Wallingford Selectboard

Meeting Minutes

November 2, 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, Glenn Mayer, and Kathy Luzader.

Others present at the Meeting: Sandi Switzer, Jill Stone-Teer, Erika Berner, Julie Petrossi, Maggie O'Brien, Sabra Shulman, Jill Burkett, Lisa Donohue, and Greg McCormack from Peg TV.

Agenda Amendments. By consensus, the Board tabled Errors and Omissions until the Nov. 16th meeting by request of the Town assessor.

Minutes. G. Mayer made a motion that was seconded by A. Awad to approve the 10/19/26 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried, (5-0).

Pay Orders. R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve 11/04/26 pay orders totaling $2,081,395.96. Motion carried, (5-0).

K. Luzader noted an education payment to MRUUSD in the amount of $2,044,131.78 was included in pay orders.

Road Commissioner's Report. None.

G. Mayer said truck repairs were needed on the Volvo, the 2016 Kenworth and the Dodge One-Ton, which needed an oil pan replaced. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said she had spoken to Road Crew member Charlie Woods about the Better Roads grant application and he suggested a culvert replacement project on Dawson Hill Road.

G. Mayer said the air compressor at the Town garage needed to be replaced following an inspection by the insurance company.

Honorable Mentions. Phil Baker for assisting Rutland Regional Planning Commission with the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update; John McClallen for taking down the U.S. flags in the village before Halloween; Charlie Woods for taking the dock out of Elfin Lake for the season; election volunteers Karen Smith, Deb Munson, Gary Fredette, Nan Dubin, Pat Pranger, Patti Ingalls, Terry Biasuzzi, Bruce & Maureen Duchesne, Pat & Dan Stone, Barb Boucher, Theresa Ahlers, Sandy Eddy, Denise Eddy and Carolyn Behrendt, Mill River Boys Varsity soccer team for winning the Division IV State Championship; Mill River Chamber Ensemble for a beautiful national anthem rendition at the semi-final and final soccer championship matches; Tom Fort for his diligent efforts on the Local Hazardous Mitigation Plan; a Gilbert Hart Library committee and Susan Kramer for securing a sizable grant for facility upgrades.

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.

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Personal comments are not permitted.
Comments should be on topic.
We discuss issues not people.

Public Comments. K. Luzader said the Board had received an email from Julie Petrossi regarding motorists honking horns as they drove past group gatherings on Main Street every Saturday. K. Luzader said the violators were the motorists and not the assembled groups (the Saturday group and political groups). She said the Board could request groups not encourage horn honking, but she said there was no evidence any groups did so. Sabra Shulman said those rallies were peaceful, respectful and signs expressed positive messages.

Ms. Petrossi asked if the Board intended to direct groups to post No Honking signs or give any other directives. K. Luzader said the Board had little leeway as far as a course of action since the violators were the motorists and not group members. G. Mayer said there had been some conversations among members of the Saturday group to encourage respectful behavior and request motorists not honk horns.

Ms. Petrossi said she heard from a number of local business owners the gatherings impacted business. Erika Berner said she lived a few doors down from the gatherings and had no complaints relative to noise. She said vehicles with no mufflers and "souped up" engines made disturbing noises. Ms. Shulman said two business owners had told her gatherings boosted sales.

C. Behrendt said the Town can ask sheriff patrols to be aware of motorists disturbing the peace.

First Quarter Financials. Town Clerk/Treasurer Jill Stone-Teer provided a detailed overview of the first quarter for Fiscal Year 2027. She said income exceeded expectations and most expense line items were on target with the exception of Highway Department miscellaneous equipment; Special Projects; and vehicle repairs.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan – RRPC's Maggie O'Brien. Maggie O'Brien from Rutland Reg. Planning Commission presented a completed draft Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. She thanked the planning team – Tom Fort, Glenn Mayer, Sandi Switzer, Jill Stone-Teer, Phil Baker, and Charlie Woods. Ms. O'Brien discussed Mitigation tables, Action Items, an Annual LHMP review, and the next five-year review. She said the public comment period would begin November 3rd and conclude with a Selectboard agenda item on November 16th for final comments. A. Awad noted there was little mention of Knotweed as an invasive species compared to Emerald Ash Borer. Jill Burkett added poison parsnip should also be listed as invasive species. Ms. O'Brien said she would make those additions and speak to Conservation Commission Chair Denise Eddy (who submitted written comments related to invasive species) about the topic.

Ms. O'Brien said the next step would be to submit the document to Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) for preliminary approval after the comment period concluded. She cautioned there was a VEM backlog and it could take several months from submission for a response.

G. Mayer said the LHMP was updated at no cost to the Town thanks to a Municipal Planning Grant secured by the Town Administrator. Ms. O'Brien added RRPC paid cost overruns not covered by the grant.

Lisa Donohue asked about a separate climate planning initiative. Ms. O'Brien said the LHMP detailed that pilot program on page A-13, including challenges faced and lessons learned.

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MedCare Station Request for Town Hall. Board members had no interest in moving forward with a request to host a telemedicine booth at Town Hall second floor open four days a week for the next 12 months.

REMC Re-Appointments. By consensus, the Board reappointed Jim Bagnall and Bill Weiss to Rutland Emergency Mgt Committee (REMC) through June of 2027.

VLCT Property Schedule. The VLCT property schedule was reviewed and approved with no changes. The schedule showed the old sand and salt sheds had been eliminated, the new sand/salt shed added along with the town garage solar array.

Agenda Building. A. Awad requested the No Parking sign on Route 7 near Florence Ave be added to the next agenda. She also asked about adding the cell tower buyout offer. G. Mayer and K. Luzader were opposed to the buyout. A. Awad requested the Boy With the Boot 3D project be added to a future agenda.

Selectboard Concerns. R, Barker asked whether K. Luzader had contacted a clock repair person for the Town Hall clock. K. Luzader said she would reach out to that individual. A. Awad said the funding request for the clock repair sent to Sen. Sanders was denied. She said Brandon received $1 million and she would like to see a wider distribution across the state.

The Board directed the town administrator to reach out to a benefits administrator to gather more information about a one-day consulting session.

Other Business. K. Luzader read the FY'28 budget schedule:

Capital, Town Government and Public Safety on December 7, 2026;
Recreation, Highway and Appropriations on December 21st, 2026;
Administration, Insurance and Revenue on January 4, 2027

K. Luzader announced the Conservation Commission's stick season clean-up was scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 7th.

K. Luzader made a motion seconded by G. Mayer that premature general knowledge of a separation contract with Northeast 3D would place the Town at substantial disadvantage. Motion carried, (5-0). K. Luzader made a motion seconded by G. Mayer to enter executive session at 7:35 p.m. for a contract matter (town administrator included). Motion carried (5-0). K. Luzader made a motion seconded by G. Mayer to exit executive session at 7:50 p.m. Motion carried, (5-0).

K. Luzader made a motion seconded by R. Barker to forward an agreement to Northeast 3D to part ways. Motion carried, (5-0).

G. Mayer made a motion seconded by C. Behrendt to enter executive session at 7:53 p.m. for the appointment, employment, evaluation of a public officer or employee (five Board members only). Motion carried, (5-0). G. Mayer made a motion seconded by C. Behrendt to exit executive session at 8:10 p.m. Motion carried, (5-0). By consensus, the Board agreed to make an offer to the town administrator to stay in that position through Town Meeting and to schedule candidate interviews.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 16th Day of November in the year 2026:

Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Rob Barker_____

Anne Awad _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Glenn Mayer_____

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