

## Wallingford Selectboard

### Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2026

Selectboard Chair Kathy Luzader called the Selectboard meeting at Wallingford Town Hall to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

**Others present at the Meeting:** Sandi Switzer, Phil Baker, Virginia Veronin, Nan Dubin, Tony Masuck, Kathy Ross, Live Lane, and Greg McCormack from Peg TV.

**Agenda Amendments.** None.

**Minutes.** A. Awad made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to approve the 03/16/26 Meeting Minutes. Motion approved (5-0).

**Pay Orders.** R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve pay orders totaling \$65,252.68. G. Mayer asked about higher Marcel Oil invoices compared to previous months. Road Commissioner Phil Baker said Marcel was now supplying heating oil as well as diesel and costs for both had sharply increased. After further discussion, the Board agreed to defer payment of the Marcel invoices to the April 20th meeting once costs were verified and they amended pay orders to \$55,643.65. Motion approved (5-0).

**Road Commissioner's Report.** Mr. Baker said the road crew would be starting to grade roads the following week. He said they had been pothole patching and working on equipment at the shop.

~ Paving/Bridge Grant due April 15. Mr. Baker said a section of Class 2 Route 140W should be paved and estimated \$160 to \$180 per ton with a total cost of \$192,000.

~ Roadside Mowing Update. Mr. Baker said he would be starting roadside mowing the end of June. He was not in favor of pursuing a roadside mower purchasing opportunity thru an online auction. He said that tractor was over 10 years old and would cost over \$100,000.

~ Letter of Intent – Grants in Aid. By consensus the Board authorized the town administrator to submit a Letter of Intent to VTrans for Grants in Aid funds estimated at \$15,000 to upgrade hydrologically connected road segments to meet Municipal Road General Permit (MRGP) requirements. The grant requires a 20 percent local in-kind match. K. Luzader said the town administrator had applied for and received approximately \$164,000 in Grants in Aid for road improvements since the MRGP program's inception about 8 years ago.

**Honorable Mentions.** Justin Jankus for assisting with repairs to the municipal website; Jim Bagnall for working with the town administrator on the Local Emergency Management Plan; Pat Pranger for assisting the Town with complex submission requirements for a federal solar tax credit.

**Public Comments.** Nan Dubin expressed opposition to an ordinance that would allow ATV use of Town roads. She said at the last Board meeting there was a discussion about the Town

partnering with a Danby club on trails, signage, etc. Ms. Dubin noted Danby voters in March rejected an effort to open roads to ATV traffic. She said Shrewsbury, Tinmouth and Mt. Holly did not allow ATV use of Town roads. She added there were 1,000 miles of private trails around the state for ATV use. G. Mayer said the Board had considered drafting an ordinance then scheduling a public hearing for townwide discussion and feedback on the topic.

Kathy Ross said back roads do not have sidewalks so residents use the roads every day for walking, running, biking, pushing strollers, and walking pets. She said adding ATVs would be unsafe. She said she hoped this matter would be widely discussed before any action taken. Tom Barone said he witnessed ATVs driven on Route 103 and an one operator use a local cemetery as a shortcut. Tony Masuck said there would be no reasonable way to enforce an ordinance regulating ATV use of Town roads. K. Luzader said the Board was in the research stage of this issue.

**Sand Shed.** Mr. Baker said he had sought multiple bids for a sand shed foundation. He said he only received one written estimate - \$39,878 from H. & G. Concrete. G. Mayer asked if he thought it was a reasonable bid. Mr. Baker affirmed it was a fair price. G. Mayer made a motion that was seconded by A. Awad to award the foundation project to H. & G. Concrete. Motion carried (5-0).

The Board by consensus agreed a project manager was not needed. A. Awad made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer authorizing the Board chair to sign a construction agreement with Whitetail Construction to install a new sand shed at a cost of \$121,118.57. Motion carried (5-0).

**Town Hall Use Requests.** The Board heard a request from Virginia Voronin to use the second floor of Town Hall one Tuesday afternoon a month for an acupuncture clinic with free will donations from participants going to an organization that sets up similar clinics to serve disaster and trauma zones. There was a discussion about insurance, Town Hall use fees, and after hour access to the building. A. Awad and G. Mayer said it was a valuable service but fees charged for use do not even cover heating/electric costs. R. Barker said waiving fees may set a precedent.

Board members agreed the Town Hall Use Agreement form should be revised for one time use and a separate form for multiple event use. G. Mayer said the Board must balance the cost of use with municipal needs. K. Luzader said the Board was not prepared to make a decision. The matter was tabled.

Board members approved Live Lane's request on behalf of Theatre in the Woods to add April 19 and time changes on May 5 for previously approved use of Town Hall.

**Rotary Coin Drop Request.** By consensus, the Board approved a request by Erika Berner on behalf of Wallingford Rotary to hold a coin drop on Main Street on Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Local Emergency Management Plan and NIMS.** By consensus, the Board authorized K. Luzader to sign the Local Emergency Management Plan and NIMS.

**Letter to VTrans - Bridge 15 East Wallingford.** Board members reviewed a revised letter to be sent to VTrans regarding Bridge 15 with additional language regarding the intersection of Routes 103 and 140. C. Behrendt said the Town would be asking for intersection improvements on a section of road in a different town – Mt. Holly. R. Barker said the original letter he drafted focused on the bridge and not the intersection. The language related to the intersection was added in response to citizens' input. Mr. Barone said the state made modifications to the intersection after

they closed the bridge. He said the VTrans letter should also be sent to legislative representatives. By consensus, the Board approved the revised letter with all Board members signing it.

**School Street Sidewalk Project.** By consensus, the Board authorized the chair to sign the sidewalk construction contract with Waters Excavating when ready.

**Mowing.** Board members reviewed estimates from F.A.S. Trucking and Landscaping owned by Justin Filskov and Green Mt Property Management owned by AJ King to mow municipal cemeteries, ballfield, Town Hall, Elfin Lake, the ballfield and Veterans' Memorial Park. A. Awad said a comparison between the two estimates showed Green Mt. Property Management's estimate was lower in some areas but higher in others. She said overall the bottom line would be about the same for both contractors. She noted F.A.S. had provided consistently good service for a number of years. By consensus, the Board accepted F.A.S. Trucking and Landscaping as the Town's mowing contractor for 2026.

**Summer Hires.** Following a review of applications, the Board hired Isaac Smith from Tinmouth, Annabelle Astin from Wallingford, and Dannica Sanderson to work at Elfin Lake concessions. Tori Behrendt will be returning as concession stand worker.

**Agenda Building.** ATV Use of Town Roads on a future agenda; Town Hall Use Form – single use and multiple day use on the May 4 agenda.

**Selectboard Comments/Concerns.** R. Barker said he had purchased a number of small trees including two oaks, one maple and two pussy willows for municipal plantings.

**Other Business.** A. Awad submitted a funding request document to Senator Bernie Sanders office for repair of the Town Hall clock.

It was noted the Board received a letter of support from Earl Rand in favor of ATV use of Town roads as well as a letter from Bruce Duchesne opposing use of municipal roads by ATV operators.

Board members reviewed a route map submitted by Rootstock Racing Director Brent Freedland for a bike event in June. There were no comments or questions for the event organizer.

A.Awad made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to adjourn at 7:47 p.m. Motion approved (5-0).

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 20th Day of April in the year 2026:

Wallingford Selectboard

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

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

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

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

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