

**Windham VT Selectboard Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2022 Regular Meeting**

Via Zoom

Kord Scott, selectboard chair
George Dutton, selectboard
Michael Pelton, selectboard
Mary McCoy, selectboard clerk

Others Attending the Entire Meeting:

Maureen Bell
Gail Wyman
Abby Pelton

Other Town Officials Who Reported:

Bill Dunkel, Energy and Planning Chair
Russell Cumming, Lister & School Board
Imme Maurath, Emergency Co-Chair

Others Attending Some of the Meeting:

David Cherry
Rachel Spangler
Tom Johnson
Carolyn Rubin
Marcia Clinton
Jon Gordon

Call to Order

Kord announced the meeting and called it to order at 5:30 PM.

Additions to Agenda/Announcements/Reminders

There were no additions to the agenda, but the order of items was changed while waiting for a speaker, Rachel Spangler. Kord announced that Killington will not be open year-round for skiing.

Approval of Minutes

There were no changes to the minutes from the meeting on April 18, 2022.

Motion: To approve minutes. Kord moved, and all agreed.

Public Comment

Bill Dunkle reminded everyone that the Energy Committee would be hosting another Window Dressers event in the autumn so homeowners can insulate their windows. Abby announced that it is Teacher Appreciation Week and asked that we thank our educators.

Correspondence

A report was received from Ashley Pinger about a dog complaint she will pursue.

Next Step: Kord will email George and Michael when he gets more information.

New Business

1. Town Events – Abby suggested that there be an annual town-wide event that includes the various groups in town and that would draw people together. Kord asked her if she would take the lead on this. Abby would like more input from the selectboard.

Next Step: The selectboard will discuss this further at a future meeting.

2. Education Tax Bill – Russell said we send far more money to the state than we get back. About 65-70% of this is returned as supplements that decrease the property taxes of full-time, lower-income households (those with less than \$138,000 annual income). Russell feels that second-home owners are subsidizing lower-income full-time households. Kord wants to lobby the state (as we did regarding our CLA) to reform Vermont's current tax system.

Next Step: Continue to consider and address this important issue.

Old Business

1. Actions to Address our CLA Problem – No responses have been received to the letter which was sent to the governor and relevant legislators. Michael asked about getting other towns to join with us on this. Kord has contacted Sy Bailey, our district advisor and head appraiser of VPR (Property Valuation and Review), for a list of other towns in our situation.

Next Step: Get the list and go from there.

2. Emergency Response Provider – In 2019, a committee headed by David Cherry, considered which emergency service provider would serve Windham best, Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad (LVRS) or Rescue, Inc. (RI). David said the data reviewed was based on the small number of rescue cases in Windham, about 11 per year, provided by LVRS. There was no comparable data from RI, as they have never served Windham. The data from other towns showed they both took 20 to 45 minutes to reach those in need. The committee concluded that both services were organized and conducted training and drills. However, RI's staff was more diverse and better trained, with better equipment and transportation, and more capabilities. LVRS is all volunteer, and Windham gives them \$3500 per year. RI is a paid service and might cost us 10 times that much.

Rachel spoke from her experience as an emergency service provider at Grace Cottage and in Ascutney. She expressed concern that people in need drive themselves to the ER, because the wait time for an ambulance is too long. Volunteer squads, which come from home or work, take longer to respond than paid rescue providers, who are on the job, waiting for a call. She feels Windham would be better served by a paid service which also has better equipment with better trained responders. She said life or death situations should not be determined by their cost.

Rachel sees that folks in the southern part of Windham have a slower response time from LVRS than those in northern part of town. She wants the town to consider switching to RI or to an agreement with both services in which LVRS would serve northern Windham and RI would serve southern Windham. She has circulated a petition asking voters to change rescue providers, which has enough signatures to call for a town vote.

Other discussion followed from several in attendance. It is unknown if the two rescue providers would agree to collaborate to provide services here. Selectboard members expressed an interest in getting more info and letting town voters decide how services will be delivered.

Next Step: David and Rachel will form a new committee, with residents from both ends of town, and make a recommendation for moving forward.

3. Calendar – There was nothing to report.

4. ARPA Funds – Volunteers have been requested to decide how to use this money, with personal appeals from George and Michael, an emailed request, and an article in the upcoming News & Notes. George and Michael will pass on the names they get to Mary.

Next Step: A meeting time and place will be set.

5. ARPA Account Administrator – Kord has accepted this role.

Next Step: Kord will set this up so others have access to the information.

6. LHMP – Two proposals have been received for the job of managing this grant, from Senior Solutions and the Windham Regional Commission (WRC). These have been reviewed by emergency co-directors, Imme Maurath and Kathy Jungermann. Both seem capable, but Imme and Kathy recommended going with WRC, as we have positive past experience with them.

Motion: To hire WRC to manage the LHMP grant. Kord moved, and all agreed.

7. Overweight Vehicle and Access Permits – Bill prepared a draft policy which says that all loggers and other contractors operating heavy equipment on Windham town roads must: (1) provide proof of liability insurance and secure a permit from the town clerk; (2) post a \$500 bond, returnable after review by the road foreman; and (3) get an access permit (or have landowner get it) signed by the road foremen. (See drafted policy attached.)

Motion: To accept the drafted policy. Kord moved, and all agreed.

Next Step: Imme will inform loggers and contractors of our new process. Kord will retain this matter on the selectboard agenda for future related issues.

8. Reappraisal – Russ reported that the listers have received valuable info from the cloud that is linked to the data system in the town office. Work remains, but he anticipates it will be done shortly. He didn't know if it would impact our CLA.

9. FEMA Reimbursement – Financial calculations are still taking place that will determine how much we will be reimbursed. We'll get 90% of our expenses.

10. Shared Mower – We have received no response from Londonderry, as our request to rent their mower is not a priority for them.

11. Facilities Maintenance – George is aware of disrepair at the town office.

Next Step: George will contact Pete Newton or Pete McDonald to determine what needs to be repaired.

Other Old Business

Michael asked if any headway had been made regarding speed limits and road signage.

Next Step: Kord will put this back on the agenda. George will contact VLCT to see how we can proceed and if we can avoid a traffic study.

Payroll/Bills

Moved: To have Kord sign for the payments presented. Kord moved, and all agreed.

Adjournment

Moved: To adjourn the meeting at 7:10 PM. George moved and all agreed.

The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2022 at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary McCoy, selectboard clerk
Approved at selectboard meeting May 16, 2022

Accompanying document:
Sec. 503 Timber Harvesting 5th Draft 4/27/22