a signalization project at Routes 7 and 140. K. Luzader noted the Selectboard had reviewed his email and proposed map/plans of the project. K. Luzader said the Town was concerned about the Right of Way on Route 140E (School Street) as the map showed the intersection abutting School Street as a 3-rod ROW while an ongoing sidewalk project was designed based on a 4-rod ROW. She questioned if approving an agreement for the intersection project would lock the Town into a 3-rod ROW. Mr. LaCroix said it would not. In response to a question from R. Barker, Mr. LaCroix said the project involved replacing sensors. A. Awad asked about coordination of the intersection project with the sidewalk project. Mr. LaCroix said VTrans would work with the sidewalk project manager with the signalization work to be done in 2027.

A. Awad asked if the bump outs would be extended. Mr. LaCroix said they would be “very close to existing” with the curb by the library moved a little south. K. Luzader said the Board would like to table a decision on the Maintenance Agreement until Mr. LaCroix can provide answers pertaining to the ROW on School Street. Mr. LaCroix agreed and said he would research the matter and provide that information to the town administrator this week.

**Honorable Mentions.** Justin Jankus for assistance with the annual Town Meeting meeting recording for the website; volunteers for assisting with the monthly newsletter.

**Public Comments.** M. Tessier said if the Town signed the VTrans signalization agreement it would lock the Town into a 3-rod Right of Way on School Street that would impact the sidewalk project.

**Wallingford PTO Fundraiser Letter Request.** Cheryl Maniery and Jane Campbell requested the Board approve publishing a Wallingford PTO fundraiser letter in the Town’s newsletter. Ms. Campbell said the funds would be used for an outdoor classroom and storage facility at

Wallingford Elementary School. Ms. Maniery said the PTO had secured a grant to purchase equipment for the program and the outdoor classroom and storage was the next phase. Ms. Campbell read the letter aloud. R. Barker asked if the Mill River School Board was aware of the fundraising effort. Ms. Maniery confirmed they were aware. After further discussion, R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by A. Awad to approve publishing the letter. Motion carried (5-0).

**Town Garage – Solar Array and Sand Shed.** Energy Committee Chair Tom Fort said ground mounted solar arrays in the northeast corner of the town garage property as part of a net metering system would be preferable over arrays installed on the roof of a new sand shed given the timeframe to permit and build the structure. He noted 30 percent energy credits were still available and he said there were ongoing discussions about an easement with neighboring Wallingford Rescue to use that land if the Certificate of Public Good would allow it. R. Barker asked if Road Foreman Steve Lanfear had been consulted on the project. Mr. Fort said Road Commissioner Phil Baker had participated in conversations and meetings. G. Mayer said if the Town obtained the easement that would alleviate storage concerns expressed by Highway Department employees.

M. Tessier offered to draft a Request for Proposal for a new sand shed once dimensions and vent details had been determined. R. Barker questioned the need for a new structure and he suggested the existing sand shed could be repaired. G. Mayer said two engineers had submitted reports detailing concerns regarding the existing structure. He noted the size of the structure – if larger than the existing sand shed – could trigger a hydraulic study or other permit requirements.

Mr. Fort said he would speak to Road Foreman Steve Lanfear about the best location for the solar arrays. He asked once the location was determined if the town administrator could request bid updates from solar consultants who had bid on the rooftop arrays. K. Luzader agreed.

Mr. Fort gave a brief overview of the Energy Committee's recommendations for second floor heat pumps taking advantage of Green Mt. Power incentives. He said without objection they would draft a Request for Proposal for second floor heat pumps. There were no objections.

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer recommended a project manager be hired for the town sand shed project.

**Public Comments.** Michael Welch shared his concerns about loud music repeatedly being played at a Prospect Street home in possible violation of the Town's Noise Ordinance. He said he had complained in the past to the Town and law enforcement. He added several neighbors have also complained. After some discussion, the Board agreed a letter should be sent to the property owner along with a copy of the Noise Ordinance.

**Property Tax Sale.** By consensus, the Board agreed G. Mayer would represent the Town with the authority to bid on Wallingford Pond Road parcel id 0380889-889.at the May 1, 2025 tax sale.

**Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement and Designees.** By consensus, the Board authorized K. Luzader to sign the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement with Phil Baker and Steve Lanfear as designees.

**Boy With the Boot Update.** K. Luzader said Wayne Jones located on Route 103 in East Wallingford was restoring the Boy With the Boot statue. She said he had decades of experience with a portfolio of high-end and complicated projects. She explained he stripped the statue of all

layers of paint, he repaired most of the numerous cracks, he replaced tubes for the water circulation. K. Luzader said he was working on finding the exact composite to fill the statue that will hold the parts together but won't deteriorate the existing zinc materials.

Gary Fredette said he was opposed to placing a replica of the statue in the Main Street fountain and displaying the original at Town Hall. He said the statue had sustained damage only three times in a hundred years and it should go into the fountain. He added a portion of the funds raised should be used to repair the fountain surrounding the statue. K. Luzader responded the discussion regarding a replica was to prevent the original from sustaining future damage/vandalism. K. Luzader requested Wayne Jones look at the fountain and make recommendations. A. Awad noted Wallingford House had offered to host a security camera installed and maintained by the Town. R. Barker said he had concerns about putting a town system on private property.

**Recreation Subcommittees.** By consensus, the Board reappointed Monica DeLorme, Michael Luzader, Barbara Boucher, Naomi Bombardier-Wilson, Todd Galiano, and Heather Johnson to the Wallingford Day Recreation Subcommittee. The Board tabled action on the Recreation Facilities' Subcommittee as members may want to downsize.

**Elfin Lake Concession Employees.** By consensus, the Board hired Tori Behrendt, Kate Ahearn, Imogene Burch, Autumn Farmer and Gabby Forest to work this summer at concessions at minimum wage \$14.01/hr.

**Liquor License.** By consensus, the Board approved a second class liquor license for Family Dollar located at 34 Maple Street.

**Agenda Building.** None.

**Selectboard Concerns.** R. Baker said there was a difference between fundraising (letter in the newsletter) and advertising (signs on transfer station fence) and the Town should not be in the business of advertising.

**Other Business.** None.

C. Behrendt made a motion that was seconded by A. Awad to adjourn at 8:27 p.m. Motion carried (5-0).

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 21<sup>st</sup> Day of April in the year 2025:

Wallingford Selectboard

Anne Awad \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Glenn Mayer \_\_\_\_\_