

**Windham VT Selectboard Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2022 Regular Meeting**

Via Zoom

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

Others Attending:
Wren Watts
Kermit Blackburn
Tom Widger
Tom Johnson
Imme Maurath
Steve Maurath
Abby Pelton
Ginny Crittenden
Barbara Jean Quinn

Elizabeth Stober
Barbara Letterberger
Ashley Pinger
Becky Eliaston
Gail Wyman
Crystal Corriveau
Jim Lawler
Bill Casey
Marcia Clinton

Town Officials Reporting:
Richard Paré, road supervisor
Bill Dunkel, energy comm.
chair

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.

Public Comment

Kord announced that Kathy Scott has Covid. He thanked all involved with the memorial at the Meeting House, with special thanks to Imme and Steve Maurath for their landscaping there. Kord also thanked Dawn Bower for the flowers in the boxes outside the Town Office.

Approval of Minutes

There were no changes to the minutes from the meetings on May 20, 26, and 27.

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

Correspondence

There was no correspondence to consider.

Public Comments

> Bill Casey asked that the speed limit for the school be changed so that it is not in effect at night or on weekends.

> Crystal Corriveau described a problem she encountered with the police involving an assault. She called them on Labor Day (Monday) but received no response until Wednesday.

Next Step: Kord will contact the police and pursue their delayed action.

> Bill Dunkel reminded everyone that the Window Dressers will be providing window insulation in the autumn.

> Wren Watts read a letter of complaint she wrote about unprofessional behavior of Russell Cumming, town lister. Her partner, Kermit, added comments about Russell swearing at him and

running over their birds.

Next Step: The selectboard will discuss how they might address problematic behavior of town officials.

New Business

1. Bids on Sand – The town requested bids from three vendors and received bids from two. The lower bid was from Hill Construction, at \$19.50 per yard. They provided sand last year and did a good job.

Moved: To accept the bid from Hill Construction. Kord moved, and all approved.

2. Vermont Culvert System – This online database helps towns keep track of work that needs to be done and what is needed to do it.

Next Step: Kord and Richard will attend a webinar on how to use the system.

3. Mowing – We need to control invasive and poisonous weeds along the roads. This can be done by mowing or by spraying with chemicals. We currently have no mower. Richard offered to buy a cyclebar mower and rent it to the town, but this would still require spot mowing around guardrails. There was discussion about whether or not spraying with a chemical weed killer was a good idea. Michael pointed out that property owners need to give their OK if spraying is done by their land.

Next Steps: Mary will add to the calendar the need to address this early each June. George will talk to the Conservation Committee about their objections to spraying. He will also talk to product users who might do the spraying. He will work with Richard to determine the best way to eliminate invasive and poisonous weeds. Richard will look further for an appropriate machine for mowing.

4. Animal Control Policy – We need a process for dealing with animal complaints before the ordinance and enforcement phase, one that encourages ways for neighbor-to-neighbor resolutions.

Next Step: Kord will ask Ellen to put together a list of the ordinances the town already has about animal control. Michael will review what currently exists and make suggestions for what is still needed.

Old Business

1. Vicious Dogs – Kord gave an update on the situation with the Clay/VanAlstyne dogs. Protective orders were delivered to them, requiring all three dogs have their rabies vaccinations and be registered, and the family pay the fines they have been charged. They must also leash the dogs outside or contain them with a fence that has a dig barrier. The family has been working to fulfill these requirements and have made progress, but they have not completed the fence or paid the fines.

There was lengthy discussion by the board and others in attendance as to when the dogs should be seized. Complicating matters, if the dogs are seized, the family has 30 days to appeal, but the Humane Society will only hold an impounded dog for 10 days. Kord said Bob Fisher, town lawyer, suggested extending the deadline 20 days, and if the requirements are still not met, impound the dogs.

Next Steps: Town constable, Jim Lawler, will visit the family home tomorrow

and determine the status of the fence, and Ashley Pinger, animal control officer, will see if the current fines have been paid. If not, the dogs will be seized. The selectboard will revise the town's policy to clarify the issues discussed.

2. ARPA Committee – Eight people have volunteered to serve on this committee which will recommend how the town spends the \$120,000 from the American Recovery Plan Act. The selectboard set next Monday at 6:00 PM as the time for the first meeting.

Next Steps: George will represent the board. Mary will contact the volunteers and serve as the group's clerk.

3. Town-wide Reappraisal – Russell Cumming was not present to give a report. George said Ed from NEMRC said the appraiser we are considering for the job is well-respected.

Next Steps: This item was tabled until the next meeting.

4. Town Property Sales – The town owns three properties (on Woodburn, Rt. 121, and Horsenail Hill). A town resident is interested in buying one adjacent to them. The selectboard wants to give all town residents an equal opportunity to buy these properties.

Move: To find out from Bob Fisher the requirement related to advertising property sales, then to advertise the three properties, making sure the sale is known by all home owners with land adjacent to the three properties and by all residents on the town's broadcast email list. Kord moved, and all agreed.

5. Bike and Pedestrian Paths - We were unable to apply for the grant to create some bike and pedestrian paths without work which could not be completed before the application deadline.

Next Steps: Find out when the next deadline is and get with Colin from Windham Regional to learn how to get a study done.

Note: Due to the time, other Old Business agenda items were held for the next 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 7:24 PM. George moved and all agreed.

The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2022 at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary McCoy, selectboard clerk
Approved June 6, 2022

Accompanying document:

Wren Watts' Letter re: Russell Cumming