

**Windham VT Selectboard Minutes
June 5, 2023 Regular Meeting
Held on Zoom Only**

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

Maureen & Vance Bell
Pat McLaine
Gail Wyman
Crystal Corriveau
Barbara Jean Quinn
Tom & Eileen Widger
Cathy Edgerly Fales

Bill Casey
Tom & Louise Johnson
Russell Cumming
Imme Maurath
Ginny Crittenden
Carrie Tintle
Ron Cohen
Abby Pelton

1. Start Recording and Call to Order

Kord called the meeting to order and started the recording at 5:30 PM.

2. Make Selectboard assignments

Motion: To appoint Kord as chair and George as vice chair. Michael moved, and all agreed

Motion: To appoint Mary McCoy (Mac) as selectboard clerk. Kord moved, and all agreed.

3. Additions/deletions and/or changes to agenda – There were no changes to the agenda.

4. Announcements/Reminders – There were no announcements or reminders.

5. Act on minutes from the 5-15-23 selectboard meeting and the 5-20-23 town meeting.

Motion: To approve the minutes from 5-15-23 regular meeting. Kord moved, and all agreed.

Motion: To approve the minutes from the 2023 town meeting. Kord moved, and all agreed.

6. Public Comment – There were no public comments.

7. Correspondence – There was no correspondence that wasn't on the agenda.

8. Payroll/Bills

These are in a new format, called Warrant to Pay, from the new NEMRC accounting system.

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

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

9. Review and adopt Selectboard Rules of Procedure and Conflict of Interest Policy

Motion: To adopt as written. Kord moved, and all agreed

Next Steps: Attach to minutes from this meeting; sign them and post them on the website.

10. Make appointments for town positions

The following people have been contacted and have stated their agreement to serve in the position listed here after their names:

Road Commissioner - Kord Scott

Planning Commissioner - Dawn Bower

Representatives to Windham Regional Commission - Carolyn Partridge & Bill Dunkel

Tree Warden - Walter Woodruff

Building Safety Officer - Ron Cohen

Co-Emergency Management Coordinators- Imme Maurath & Kathy Jungermann
Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service Operators - Tan Bronson & Jim McCandless
Energy Coordinator - Bill Dunkel
Green-up Co-coordinators - Ellen McDuffie & Kathy Jungermann
Conservation Commissioners - Ginny Crittenden & Diane Newton
Energy Committee Members - Tom Johnson & Bill Dunkel
Social Services Committee Members - Tom Widger, Marcia Clinton, Skip Raymond, and
Barbara Jean Quinn
Meeting House Committee Members - Maureen Bell, Tom Widger, Imme Maurath
Motion: To approve all of the appointment of these individuals to the positions stated.
George moved, and all agreed.
Next Step: Get a job description for the Building Safety Officer.

The open position for Webmaster was discussed. Several people have responded, and all say they have developed websites. George suggested that Vance meet with the candidates along with one of the selectboard members. Vance agreed

Next Steps: Meet with the candidates. Change from .com to .gov the town's website address.

New Business

A) Consider changing Monday, July 3 selectboard meeting date, due to holiday

Motion: To move the July 3 selectboard meeting to July 5. Kord moved, and all agreed.

B) Discuss email from Wren regarding release of private info – Wren contacted the selectboard re her tax information appearing on social media. She felt a public official had given the info to a resident who posted it. Kord said her taxes are public information; however, her payment information is not public information, and releasing it is a violation of privacy. How this information was released cannot be proven, and the selectboard has no oversight of other town officials. Kord stated that out of common courtesy and respect, no public official should be releasing any citizen's private information.

C) Discuss civil discourse on social media – Kord contacted the VLCT regarding this matter, which is also of concern to other towns. The selectboard has no authority to censor information on private websites. What is allowed on our own town website is not be up to the webmaster, not can the selectboard control what other town officials post there. Michael said it is clear that elected officials are responsible for their own actions. The only way to stop them from acting irresponsibly is to vote them out of office when their term is up.

D) Discuss Phil McDuffie's concerns re constable – Phil is upset about the constable carrying a firearm. Kord contacted the VLCT about this, and they said that Vermont law allows anyone to carry a firearm. Our VLCT insurance has a law enforcement rider that covers the constable.
Next Steps: Kord will send the statues re carrying a firearm to Phil, and Kord will get a clear interpretation of our insurance coverage.

Crystal challenged the constable's authority to do anything but address animal issues. Imme said we need a job description for the constable. Michael said the state dictates that description and what the constable can and cannot do, unless the town votes to make the constable a "law enforcement officer." Otherwise, his duties are limited to civil matters. Crystal said it would cost the town \$35,000 to make the constable a law enforcement officer. Michael said it would cost the town nothing.

E) Discuss John Pozzi email and policy for town officials going onto people's property – Kord researched this situation with the VLCT and others and learned that no municipal official has the right to go onto people's property without their expressed approval. Only law enforcement can do so in an emergency. Complaints about this should be taken seriously.

Kord said the NEMRC appraiser said he is scheduling appointments, and if no one is there, he leaves a note to have the appointment time rescheduled. Eileen commented on her experience with the NEMRC appraiser who sent a card to confirm the appointment, arrived as scheduled, asked permission to enter, and acted in a professional manner.

Bill Casey said the listers have to look at changes being made related to zoning permits. John Pozzi had been contacted, did not respond, and blocked his driveway when they went to his property. Russell reiterated that they had contacted John and left a message that they were coming. He said they had the authority to go onto John's property. Kord told him that was wrong. No town official can go onto any person's property without the owner's expressed approval. If the listers receive no approval, they must conduct their assessment from existing paperwork that does not involve going onto property without the owner's approval.

Old Business

A) Update on outreach re Highway Dept property – We have no solid info about the property possibility. We are not sure of the size of the property or the owner's interest. Kord has asked them about a price.

Next Step: Get the needed accurate information.

B) Update on eliminating invasive roadside plants – Richard has been working after hours to eliminate the chervil by mowing it, but he is not confident that this will work. He has done an experiment on an area across WHR from the town garage, weed-whacking it to the ground, and it is already back. The Conservation Commission and the Health Officer oppose the use of chemicals to eradicate invasives. Milkweed is also spreading, but that is vital for monarch butterflies. Imme stressed the importance of cutting invasives before they flower. Kord said that mowing with the cycle bar is challenging to do early as it does not cut right to the ground easily. Michael suggested contacting the State Highway Dept. to see how they deal with invasives. Eileen suggested contacting the UVM Extension. Kord felt that was a good idea.

Next Step: Kord will gather more information, check with the Conservation Commission about it, and act as quickly as possible.

C) Update on LHMP Planning Team – Kord reported that Matt at the WRC submitted a draft plan for comments. Kathy Jungermann submitted some comments. Once Matt receives and incorporates all appropriate comments, we will receive a final draft and the adoption process will continue. The public will have a chance to comment.

11) Adjourn regular meeting and stop recording

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:31 PM. George moved, and all agreed.

The next regular selectboard meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 19, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Mary McCoy (Mac), selectboard clerk
Approved June 19, 2023

Attached: 2023 Conflict of Interest Policy
2023 Rules of Procedure