

Wallingford Selectboard

Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2025

Selectboard Members Present: Anne Awad, Rob Barker, Carolyn Behrendt, and Glenn Mayer. Kathy Luzader did not attend.

Others Present: Sandi Switzer, Jill Stone Teer, Phil Baker, Bruce Dobbins, Heather Johnson, Naomi Bombardi-Wilson, Brian Ferguson, and Greg McCormack from Peg TV.

R. Barker called the regular meeting to order at Town Hall at 6:15 p.m.

Executive Session. G. Mayer made a motion to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the Town's district membership with Rutland County Solid Waste District would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage if the Selectboard disclosed possible civil litigation in public. A. Awad seconded the motion. Motion approved (4-0).

G. Mayer made a motion that was seconded by A. Awad to enter executive session with Bruce Dobbins and the town administrator for pending or probable civil litigation or a prosecution to which the public body may be a party under 1 V.S.A section 313 (a)(1)(E). Motion carried, 4-0.

G. Mayer made a motion that was seconded by A. Awad to exit executive session at 6:36 p.m. Motion carried (4-0). No action was taken.

Agenda Amendments. By consensus, the Board removed 3D Boy with the Boot presentation at the request of a Northeast 3D representative; and the Board tabled quarterly financials and Wallingford Town Hall clock until the next meeting.

Minutes. A. Awad made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to approve the 09/15/25 meeting Minutes. Motion carried (3-0). C. Behrendt abstained since she was not at that meeting.

Pay Orders. By consensus, the Board approved the 10/07/25 pay order total of \$177,444.52.

Road Commissioner Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker explained Cargill was the only contractor to submit a road salt bid. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said the state's road salt bulk purchase contract had not been completed and the Town was informed it may not be available in time for this winter's purchases. Mr. Baker said American Rock Salt and Apalachee had not responded to bid requests. The Board stated no objections with finalizing the Cargill agreement at \$98.75/ton.

Mr. Baker said a resident expressed safety concerns about a ditch along the eastern side of Homer Stone Road. He said drainage would become an issue if the Town filled the ditch with stone as requested. A. Awad suggested the Board independently visit the area to address the matter at the next meeting. Mr. Baker agreed.

Mr. Baker said the road crew would be working on Tifft Road in a few weeks. The road would not be open to the public until all work was completed. In response to a question, Mr. Baker said repairs had been made to the Chevy Silverado.

A. Awad said East Wallingford residents expressed concerns about the berms left on roadsides after grading. Mr. Baker said he had spoken to the road foreman about this issue.

Honorable Mentions. David Scully for string trimming the Knotweed project area on Waldo Lane for the past two years; Charlie Woods for welding the ballfield picnic table that was vandalized earlier this summer; Jill Stone Teer and Kim Sharp for their work on their first monthly newsletter; Glenn Mayer for assisting Tom Fort and Charlie Woods with the solar project placement at the town garage, Charlie Woods, Charlie Woods, Sr. and Paul Bushee for relocating the Boy With the Boot from WES to Town Hall.

Public Comments. None.

Wallingford Day Appointments and Bingo. A. Awad made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to follow Wallingford Day's recommendation to appoint Cheyenne LaRose and Olivia Burrough to the remaining two vacant seats on the Recreation Subcommittee. Motion carried (4-0).

Co-Chairs Heather Johnson and Naomi Bombardi-Wilson requested permission to hold Bingo fundraisers (possibly on Fridays) for Wallingford Day at Town Hall. There was discussion regarding set up and breakdown of tables, chairs, storage of the Bingo board after each event, and sweeping floors and shoveling steps and walkways as needed. A. Awad said the Board would like to support the idea, but she had concerns about the space. She suggested Bingo once or twice a month from November until early spring. G. Mayer said the second story space was already booked two nights a week with dance classes. He suggested using the Rotary building. C. Behrendt said logistically it may not be the best option. Town Clerk and Treasurer Jill Stone Teer said she would meet with the town administrator to determine the number of tables and available storage space for the event.

Board members by consensus agreed on a trial night in November for a Bingo event with Wallingford Day members setting up and breaking down (no freight on the elevator).

Building Use Request. Recreation Co. member Brian Ferguson requested use of Town Hall for Martial Arts Classes run by Rob Bride. Board members explained to Mr. Ferguson – who joined the meeting via telephone – that VLCT recommended waivers for Town sponsored events and outside groups like Rutland County Little League (that collect fees and register participants) be required to submit Certificates of Insurance. Board members indicated Mr. Bride collecting fees for his classes blurred the lines of who was sponsoring the event. Mr. Ferguson said a Certificate of Insurance would be cost prohibitive.

The town administrator noted the Recreation budget had line items for sports and recreation programs. C. Behrendt suggested Mr. Ferguson collect the fees from participants and the Town would pay the instructor. She said fees would offset expenses and this would constitute a Recreation program funded by the Town. After further discussion, the Board by consensus agreed to allow the martial arts classes on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month on the Town Hall second floor, with no storage, no freight in elevators, required waivers completed and signed, and the instructor submitting monthly invoices to the Town.

Sinking/Reserve Fund Discussion. A. Awad said the town administrator had provided materials detailing the difference between Reserve and Sinking funds at her request in preparation for budget season. She said the Town will be asking voters to support the concept of a Reserve Fund.

G. Mayer noted Sinking Funds were used to pay off debt while Reserve Funds helped with Capital Planning.

Policy Discussion – Residency Requirement for Recreation Committee and minimum age requirement for municipal employment. The Board reviewed relative state statutes related to residency requirements for municipal groups: there are residency requirements for Conservation Commissions; and a majority of Planning Commissioners must be residents. There are no residency requirements for Recreation Committees. After some discussion, the Board agreed to consider committee/commission recommendations for appointments.

The Board agreed by consensus that an individual must be at least 16 years old to be eligible for municipal employment with the exception of the Highway Department (must be 21 years old). They agreed the Employee Handbook would be amended with that requirement.

Pay Order Appointment – Temporary. G. Mayer made a motion that was seconded by A. Awad to authorize K. Luzader to sign pay orders as needed for the month of October since the Board was only holding one meeting this month.

Municipal Planning Grant Resolution. By consensus, the Board approved adoption of a Municipal Resolution for the Fiscal year 2026 Municipal Planning Grant.

Agenda Building. None.

Selectboard Concerns. None.

Other Business. By consensus, the Board agreed to appoint Eric McKee to the Recreation Committee as supported by Brian Ferguson and David Cornwell.

Executive Session. G. Mayer made a motion that was seconded by A. Awad to enter executive session at 8:08 p.m. with the town administrator and town clerk/treasurer for the appointment and employment of a public officer or employee under 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). Motion carried (4-0). A. Awad made a motion that was seconded by R. Barker to exit executive session at 8:12 p.m. Motion carried (4-0). A. Awad made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to hire Kim Sharp as lister data entry assistant and appoint Julie Sharon as delinquent tax collector until the March elections. Motion carried (4-0).

C. Behrendt made a motion that was seconded by A. Awad to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. Motion carried (4-0).

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

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

Wallingford Selectboard

Anne Awad _____

Rob Barker _____

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Glenn Mayer _____