

Wallingford Selectboard

Meeting Minutes

June 1, 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, Glenn Mayer, Kathy Luzader and Carolyn Behrendt.

Others present at the Meeting: Sandi Switzer, Jill Stone Teer, Phil Baker, Heather Johnson, Bob Munson, Mark Tessier, Nan Dubin, Kathleen Ross, Karl Ross, Tony Masuck, Luke Molaski, Ann Erickson, Gary Erickson, Zach Maniery, Sarah Wicker, Ralph Corbo, and Greg McCormack from Peg TV.

Agenda Amendments. Addition of Executive Session at the end of the meeting by consensus.

Minutes. R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to approve the 05/18/26 Meeting Minutes. Motion approved (5-0).

Pay Orders. G. Mayer made a motion that was seconded by R. Barker to approve pay orders totaling \$139,877.24. Motion approved (5-0).

Road Commissioner's Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker informed the Board about mechanical issues with multiple Highway Department vehicles. A. Awad asked about numerous repairs to the Volvo. Mr. Baker responded it was standard wear and tear. He added purchasing used rather than new equipment would result in higher repair costs. G. Mayer said Capital planning included scheduled purchases of new vehicles starting next year.

Mr. Baker said he would be meeting with paving contractors Tuesday morning to review summer paving projects with bids due June 15th. He said work would begin next week on Depot Street as part of a Fire District 1 water project. He said Depot Street could likely be closed for the week.

Honorable Mentions. Wallingford Fire Department for spending several hours cleaning the area around the skateboard park off Meadow Street.

Public Participation Rules. K. Luzader read aloud the following:

If you wish to address the Board, you may speak only after raising your hand, being acknowledged by the chair, and stating your name and where you live.

All comments shall be directed to the chair and not to others present.

Personal comments are not permitted.

Comments should be on topic.

We discuss issues not people.

Public Comments. Nan Dubin said by considering an ordinance that would allow ATVs to use Town Roads, the Selectboard was asking residents to sacrifice peace, safety and privacy for a few ATV enthusiasts many of which were from out of town. She encouraged the Selectboard to reject any proposal allowing ATVs on Town roads.

K. Luzader said the ATV map was created as a result of a citizens' request to consider the ordinance. The map provided a visual as the Board explored the request.

Ralph Corbo shared concerns about a telecommunication tower being constructed in East Wallingford, the environmental impacts of ATVs on roads, and Air National Guard cargo planes from neighboring states impacting the peaceful environment and causing emotional distress. He called on the Board to oppose use of air space by the cargo planes.

Karl Ross said creating the ATV map was the wrong approach by the Board and he urged them to decide first whether or not to proceed with an ordinance.

Tony Masuck questioned the impact on areas such as Wallingford Pond and the Green Mt. National Forest as the map showed ATVs would be allowed on roads in both areas. Doug Blodgett said he echoed many concerns already expressed and questioned how the Town would enforce ATV rules.

Luke Molaski said other communities like Benson allowed ATVs on roads. He said citizens focused only on the negatives while ignoring positives, such as the revenue generated for the Town and area businesses as well as ATV groups assisting with trail clearing. Bob Munson said if Wallingford allowed ATV use on Town roads other municipalities would follow creating a network that would attract users leading to more revenue for area businesses. Sarah Wicker said she had no issues with people using ATVs on rural roads for farm chores. But she said speeders would create safety concerns for pedestrians (especially children) and those on horseback or walking dogs.

ATV Use of Town Roads – Proposed Map. G. Mayer explained Mark Tessier had submitted a list of potential Town roads to be included in an ATV Ordinance. G. Mayer said he created the map to visualize the roads. M. Tessier explained ATVs were allowed on municipal roads around Vermont, NY, NH, ME and elsewhere. He said most people have to transport their ATVs to those locations. He said the ordinance would provide another option for local ATV enthusiasts. He said ATVs on Town roads were no different than cars and would be subject to fines for speeding, no registration/proof of insurance and more. He added use of Town roads could possibly lead to access to private property in the future. He noted the Sheriff Dept. and Fish & Wildlife would enforce the rules.

Several residents spoke in opposition to an ATV ordinance and a few spoke in favor of it.

Cindy Miller asked how the Selectboard planned to proceed. K. Luzader said the Board would continue to gather information from other towns that had adopted similar ordinances. G. Mayer said the Board still needed to decide the next step. R. Barker made a motion to indefinitely table the matter. The motion died for lack of a second.

Bank Loan Documents – Sand Shed. Town Clerk and Treasurer Jill Stone-Teer said Community Bank had questions related to bank loan verses bond for the sand shed project. More information to follow.

Wallingford Day – Bounce Houses. Heather Johnson presented an updated waiver form covering both the Town and vendor similar to the document used last year for bounce houses (amended to feature a different vendor). She also presented detailed costs totaling \$3,000 associated with Mt Bouncers expenses and labor (vendor employees operate the units). G. Mayer

made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to accept the terms (expenses/waivers) and allow Mt Bouncers to participate in the annual Wallingford Day event. Motion carried (4-1). A. Awad voted in the minority.

Boy With the Boot – Update and Fountain Work. Board members reviewed an update from Northeast 3D on the Boy With the Boot replica. A. Awad said it would not be ready for Wallingford Day and she did not want a deadline pressure placed on the contractor. She discussed work needed on the Boy With the Boot fountain, including sand blasting estimated at \$5,000. She said a portion of any municipal budget surplus should be dedicated to this project. R. Barker agreed the Town should address fountain repairs.

Donations for the fountain may be made to the Town of Wallingford.

Dog List. J. Stone-Teer said her calls and emails to dog owners reminding them to register their pets had proved successful and requested any municipal letters warning of possible fines be delayed a week. The Board agreed.

Agenda Building. K. Luzader added Fire District 1 infrastructure concerns.

Selectboard Comments/Concerns. A. Awad said the Conservation Commission wanted to maintain revenue sales from honey separately from the Conservation budget and general fund. The revenue would be earmarked for bee expenses. The town administrator said Reserve Funds required voter approval. J. Stone-Teer said she would research the Conservation Certificate of Deposit created a decade ago. There was a discussion that new state legislation allowed Towns to use surpluses for municipal expenses rather than automatically reducing the amount to be raised in taxes for the following budget.

Other Business. G. Mayer said he heard concerns from several residents that their home values had doubled as a result of the reappraisal and they expected their taxes to double. He said he would be willing to issue a statement for clarification.

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said she had worked with Summer Program Director Lawrie Roundy regarding collection of full payments from participating families by the end of May for the four-week program. As a result, 27 of the 29 families had paid in full - a big success compared to previous years.

The town administrator requested permission to hire Zora Miller to work at concessions. The Board agreed.

K. Luzader made a motion at 8:02 p.m. to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the Town's contract with Whitetail Construction for the sand shed would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage if the Selectboard disclosed a negotiating strategy. G. Mayer seconded the motion. Motion approved (5-0).

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by R. Barker to enter executive session with Road Commissioner Phil Baker and the town administrator for contract discussions as allowed under 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1). Motion carried (5-0).

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to exit executive session at 8:12 p.m. Motion carried (5-0). K. Luzader directed Mr. Baker to contact Whitetail to request engineer drawings of the sand shed.

R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to adjourn at 8:13 p.m. Motion approved (5-0).

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 15th Day of June in the year 2026:

Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Rob Barker _____

Anne Awad _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Glenn Mayer _____