**Windham VT Selectboard Meeting Minutes**

**June 20, 2022 Regular Meeting**

**Via Zoom**

Kord Scott, selectboard chair

George Dutton, selectboard

Michael Pelton, selectboard

Mary McCoy (Mac), selectboard clerk

Others Attending:

Tom Widger

Gail Wyman

Tom Johnson

Bill Dunkel

Elizabeth Stober

Barbara Lettenberger

Abby Pelton

**Call to Order**

Kord announced the meeting and called it to order at 5:31 PM and began the Zoom recording.

**Additions to Agenda/Announcements/Reminders**

There were no additions to the agenda, announcements or reminders.

**Approval of Minutes**

There were no changes to the minutes from the meetings on May 16 and June 6, 2022.

**Motion:** To approve the minutes from both meetings. Kord moved, and all agreed.

**Public Comment**

Tom Widger said there had been no cleanup after logging at Howard Hill Rdd. George noted that loggers are not required to clean up, as debris can be beneficial to living plants and animals.

**Correspondence**

* Bob Shannon applied for an access permit, and Kord signed off on it.
* Cindi St. George emailed about logging at 6:00 AM. Kord explained to her that loggers are allowed to start at that time, and she was satisfied with the explanation.
* Bill Casey emailed with an idea for eliminating weeds. He also commented on the need for a loose animal ordinance, a change to the speed limit at the school, Abby Pelton’s use of the school logo during Zoom meetings, and his need for more time to complete 911 updates.
* Kathy Jungermann emailed requesting that basic etiquette be followed during public comments in selectboard’s meeting and that angry venting not be permitted.

**New Business**

1. Reschedule Next Meeting The next meeting would fall on Monday, July 4th. Other dates were considered.

**Moved:** To hold the next meeting at 5:30 PM on Friday, July 1. Kord moved, and all agreed.

2. Animal Control Service Contract Three additional towns will be served by the Sheriffs Animal Contol Officer (ACO). Kord received reports (see attached) about the hours the ACO spent and a proposed contract. The Sheriffs office will continue to evaluate the costs per town. As for now, Windhams costs will remain the same.

**Next Step:** All selectboard members will review the information and discuss it further at next meeting.

**Old Business**

1. Calendar Deadlines Michael prepared the SBs article for the News & Notes, and Kord sent the towns letter of intent to Vtrans for our annual clean water grant.

2. Next Steps from June 6 Meeting

* Kord followed up on Crystal Corriveaus complaint about a delayed police reaction to a call she made. The police have spoken with her about this.
* Steps are being explored to address Wren Watts complaint about Russell Cumming.
* Our culvert issues can be aided by a webinar on this.
* Town clerk Ellen McDuffie has provided information about our current animal control ordinances which were forwarded to Michael.
* Town property sales continue to be pursued.

**Next Step:** Kord will address Wrens complaint. He and Richard will attend the culvert webinar. Michael will draft update to animal control ordinance. Mac with help Kord with town property sales.

3. Update on Roadside Mowing The town still needs to find a mower. So far, our search has only turned up one for rent in northern Vermont, but the time it is available is problematic. Road Foreman Richard Paré purchased a cyclebar mower that the town can rent from him, but additional spot mowing will be required around guardrails and other roadside objects.

**Next Step:** Kord and Richard will continue to determine the best option for mowing.

4. Dealing with Invasive Plants Cutting these down a couple of times a year will not eliminate them, only slow them. Biweekly mowing is needed. The board continues to explore possible ways to conduct frequent mowing, such as renting or buying the equipment. The cost to buy may be at least $100,000. The other approach is spraying to kill the invasive plants. Alison Trowbridge, head of the Conservation Committee, has been contacted about this. Michael mentioned a possible weed killer that is not toxic called Grazon.

**Next Step:** The selectboard in conjunction with the Conservation Committee will continue to investigate this to determine the best approach.

5. Vicious Dog Update and Outcome The VanAlstynes constructed fences with no-dig barriers to contain their dogs. The Clays installed a run for their dog, and they have until Friday to pay their fines.

**Next Step:** ACO Ashley Pinger is prepared to seize the dogs if the fines are not paid.

6 ARPA Funds Mac reported that the committee met on June 13 with nine in attendance. Several good suggestions for use of the money were offered. All seek to benefit the town as a whole. Bill Dunkel ran the ideas by the ARPA point person at VLCT, and she indicated which ones would be acceptable under ARPA guidelines. The ideas related to improving the towns public buildings might be the best direction to go. A training in grant writing was also suggested. Writing grant proposals might make it possible to get additional funds.

**Next Step:** Each committee members is determining the costs related to their specific ideas, which they will share at their next meeting.

7. Townwide Reappraisal Town Treasurer Kathy Scott has questions about the contract with the company that might conduct the reappraisal, but she was unable to attend the meeting, and lister Russell Cumming was also not present.

**Next Step:** This matter will be pursued at the next meeting.

8. Avoiding Property Use by Slate Ridge Type Group Kord and Bill Dunkel, planning committee chair, will discuss this issue with Bob Fisher, town attorney, on Tuesday, June 21, to determine if Windhams current zoning regulations are enough to prohibit a paramilitary organization like Slate Ridge from creating a facility here. Michael asked that they also ask about enforcement.

**Next Step:** Kord and Bill will report on their meeting with Bob.

9. Better Roads Grant Awards Funds are available in two categories $6,000 for planning and $20,000 for road work. The intersection of Abbott and Wheeler is the focus and considered a high priority. The deadline for completion is in a few years.

**Next Step:** A plan with a broader perspective is needed for road work.

10. FEMA Project Reimbursement A final meeting with FEMA representatives took place and our costs were submitted. They will send any questions about our submissions and assess our administrative grant costs. The Wheeler culvert project is still under review. We expect to receive 92% of our costs, including reimbursements from the state.

**Next Step:** Once that culvert project is okayed, it will be put out for bids.

**Executive Session**

**Moved:** To adjourn the regular meeting at 6:20, and go into executive session. Kord moved and all agreed.

**Next Step:** To gather additional legal advice about a personnel matter.

**Moved:** To adjourn the executive session at 6:45 and return to the regular meeting.

**Payroll/Bills**

**Moved:** To approve the pay orders received from the town treasurer. Kord moved, and all agreed.

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

**Adjournment**

**Moved:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:46 PM. Kord moved and all agreed. The Zoom recording was stopped.

The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 1, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary McCoy, selectboard clerk

Accompanying documents:

Cindi St. George’s Email ACO - Windham- Proposed Contract

Bill Casey’s Email ACO 2022 Incident Analysis

Kathy Jungermann’s Email ACO Location with Towns

Buckley’s Response to ARPA Ideas