

Wallingford Selectboard

Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2025

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

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Tom Fort, Julie Sharon, Phil Baker, Shannon Pytlik, Sandra Hochberg, David Cornwell, Heather Johnson, Todd Galiano, Joyce McMahon, Michael McMahon, Wayne Jones, and Greg McCormack from Peg-TV.

K. Luzader called the meeting to order at Town Hall at 6:15 p.m. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to enter Executive Session for a disciplinary or dismissal action against a public officer or employee as allowed under 1 V.S.A. Section 313 4(a). Motion carried (5-0). Shannon Pytlik, David Cornwell and Sandra Hochberg were invited into the closed-door meeting.

By consensus, the Board exited Executive Session at 6:40. No action taken.

Agenda Amendments. None.

Boy With the Boot Update. Wayne Jones presented an overview of the work to date on the Boy With the Boot statue detailing the complex nature of the restoration. He displayed a bucket containing numerous pieces from both of the statue's boots and said whole sections were comprised of a bondo type filler material.

There was a discussion about installing the statue back in the fountain once complete with Mr. Jones advising against it. He said "as for going outside, he's done his time." He recommended displaying the statue indoors and creating a replica for the fountain. He said molds would be too costly as the head would require 10 molds at \$500 each and the chest would need 8 molds. He suggested 3D printing instead. R. Barker asked for a timeframe for the completion of the restoration. Mr. Jones was unable to offer a date. A. Awad thanked Mr. Jones for taking on the project.

Minutes. R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to approve the 05/05/25 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

Pay Orders. R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the 05/20/25 pay order total of \$66,282.58. Motion carried (4-0). A. Awad abstained as pay orders included a reimbursement for Highland Water Supply Association expenses (an ARPA project A. Awad was involved with).

Board members agreed by consensus the Town should pursue repair costs of the Welcome To Wallingford sign damaged by an individual involved in a car accident.

Road Commissioner Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker said he spoke to Advantage Truck Group (ATG) based in Westminster, VT about a used 2020 Volvo VHD 12 speed truck to replace the 2014 Kenworth until a new vehicle can be ordered and delivered (18 to 24 months). The Board reviewed the specification sheet with details of the vehicle totaling \$112,900 with a \$25,000 trade-in credit for the Kenworth and no warranty. Mr. Baker said he inspected the truck with Road Foreman Steve Lanfear and Road Crew member Charlie Woods. Mr. Baker said a new vehicle

should be ordered now and it would eventually replace the 2016 Kenworth. He said there was no down payment for the new vehicle and the Town would not be required to take delivery in two years should officials change their minds. There was a discussion about funding the purchase of the Volvo through the Highway Reserve Fund. R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by A. Awad to purchase the 2020 Volvo at a cost of \$87,900 (with the 2014 Kenworth trade in). Motion carried (5-0). Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon asked Mr. Baker if ATG would need a down payment or full payment on the used vehicle. Mr. Baker said he would find out.

Board members by consensus tabled a decision on ordering the new vehicle until a purchase and sales agreement can be reviewed at the next meeting.

Mr. Baker said paving projects this summer would include Meacham Street, Church Street and Florence Avenue.

Mr. Baker said it was the Selectboard's decision whether to repair Tifft Road or reclassify it as a trail. He said repair would include securing easements, widening the road, and stabilizing the bank. He said the repair could be in the range of \$20,000 to \$50,000 depending on whether widening the road required blasting ledge and other factors. Tifft Road resident Michael McMahon said the bank erosion started after Tropical Storm Irene and had continued. He said it should have been a one-way road as it was narrow with a blind curve in one section. He said he never used the road in the winter. Mr. McMahon did not object to reclassifying the road as a trail. Mr. Baker said the Town could close the road with the exception of the last 150 feet on the Danby end for residents' access to properties. Mr. McMahon said one property owner could only access the back side of his land from Tifft Road. Mr. Baker offered to speak to the property owner.

Honorable Mentions. John McClallen for putting up the U.S. flags in the village, Bruce and Maureen Duchesne for removing boards from Elfin Lake public beach concession doors and windows in order to open the facility for the season; Town Hall food shelf benefited from the "Stamp out hunger food drive" conducted by U.S. postal carriers.

Public Comments. None.

Capital Expenditures and Asset Fund. Board members discussed upcoming Capital expenditures, including a used vehicle to replace the 2014 Kenworth, a new dump truck that will take two years to order/receive; sand shed replacement; Town Hall second floor heat pumps. Mr. Baker said vehicles should be replaced on a 7-year cycle. He said the 2016 Kenworth should be replaced soon and the backhoe was 20 years old. A. Awad asked whether the Town had ever considered establishing a Capital Fund similar to the Building Fund and Highway Fund. C. Behrendt said the Selectboard had been too conservative with budgets and should be setting aside funds for Capital expenditures. She said delaying large projects like replacing the sand shed resulted in higher costs once completed. A. Awad suggested establishing a Capital Funds Committee to triage needs and monitoring funding. She said any funds remaining from the Asset Fund could be folded into a Capital Fund. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said establishing a Capital Fund would require voter approval at the next Town Meeting.

K. Luzader said the new committee could be comprised of 5 members including two Selectboard members. C. Behrendt said the Board should establish objectives for the committee. After some discussion, K. Luzader said objectives included prioritizing Town projects; establishing a funding schedule, creating 5 and 10 year plans for large projects/purchases.

There was a review of the Asset Fund (formerly ARPA) worksheet featuring the status of each project. By consensus, the Board set June 16th as the deadline for project status/completion.

Investment Report. The Board reviewed the Town's Investment Policy and annual report submitted by Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon featuring balances for established funds along with year-to-date earnings and interest rates. G. Mayer recommended researching options for higher yield accounts. J. Sharon agreed.

Wallingford Day – Fireworks Permit and Bounce Houses. By consensus, the Board conditionally approved a fireworks permit for Wallingford Day on July 19th with the requirement a completed checklist must be submitted.

Wallingford Day committee member Todd Galiano requested permission for four bounce houses rather than two at the annual event. He said the vendor indicated four would be safer in order to coordinate age groups in each unit. He said the vendor would staff the bounce houses with experienced employees. Mr. Galiano said the units would be located at the Meadow Street ballfield beyond the first baseline of the ballfield closest to the pavilion and north parking lot. He said the vendor would provide an updated Certificate of Insurance with the Town named as additional insured. Ms. Pytlik asked about the power source and Mr. Galiano responded they used generators. By consensus, the Board agreed to four bounce houses for Wallingford Day.

Wallingford Day Chair Heather Johnson provided a copy of the liability waiver form to board members. She said waivers would be filled out and signed by participants (or guardians) before using the bounce houses.

Recreation Committee – Ballfield water, Memorial Day Parade; Mission Statement; Work projects at ballfield and lake. Recreation Committee Chair Shannon Pytlik said committee members met with a Master Plumbing and Heating representative who planned to repair the water line on June 2nd. If the line cannot be repaired, it would require excavation and a new line installed.

She said the FEMA deadline for flood repairs to the ballfield was the end of June. She noted the town administrator had secured a deadline extension from January to June and arranged for the road crew to bring clay material to the fields for the repairs.

Ms. Pytlik said the Recreation Committee had revised the Mission Statement (the Board reviewed a copy). She said they wanted to establish a culture of respect. She said the annual Memorial Day parade was a big responsibility each year. She said public safety aspect should be the Town's responsibility. The Board approved by consensus the Mission Statement.

Board members approved Amy Davenport's request for two horses with riders and a pony driven cart in the parade as long as they clean up after the horses

There was a discussion regarding increasing the size of the Recreation Committee from five to seven members. K. Luzader said seven members made it more difficult to reach a quorum. Ms. Pytlik said they would explore interest in joining the committee.

Ms. Pytlik said Jane Duda would be creating a cohesive sign plan for the Meadow Street ballfield area at a cost of \$300 and F.A.S. Landscaping would be asked to do landscaping around the north side of the parking lot and near the tennis court, debris removal and replace railroad ties at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.

Energy Committee Requests – Resignation, Reduce Committee Membership. Energy Committee Chair Tom Fort said the 9-member Energy Committee has had a vacancy for quite some time as well as a recent resignation. He requested the Board adjust the size of the committee to 7-members to ensure a quorum at meetings. By consensus, the Selectboard agreed.

Town Hall Second Floor Request for Proposal. The Selectboard reviewed the Energy Committee's draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for Town Hall second floor heat pumps. Mr. Fort said there may be some adjustments for condensate lines. He said there would be two heat pump heads on each side of the second floor with compressors to the rear of the building and nothing on the exterior sides of the building.

The town administrator asked about an estimated cost. Mr. Fort said with Green Mountain Power incentives it would likely be under \$16,000. G. Mayer asked where the money would come from for the project. Mr. Fort suggested the Building Fund as was the case for the first floor heat pumps. By consensus, the Board approved use of the Building Fund for this project. G. Mayer made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve and issue the Request for Proposal for Town Hall Second Floor Heat Pumps. Motion carried (5-0).

Town Garage Site Solar Array Agreement and Easement. The Board reviewed a draft agreement between the Town and Green Earth Energy for a ground mounted solar array at the town garage property on River Street. The town administrator said the Easement between the Town and Wallingford Rescue had been completed earlier in the day. The array would be located within the easement site. Energy Co. Chair Tom Fort said Green Earth Energy quoted \$4,000 for the inverter extended warranty and agreed to pay \$1,500 of the cost and the Town would pay \$2,500.

G. Mayer made a motion seconded by R. Barker to authorize K. Luzader to sign the solar array agreement in the amount of \$64,500 with an anticipated federal tax credit of \$19,350. Motion carried (5-0). By consensus, board members agreed the project should be paid from the Asset Fund.

R. Barker requested a timeframe for initiating the project as a couple of trees must be removed. Mr. Fort said Green Earth Energy would need to secure permits and amend the Certificate of Public Good before beginning the installation. He said he would ask the contractor for an estimated timeframe.

Come Alive Outside Agreement. The Board reviewed an agreement from Arlen Turner of Come Alive Outside to provide free kayak and swim opportunities to Elfin Lake public beach visitors. The agreement was amended to add a liability section:

The Town of Wallingford is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged kayaks and/or life vests provided by Come Alive Outside.

By consensus, the Board authorized K. Luzader to sign the agreement.

Future Land Use Planning – Act 181/Act 250. By consensus, the Board requested Rutland Reg. Planning Commission change the future land use maps to designate the cemetery south of the village as Rural (Conservation).

R. Barker said he was opposed to opting into Tier 1B. K. Luzader said the Board would take up that discussion at the June 16 meeting. G. Mayer noted property boundaries were now included on the future land use maps.

Agenda Building. By consensus, the Board agreed to add fireworks displays to the June 16 Selectboard agenda along with holding at least one Selectboard meeting in East Wallingford and one in South Wallingford on the same agenda.

Selectboard Concerns. G. Mayer said there was a discussion on Front Porch Forum relative to fireworks display. He noted Julie Sharon had explained the permit process for fireworks in a response post along with noting the topic would be on an upcoming Selectboard agenda. C. Behrendt said other towns publicized fireworks displays on social media.

Other Business. The town administrator said Kevin Burke had requested the Town initiate a request to VTrans for a crosswalk on North Main Street. Board members agreed.

By consensus, the Board approved amending the Recreation Facility Use Agreement to include language banning chemicals and fertilizers from the ballfield and required permission for vehicles to drive on the fields. These measures were taken to protect the well and slope to the well.

C. Behrendt made a motion that was seconded by A. Awad to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Motion carried (5-0).

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 2nd Day of June in the year 2025:

Wallingford Selectboard

Anne Awad _____

Rob Barker _____

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Glenn Mayer _____