

Wallingford Selectboard

Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2026

Selectboard Chair Kathy Luzader called the Selectboard meeting at Wallingford Town Hall to order at 6:15 p.m.

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to enter executive session for the evaluation of an employee as allowed under 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). Motion carried, (5-0). A. Awad made a motion that was seconded by R. Barker to exit executive session at 6:34 p.m. Motion carried, (5-0). K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to give Road Foreman Steve Lanfear a 3 percent raise. Motion carried, (5-0).

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

Others present at the Meeting: Sandi Switzer, Mark Barone, Roger Sheehan, Cecile Betit, Jeff Biasuzzi, Lorna Norris, Naomi Bombardi-Wilson, Denise Young, Ethan Young, Amanda Eaton, Maggie O'Brien, Eric Davenport, Erika Berner, and Greg McCormack from Peg-TV.

Agenda Amendments. None.

Minutes. G. Mayer made a motion that was seconded by A. Awad to approve the 07/06/26 Meeting Minutes. Motion approved (5-0).

Pay Orders. R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to approve 07/21/26 pay orders totaling \$126,473.38. Motion approved (5-0). K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by A. Awad to approve revised 07/07/26 pay orders totaling \$172,805.24. Motion carried (5-0).

Road Commissioner's Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker said he would contact the contractor to schedule the sand shed foundation installation. He said the Volvo was running again after repairs and the 2016 Kenworth should be ready soon. He said roadside mowing had begun. There was a discussion about Depot Street and the road crew doing part of the labor in exchange for Fire District 1 paving the road (at a cost of over \$48,000). Eric Davenport said the Highway Department had not caught up on local road work and he said East Street needed ditching, grading and brush removal. G. Mayer said he was meeting weekly with the road crew to ensure citizens' concerns were addressed but that vehicle repairs had set back the grading, ditching and brush cutting schedule.

Amanda Eaton shared concerns about motorists speeding on Nash Drive and she requested the speed limit be lowered from 25 to 15 mph. She also asked about installing a sidewalk. K. Luzader said the Town did not have the authority to set the speed limit lower than 25 unless it was within the designated downtown district (Nash is outside the district). K. Luzader said Nash could be added to a list of sidewalks to be repaired or added. There was a discussion about adding speed bumps. Jeff Biasuzzi said speed enforcement was an issue. It was noted the sheriff's department was notified about speed complaints on Nash Drive. A new speed sign will be installed.

Honorable Mentions. David Cornwell and Charlie Woods for completing a number of maintenance items at the ballfield playground; Karen Smith for organizing the Town Hall food shelf

each week; Aldous Funeral Home for the generous donation to the Boy With the Boot fund; the Wallingford Day committee for all their hard work and efforts in creating this annual event.

Public Participation Reminders. Rules read aloud to members of the public:

A reminder about rules of procedure.

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. None.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Draft Review. Rutland Reg. Planning Commission's (RRPC) Maggie O'Brien provided an overview of the draft Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) with a focus on hazard identification and risk assessment. She thanked LHMP committee members, Charlie Woods, Jill Stone-Teer, Bill Weiss, Sandi Switzer, Tom Fort, and Glenn Mayer for their participation. She thanked the town administrator for pursuing a Municipal Planning Grant (\$13,000) after FEMA cut funding for the required update.

Fire Chief Mark Barone asked about the fire department's involvement with updating the document. Ms. O'Brien agreed to include the fire chief in future meetings. Naomi Bombardi-Wilson asked about invasive species and mentioned plants, such as the knotweed. Ms. O'Brien agreed to make note of it.

Ms. O'Brien announced there was a public comment period through August 3 and citizens should email Maggie@Rutlandrpc.org with input or offer in-person input to the Selectboard at the August 3 meeting at Town Hall. She said the next step would be to develop mitigation strategies.

Ms. O'Brien asked the Board if the document conveyed the story of Wallingford. By consensus, the Board agreed it did. K. Luzader thanked Ms. O'Brien for her extensive work on the document.

Town Plan Update. Zoning Administrator Erika Berner said the Planning Commission had a public hearing on July 14th for the updated Town Plan and received limited input. Changes were made to the document based on input. She said the Selectboard was required to hold a public hearing. The Board agreed to schedule a hearing for Monday, August 17, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to accept the Town Plan. Motion carried, (5-0).

Fire Warden. K. Luzader said over a dozen area towns were polled about fire warden pay/stipends and Mendon was the only municipality that paid a fire warden – the amount was \$1,200 annually. Wallingford Fire Chief Mark Barone responded that may change with the new state statute requiring the fire chief to be fire warden. Board members reviewed Mr. Barone's request for \$1,500 stipends each for the fire warden and deputy fire warden plus mileage. There was a discussion regarding liability concerns, number of permits issued annually, mandatory training, and possibly assessing permit fees to partially offset the stipends. R. Barker said the state legislature took away the Town's ability to appoint a fire warden and took away fire warden duties from citizens who were not fire chiefs. K. Luzader said stipends were not budgeted given

the statute became effective July 1 with little forewarning. After a lengthy discussion, K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to set the stipend total at \$2,000 (average of 80 permits per year at a cost of \$25 each) split between the fire warden and deputy fire warden. Motion carried (5-0).

C. Behrendt recommended the fire warden log the number of permits per year and mileage in order to inform board members at budget time of the actual costs.

Amend Parking Ordinance – Route 7 and Florence Avenue. R. Barker recommended amending the Town's Parking Ordinance to prohibit parking near the intersection of Florence Avenue and Route 7 on the west side out of safety concerns. A. Awad said she agreed with Mr. Barker. After a brief discussion, R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to amend the parking ordinance to add the following language to the prohibited parking section of the ordinance: *from the centerline of Florence Avenue (TH#56) to a point 120 feet North on the west side of Route 7.*

Motion carried, (4-1). C. Behrendt voted in the minority.

K. Luzader read aloud the amended ordinance language and the steps citizens may take to petition a vote on the matter: *Citizens have the right to petition pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1973 for a vote on the Amendment. A petition for a vote on the question of disapproving an ordinance or rule shall be signed by not less than five per cent of the qualified voters of the municipality, and presented to the legislative body or the clerk of the municipality within 44 days following the date of adoption of the ordinance or rule by the legislative body. Comments may be forwarded to: Wallingford Town Administrator, 75 School Street, Wallingford, VT 05773 or (802)446-2872.*

E-911 Locatable Address – Countryside Drive. E911 Coordinator Eric Davenport requested a driveway off Haven Hill with three residences be named Countryside Drive. He explained he did not receive a response from residents regarding a street name. He said the Town would notify the state E911 office, emergency responders and erect a street sign. R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to name the road Countryside Drive. Motion carried, (5-0).

Vermont Emergency Management Buyout – Hunter Property. G. Mayer agreed to conduct the required site visit prior to the August 19th closing between the Town and Ben Hunter of 33 Weston Road as part of Vermont Emergency Management's Buyout Program (no cost to the Town). A. Awad agreed to attend the closing in Burlington on the Board's behalf if participating virtually was not an option.

Cecile Betit requested a water Right of Way (ROW) from the Hunter property to her land be removed at the time of the closing. After a brief discussion, the matter was tabled until the Town's attorney responded to a request from the town administrator that included the ROW language under consideration.

Agenda Building. None.

Selectboard Comments/Concerns. K. Luzader said the Town's basketball court off Meadow was rehabilitated five years ago at a cost of over \$30,000 approved by citizens and paid by taxpayers. Recent repeated attempts to relocate skateboard rails from the basketball court to the skateboard area were unsuccessful, so the rails were removed from the park, she said. Last weekend, she said someone placed a homemade ramp on the basketball court. She removed it to the transfer station. She announced skateboards, ramps, rails, roller skates, rollerblades,

scooters, bikes and anything with wheels are not allowed on the basketball court. R. Barker added those items were not allowed on the tennis court either.

Other Business. A. Awad asked for a discussion at an upcoming meeting about the AT&T cell tower lease.

Selectboard Comments/Concerns.

C. Behrendt made a motion that was seconded by A. Awad to adjourn at 9:09 p.m. Motion approved (5-0).

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 3rd Day of August in the year 2026:

Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Rob Barker _____

Anne Awad _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Glenn Mayer _____