

Wallingford Selectboard

Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2025

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

Others Present: Sandi Switzer, Tom Fort, and Greg McCormack from Peg TV.

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

Agenda Amendments. None.

Minutes. G. Mayer made a motion that was seconded by A. Awad to approve the 07/07/25 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (4-0). C. Behrendt abstained as she was not at the meeting.

Pay Orders. A. Awad made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to approve the 07/22/25 pay order total of \$30,618.56. Motion carried (5-0).

R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to approve the revised 06/30/25 pay order total of \$138,061.71. Motion carried (5-0).

Road Commissioner Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker did not attend the meeting.

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said she along with Mr. Baker had sought estimates from contractors for roadside mowing after it was determined Mr. Baker's tractor was out of service for roadside mowing. More details at the next meeting.

Honorable Mentions. Barbara Kaminski for her \$3,000 donation for the Wallingford Day fireworks display; Wallingford Day Committee for coordinating the annual event; John Squier for voluntarily trimming roadside vegetation. Board members agreed by consensus to pay Mr. Squier \$100 as gratitude for his current and past services.

Public Comments. None.

Town Hall Heating and Cooling – Second Floor. The Board reviewed the lone proposal submitted by Lohsen Plumbing and Heating for second floor heat pumps. Energy Committee Chair Tom Fort said he wanted to clarify placement of building exterior units as well as point of sale rebates with Mr. Lohsen as well as contact Green Mt. Power about Fossil Fuel Reduction incentives.

After further discussion, G. Mayer made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to accept the Lohsen Plumbing and Heating bid of \$23,150 for second floor heat pumps at Town Hall. Motion carried (5-0).

Elfin Lake Public Beach Erosion Reduction Project – Request for Bid. Board members reviewed the Fitzgerald Environmental Associates (FEA) draft Request for Bid for the Elfin Lake public beach road erosion reduction project. The town administrator noted the site visit time on the document was amended to July 29th at 1:00 p.m. By consensus, the Board approved the document and authorized FEA to issue it.

Second Class Liquor License Permit. By consensus, the Board approved a permit request from Wallingford Village Market for a second-class liquor license.

Boy With the Boot Update – Future Location of Statue. Board members were notified Wayne Jones wanted to know the permanent location of the Boy With the Boot statue in order to determine the most suitable material to be used to fill the hollow interior.

The town administrator said Mr. Jones calculated \$9,969 in expenses to date for statute repairs with an estimated \$5,000 more. The town administrator indicated she contacted Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns (VLCT) about an adjusted insurance claim as was discussed with a representative at the time Mr. Jones' estimate was submitted.

G. Mayer explained Mr. Jones strongly advised at a meeting earlier in the summer that the Boy With the Boot should be displayed indoors for the long-term viability of the statue. R. Barker stated his preference was to return the statue to the fountain upon completion of the restoration. There was a discussion about a replica being placed in the fountain. R. Barker said the Town cannot afford a replica. G. Mayer said he was in contact with a 3D print contractor and would provide restoration photographs with the Board's permission. There was no objection.

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to permanently display the Boy With the Boot inside Town Hall on the second floor when restoration was completed. A. Awad said it could become a target for vandalism if displayed outdoors. She added the statue was such a value to the community and beyond that it was in the best long-term interest to display it indoors. R. Barker said a camera security system could be installed near the fountain. C. Behrendt said cameras do not stop the vandalism, but may catch those responsible. After further discussion, motion carried (4-1). R. Barker voted in the minority. K. Luzader said the Town would actively pursue the creation of a replica.

Selectboard Liaisons for Municipal Committees. A. Awad said she had positive experiences with Selectboard liaisons to municipal committees in the past. She said liaisons would take some of the burden off committee chairs. The liaisons do not attend every meeting but serve in supporting roles. By consensus, the Board named C. Behrendt to serve as liaison to Recreation Committee (including Wallingford Day); A. Award on Conservation Commission, and G. Mayer on Energy Committee.

Selectboard Meetings in East and South Wallingford. A. Awad said some residents living outside the village may feel occasionally forgotten. She advocated for at least one Selectboard meeting a year in East Wallingford and another in South Wallingford. She explained she had spoken to several residents in both areas who responded positively to the idea. She said Dave Seward had offered the East Wallingford fire station as a meeting site. She said Mr. Seward indicated the fire department was very appreciative of equipment/vehicle upgrades as a result of Asset (formerly ARPA) fund awards. A. Awad said she had a few leads in South Wallingford.

By consensus, the Board agreed to hold the Monday, September 15 meeting in East Wallingford.

By consensus, the Board moved the Monday, September 1 meeting to Tuesday, September 2 due to the Labor Day holiday.

Agenda Building. None.

Selectboard Concerns. R. Barker read aloud his memo for the Board stating his recommendation that Tifft Road be repaired and not reclassified or discontinued. K. Luzader said the road commissioner was going to discuss a temporary solution with a state river engineer then report back to the Board.

A. Awad said insurance coverage for the Wallingford Day bounce houses was an issue and should be explored more closely next year. She noted waivers signed by parents/guardians on behalf of bounce house participants did not have a good track record in court. She expressed concern regarding the Town's liability in the case of injury.

R. Barker said he had heard from the zoning administrator that several Wallingford Day food trucks did not obtain the required local permits.

Other Business. None.

C. Behrendt made a motion that was seconded by A. Awad to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. Motion carried (5-0).

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 4th Day of August in the year 2025:

Wallingford Selectboard

Anne Awad _____

Rob Barker _____

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Glenn Mayer _____