

Windham VT Selectboard Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2020 Regular Meeting

Present via Zoom web conference:

Maureen Bell, Selectwoman	Peter Chamberlain, Selectman
Kord Scott, Selectman	Michael McLaine, Town Clerk
Joyce Cumming, Selectboard Clerk	Bill Dunkel, Planning Commission
Louise Johnson, Meeting House Committee	Tom Johnson, Energy Committee (joined late)
Kathy Scott, Treasurer	

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Additions to Agenda/Announcements/Reminders

- Kathy Scott reported that approximately 20 bags of trash and other items were collected as part of Green-Up Day on May 30th.
- Maureen noted that the Governor announced today an extension of the State of Emergency order until July 15, 2020. Kord commented on the resurgence in some states and the spread of the virus at a UVM basketball game in March.

Approve minutes of June 1, 2020 Regular Selectboard Meeting

Motion: To approve the June 1, 2020 Regular Selectboard Meeting minutes as submitted—moved by Maureen—all in favor.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence for discussion.

New Business:

Refund Jake's Grill Liquor License

Maureen noted a request received from Jake's Grill for refund of the liquor license fee of \$115 paid to the Town. Jake's Grill and Tater Hill Golf Club will not open this year. Maureen discussed with Mike who had no objection.

Motion: To refund the 2020 liquor license fee of \$115 to Jake's Grill at Tater Hill Golf Club—moved by Kord—all in favor.

Kathy Scott will issue the refund.

VLCT Resolution for Federal Emergency Aid for all American communities

Maureen referenced a resolution received from VLCT on federal emergency aid for all American communities (attached). VLCT is asking all Vermont cities and towns to sign the resolution which asks Congress to treat all American communities in a uniform manner regardless of population size.

Motion: To authorize Maureen Bell, on behalf of the Windham Selectboard, to sign and submit the VLCT Resolution on Federal Emergency Aid for all American communities—moved by Peter—all in favor.

Eliastam dog fence

Maureen reviewed email communication with Becky Eliastam who reported success with a muzzle that seems to be working well. Maureen noted concerns in the proposal for the fence which Becky forwarded for Selectboard approval. During the hearing held on May 26, 2020, Becky explained that the fence would be 6 ft. high but the proposal specifies a fence height of 5 feet. Maureen also noted some concerns expressed by Becky about the time frame for Springfield Fence to complete the installation which may require additional time beyond the 30 day proviso in the Selectboard's decision. Kord asked about any factors that either Becky or the fence company may have provided about the fence height in the proposal, but there was no information on how the 5 ft. height was determined. Kord also asked how big the dog is; Maureen explained that the vet report states 42 lbs. but anecdotally she believes it may weigh more. Peter asked if the Eliastams received the Selectboard decision; Mike confirmed that the return receipt showed that Becky signed for the letter. Brief discussion followed on the 3 gates included in the fence proposal and what precautions would be taken to ensure that the gates remain securely closed. Kord and Peter were in favor of having Maureen reach out to Becky on behalf of the Selectboard to get clarification on how the fence height was determined and what measures would be taken to ensure that the gates remain securely closed. Peter suggested also addressing the time frame for the installation. Maureen agreed to follow-up with Becky on the Selectboard's concerns.

Letter of appreciation to the people who worked on the revised School Budget

Kord suggested that the Selectboard send a thank-you letter to the members of the Ad-hoc committee who worked to understand the factors in the school budget that affected the tax rate, and the collaborative efforts of the Ad-hoc committee, the Windham Central Supervisory Union, and the School Board. Kord noted that members of the community offered varying perspectives that contributed to developing a budget that met with a majority of voter approval on June 10th. Peter and Maureen agreed. Kord offered to draft the letter on behalf of the Selectboard.

Old Business:

Deerfield Valley Broadband CUD Update/sign their form appoint a representative/alternate

The Selectboard received a form from the Deerfield Valley Communication Union District (DVCUD) to use in appointing a representative and an alternate. The DVCUD also needs to approve Windham joining the CUD. Guilford and Windham (#11 and #12) will be considered for acceptance at the next meeting on Wednesday to which David Cherry will be invited. David is willing to continue as Windham's appointed representative.

Brief discussion followed on appointment of an alternate. Possible candidates contacted by Maureen are either too busy or not willing to commit at this time. Kathy suggested Rory Rosselot. Maureen will contact Rory to determine if she is interested in serving as an alternate. At a minimum, the form will be submitted appointing David Cherry as Windham's representative, with an alternate to be appointed in the future.

Motion: To authorize Maureen Bell to sign and submit the form to the Deerfield Valley Broadband Communication Union District naming David Cherry as Windham's representative—moved by Peter—all in favor.

Review Bob Fisher's email regarding establishing speed limits along with Robert Lakin's willingness to complete the required traffic studies

Just prior to the meeting, Kord forwarded email communication he had with Atty. Bob Fisher and with Officer Lakin regarding the highway ordinance. Kord explained that Bob Fisher outlined the need to have a traffic study conducted to set a speed limit on paved roads. Kord explained that Officer Lakin is willing to perform the traffic study. Windham has a credit balance with the Sheriff's Dept. sufficient to cover the time required. Based on this, Kord gave the go-ahead and work has already begun by Officer Lakin to measure the speeds of 100 vehicles on the paved roads. Outliers are excluded and the remaining information is fed into a formula. There is also an allowance to adjust the speed limits for special circumstances in some areas of Town based on conditions and uses, such as lack of shoulders, blind spots, driveway access, bike riding, walking, etc. The traffic study is done in an unmarked car using a radar gun to record speeds. Kord reported that Officer Lakin is enthusiastic about getting involved and willing to also conduct a traffic study on Burbee Pond Road and other unpaved roads as determined necessary. Review and discussion will continue on adoption of the revised traffic ordinance.

Motion: To approve the continuance of the traffic study already begun by Officer Robert Lakin—moved by Peter—all in favor.

Animal Nuisance Ordinance

Maureen reviewed the changes she and Joyce discussed in the nuisance animal ordinance following deliberation by the Selectboard to date. Some areas of the ordinance were proposed for deletion while other areas were replaced with wording from the existing Vicious Dog Ordinance. There are still a few areas in need of clarification such as the difference between a vicious animal and a potentially vicious animal. Maureen also reviewed discussion she had with Atty. Bob Fisher about reference to wolf-hybrids and an incident in Harmonyville years ago. Maureen and Kord like the idea of an Animal Advisory Board; hopefully, three residents can be identified to serve in this capacity. A few typographical errors were identified. References to Windham Zoning Regulations were approved for deletion.

Maureen suggested allowing time for further review before taking action. Kord proposed that as an exercise, the sample ordinance be applied to various animal complaints addressed recently (cow in North Windham, complaints regarding the peacocks, dogs barking all day on Abbot Road, the llama-alpaca incident, and the recent dog attack). In response to a question from Kord about requiring neighbors to discuss complaints amongst themselves, Maureen noted that Atty. Fisher responded that the Selectboard cannot adopt an ordinance and then not use it. Maureen added that the Animal Advisory Board may be helpful in that regard. Review and discussion will continue on the animal ordinance.

The Meeting House:

Use of the building in October for 2 events

Louise reported that two requests were received for use of the Meeting House in October, one for a family reunion and another for a memorial service. Maureen noted the difficulty in reaching a decision on the requests based on the need to abide by the Governor's orders which currently limit gatherings to 25 or fewer participants, require that out-of-state visitors must quarantine either at home for 14 days and then proceed directly here or quarantine here for 14 days upon arrival. There is an option to reduce the quarantine period to

7 days if a person is asymptomatic and tests negative for COVID-19. Maureen shared information with Louise on the State Health website listing the current quarantine requirements.

Peter noted safety issues at the Meeting House identified by the fire marshal such as the doors. Peter is apprehensive about allowing use of the building due to the fact that the Town has been notified of safety concerns and assumes liability now that it owns and insures the building.

Brief discussion followed on remedying the doors to swing out and the notion of Pete Newton constructing new historically-appropriate doors. Discussion followed on long-term projects such as new doors to be built by Pete, and short-term or more time-sensitive safety issues that need to be addressed sooner rather than later. Kord noted that the doors also need push bars.

Kord inquired regarding the proceeds that would be generated, possibly a few hundred dollars in donations. Because the two parties involved have long-term ties to Windham, Louise would like to notify them one way or the other so they may seek alternate venues if needed. Kord offered to ask Pete Newton to review the doors again with Peter and himself to determine if it is possible to modify the existing doors to swing out for short-term use. Kord will report back to Louise.

Kathy Scott noted that the IRS did not re-instate the 501(c)3 status of the Friends of the Meeting House. No explanation was given. Kathy has contacted Bob Fisher and Pete Newton and she will follow-up. Kathy suggested that the Friends could still operate under the Town's 501(c)3.

Roads:

Salt Shed Wall Repair – update

Kord reviewed discussion held to date with Pete Newton and with Charlie at Record Concrete. Kord is trying to organize another meeting with Pete and Charlie to review the approach to be used in the repair: 5 concrete pilasters to support the existing structure vs. replacing the concrete wall. Kord will provide an update when available.

Payroll/Bills

In response to a question from Maureen about a check, Kathy Scott explained that Dana Griswold does the mowing at the Meeting House. All other bills and payroll were self-explanatory. Discussion followed on whether a motion was necessary for each presentation of payments. Kord expressed his preference to continue with the motions at each meeting.

Motion: To authorize Kord Scott to sign off on payroll and bills presented for this meeting—moved by Peter—

Kathy Scott noted that with 3 weeks between meetings, some expenses may need to be paid before the next meeting on July 6. She suggested sharing work orders with Selectboard members and getting individual approvals for expenses that can't wait until July 6. Brief discussion followed and Peter agreed to modify the motion.

Motion-revised: To authorize Kord Scott to sign off on payroll and bills presented for this meeting and pay orders through July 6 as needed—moved by Peter—all in favor.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the Regular Selectboard meeting at 7:03p.m.—moved by Maureen—all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Cumming
Selectboard Clerk

Attachments:
--VLCT Resolution

DRAFT