

Wallingford Selectboard

Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2026

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer called the reorganizational 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, Jill Stone-Teer, Kristin Cassidy, Susan Kramer, Mark Tessier, Stacy Stratton, Keegan Tierney, Steve Pytlik, Martina Barnes, Cindy Miller, Tony Masuck, and Greg McCormack from Peg TV.

The town administrator asked if there were any nominations for Chair. C. Behrendt nominated K. Luzader. There were no other nominations. K. Luzader was elected as chair, 5-0.

K. Luzader asked if there were any nominations for Vice Chair. A. Awad nominated G. Mayer. There were no other nominations. G. Mayer was elected vice chair, 5-0).

The Selectboard by unanimous consent named the Rutland Herald as the newspaper of record for official notices; set meeting dates for the first and third Mondays of each month (with exception of holidays) at 6:30 p.m.; and adopted Rules of Procedure (as revised at the 03/02/26 meeting).

Agenda Amendments. None.

Minutes. R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to approve the 03/02/26 Meeting Minutes and 03/02/26 Informational Meeting Minutes. Motion approved (5-0).

Pay Orders. R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by A. Awad to approve pay orders totaling \$27,470.20. Motion approved (5-0).

Green Mt. National Forest Update. District Ranger Martina Barnes and Rangers Steve Pytlik and Stacy Stratton provided an overview with a map of upcoming activities in the Green Mt. National Forest (GMNF). M. Barnes said illegal ATV use had become problematic. S. Pytlik described recreational priorities, including White Rocks trails and working with partners such as Green Mt. Club to maintain the trail network. Green Mt. Club's Keegan Tierney described two upcoming projects near the Homer Stone Brook Trail that would require accessing Town right of ways with a mini excavator and other equipment to rebuild flood damaged areas. He noted materials would be flown in via helicopter in June. By consensus, the Board approved use of the Town's legal trail for trail maintenance projects. S. Stratton discussed ongoing timber harvest projects and invasive species. M. Barnes said there would be one prescribed burn in the Homer Stone meadow this spring.

A.Awad asked about the status of any federal mandates for staff reductions. M. Barnes said anticipated reductions were at the federal and regional levels not the local level.

Road Commissioner's Report. None.

ATV Use of Town Roads. Mark Tessier provided samples of Ordinances for the Use of ATVs on Town Roads adopted by other municipalities as well as a VLCT Model Ordinance. He requested

the Board consider adopting a similar ordinance to provide riding opportunities for owners of ATVs and side by sides. There was a lengthy discussion regarding requiring annual registrations, working with an existing or new ATV club to create/maintain trails with signage, whether to include some or all town roads, and enforcement matters. J. Stone-Teer said a neighboring Danby club would be willing to start a Wallingford-Danby club. A. Awad asked about earlier discussions regarding ATV illegal use in the GMNF. Mr. Pytlik responded providing riding opportunities typically reduced illegal usage.

The town administrator said adoption of an ordinance would require drafting the document, a public hearing, a vote on the ordinance, and an appeal period. After further discussion, the Board agreed to begin the process of drafting an ordinance for future consideration.

Honorable Mentions. Volunteers who assisted with the Town Meeting voting/elections.

Public Comments. None.

Gilbert Hart Library – Town Letter of Support. The Board by consensus agreed to sign a Letter of Support as requested by Gilbert Hart Library Trustees President Kristin Cassidy as part of an application packet for a Public Facilities Preservation Initiative Grant for Small Rural Public Libraries. The funds would be used for facility renovations/upgrades.

Town Hall Use Request for Acupuncture Appointments. This item was tabled as Virginia Voronin – who made the request - did not attend the meeting.

Sand Shed. The Board requested the town clerk and treasurer research loan options; approved a construction agreement with Whitetail Construction pending the road commissioner's final review/approval of the agreement; tabled action on awarding a foundation contract until multiple estimates were reviewed; and tabled action on hiring a project manager to clarify costs for just permitting and/or one week of construction inspection with DuBois & King.

School Street Sidewalks – GPI Construction Inspection Award & VHB Bid Analysis Memo. By consensus, the Board authorized K. Luzader to sign the Construction Inspection Award for Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. (GPI) related to the School Street sidewalk project. K. Luzader said GPI and Construction Inspector Randy Merrill had extensive experience with local projects.

By consensus, the Board authorized K. Luzader to sign VHB Engineers' Bid Analysis of the six bids submitted by pre-qualified contractors for the School Street sidewalk project. The Board approved VHB's recommendation to accept Waters Excavating's low bid of \$556,120 as required by the federal/state grant process. The next step is for VTrans to approve awarding the contract.

Bidder	Bid Total
Waters Excavation, Inc	\$556,120.00
Hunter Excavating	\$604,170.00
Belden Construction	\$825,630.00
Markowski Excavating	\$849,444.11
Neil H Daniels	\$899,485.00
Weaver Excavating	\$904,085.00

Annual Financial Plan. By consensus, the Board approved submission of the VTrans Annual Financial Plan related to highway expenditures in order to qualify for paving and structure/bridge grants. The plan is based on the voter approved Fiscal Year 2027 Highway Budget and road crew and road commissioner salaries.

Annual Appointments/Reappointments. K. Luzader read aloud the committee/commission members up for reappointment with Robbie Stubbins from the Energy Committee the only person who requested not to be reappointed. R. Barker nominated Shawn Johnson as Animal Control Officer. A. Award suggested the Board consider all other appointments and then discuss the Animal Control Officer post. Board members agreed.

By consensus, the Board agreed to the following reappointments: Dennis Duhaime for a 4 year term on the Conservation Commission; Constable 1 year left vacant; Dave Ballou and Jill Burkett on the Development Review Board for 3 year terms; E911 Coordinators Dale and Eric Davenport 1 year; Emergency Mgt Director Jim Bagnall 1 year; Tom Fort 3 years on the Energy Co; Michael McMahon and Mark Tessier on the Fire Protection Budget Committee 1 year; Tony Masuck on the Planning Commission 3 years; Bruce Dobbins as Rutland County Solid Waste Rep and Rutland Reg. Transportation Advisory Council Rep 1 year each; Erika Berner as Rutland Reg. Planning Commission Rep 1 year; Phil Baker as Road Commission for 1 year; and Tree Warden Rob Barker for 1 year. In addition, the Board reappointed the following Wallingford Day Sub-Committee for one-year terms - Michael Luzader, Sierra Stocker, Erika Berner, Naomi Bombardier-Wilson, Heather Johnson, Todd Galiano, Cheyenne LaRose and Olivia Burroughs.

C. Behrendt was appointed to the Scholarship Committee for 1 year. A. Awad said she would be interested in the post next year.

Board members approved by a 4-1 margin appointing Joseph Elwell as Animal Control Officer. R. Barker cast the lone vote for Shawn Johnson.

Congressional Funding Request. The Board approved A. Awad's request to submit a funding recommendation to Senator Bernie Sanders in the amount of just over \$10,000 for Town Hall clock upgrades and Boy With the Boot replication costs. A. Awad said she needed an estimate for fountain base repairs for the Boy With the Boot to add to the submission. R. Barker agreed to seek that estimate from a local contractor.

There was a brief discussion about including replacement of Town Hall windows (\$20,000 to \$30,000). A. Awad suggested state historic preservation funds could be used for that purpose. She said she would be willing to explore that avenue.

Agenda Building. None.

Selectboard Comments/Concerns. R. Barker asked about the Town's letter to VTrans regarding Bridge 15 in East Wallingford. K. Luzader said the topic would be on the April 6th agenda.

Other Business. G. Mayer asked about adding the Investment Policy to a future agenda. Board members agreed.

Executive Session. K. Luzader made a motion to enter executive session at 8:11 p.m. for a disciplinary or dismissal action against a public officer or employee under 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(4). C. Behrendt seconded the motion. Motion approved (5-0). K. Luzader made a motion that was

seconded by G. Mayer to exit executive session at 8:36 p.m. Motion carried (5-0). No action was taken.

R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. Motion approved (5-0).

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 6th Day of April in the year 2026:

Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Rob Barker _____

Anne Awad _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Glenn Mayer _____