

Wallingford Selectboard

Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2026

Selectboard Chair Kathy Luzader called the regular Selectboard meeting at Town Hall to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

Others present at the Meeting: Sandi Switzer, Jill Stone Teer, Tom Barone, Karl Ross, and Greg McCormack from Peg TV.

Agenda Amendments. None.

Road Commissioner's Report. None. Board members approved by consensus the state Certificate of Miles for the Town of Wallingford with no changes.

Karl Ross suggested paving areas at the end of Seward Hill and the bottom of Maranville Road similar to what was done on Sugar Hill Road.

The Board without objection approved the town administrator submitting a VTrans Small Scale Local Highway Safety grant application for repainting crosswalks and some tree removal work.

Honorable Mentions. Art and Jerry from the Transfer Station would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to all those who showed their appreciation with goodies & cards over the Holiday; Julie Sharon for editing the annual Town Report; Maria French for cooperating above and beyond with the School Street sidewalk utility pole relocation effort even when utility vehicles blocked her driveway.

G. Mayer added Town Administrator Sandi Switzer for securing a Municipal Planning Grant of \$13,000 to update the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Public Comments. Tom Barone said the speed limit on Route 103 near Bridge 15 should be reduced to 40 mph and Hidden Driveway signs installed. It was noted Route 103 was a state highway and the Town could not make those decisions. The town administrator said she had notified VTrans Laura Stone of those concerns and recommendations in October of 2024 with no action taken.

Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. Board members reviewed the budget proposal for Fiscal Year Budget set at \$1,605,953, up 7.8 percent. The town administrator said the sheriff contract would increase an estimated 5 percent and in order to maintain 28 hours of weekly coverage, the Public Safety line 5406 would need to be \$82,950. Board members agreed and set the new budget total at \$1,609,903, up 8 percent.

Town Meeting Article. After reviewing the draft Town Meeting Warning, G. Mayer made a motion that was seconded by A. Award to accept the Warning as written. Motion carried, (4-0).

Vitals in the Annual Town Report. There was a brief discussion regarding inclusion of vitals – births, deaths, marriages – in the annual Town Report. It was noted some towns are including

vitals, some are not. Board members agreed to include vitals with month and year but not day and not include maiden names.

Sub-Region Emergency Mgt. Event. G. Mayer agreed to be the Selectboard liaison to the February 4th event.

The meeting was recessed to the second floor for public hearings. There were approximately 30 members of the public attending the hearings.

Bridge 15. K. Luzader called the public hearing to order at 6:30 p.m. for Bridge 15 in East Wallingford. She introduced Laura Stone a scoping engineer with the state Agency of Transportation (AOT). Ms. Stone introduced Gemma Poulsen and Carol Cota also of AOT. Ms. Stone provided a recent history of Bridge 15 leading to its closure in 2023; actions taken since to improve the nearby intersection; bridge condition; and a scoping report with permanent closure recommended. Ms. Stone said VTrans recommended Strategic Disinvestment as the most cost-effective and practical solution for Bridge 15, with the option of constructing a new pedestrian bridge should the Town of Wallingford wish to maintain a connection between Village Street and VT-103.

Several residents including Chuck Sharp, Kim Sharp, Sandra Bruno, Tom Barone, and Road Commissioner Phil Baker in favor of full bridge replacement. Tom Barone, Mark Barone, Lisa Donahue, Sandra Hochberg, and Bruce Dobbins favored reducing the speed limit on Route 103. Mr. Dobbins recommended an on-demand traffic light at the improved intersection and Ms. Hochberg suggested caution lights. Cecile Betit indicated the bridge closure impacted emergency vehicle response times.

The public hearing ended at 7:25 p.m. Written comments may be submitted to laura.stone@vermont.gov

Telecommunication Tower on Seward Property in East Wallingford. K. Luzader called the public hearing to order at 7:30 p.m. for the telecommunication tower project being considered at 100 Seward Hill Road in East Wallingford. K. Luzader introduced Fran Parisi of Vertex-Vermont Towers, LLC. Mr. Parisi said the project required state Public Utility Commission (PUC) approval. He said he would be filing an application for the project in the next several weeks and the Town would be provided a copy of the document. Mr. Parisi said the PUC gives credence and deference to the Town, but does not require the Town's permission.

He said the project would be set back from the road with no tree removal and include a 60-foot by 60-foot fenced in compound. The project was described as a 140' aboveground level ("AGL") lattice telecommunications tower to support proposed antennas and equipment of Verizon Wireless at a height of 135' and future co located telecommunications providers at heights of 125', 115' and 105'.

Tony Masuck asked about decommissioning the tower should Vertex-Vermont Towers go out of business. Mr. Parisi the Town could request the PUC require a bond be posted for decommissioning.

Naomi Bombardier-Wilson said she lived 1500 feet from the tower and expressed concerns about health hazards associated with radiofrequency exposure to telecommunication towers. She cited several studies to support her concerns.

Jill Burkett asked the number of companies to be co located on the tower. Mr. Parisi said four total, including Verizon. Tom Barone and Mark Barone offered support for the construction of the tower.

Mr. Parisi said there would be an additional comment period for interested citizens after the application was filed with the PUC.

The hearing concluded at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 2nd Day of February in the year 2026:

Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Rob Barker _____

Anne Awad _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Glenn Mayer _____