

**Windham VT Selectboard Minutes
June 17, 2024 Regular Meeting
Held at the Meeting House and on Zoom**

Present at the Meeting House

Mary McCoy (Mac), selectboard clerk

Present on Zoom

Kord Scott, selectboard chair

George Dutton, selectboard

Michael Pelton, selectboard

Antje Ruppert

Maureen Bell

Tom & Louise Johnson

Frank Seawright/Nancy Tips

Imme Maurath

Crystal Corriveau

Bill Dunkel

Cathy Edgerly Fales

Ellen McDuffie

Dawn Bower

Phil McDuffie

1. Start Recording and Call to Order

Kord called the meeting to order and started the recording at 5:32 PM.

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

3. Announcements –Kord reminded folks that a lister position is open since Ron Cohen plans to move to another state. Maureen said that Game Day will resume this Wednesday afternoon. Bill said the Energy Committee will conduct another Window Dresser day in the fall and is taking orders for storm window inserts. A mailing to all residents will be sent, and Cathy volunteered to put the mailing labels on the envelopes. Imme asked that the weatherization funds be moved to the Meeting House for use there, as was previously decided.

Next Steps: Ellen will send out a notice about the open lister position. Bill and Cathy will send out the Window Dressing mailing. Kord will see that the weatherization funds are moved to Meeting House funds.

4. Act on the minutes from the June 3, 2024 selectboard meeting

Motion: To approve the June 3, 2024 selectboard minutes; George moved, and all agreed.

5. Public Comments – There were no public comments.

6. Correspondence – The sheriff sent a letter regarding a regional meet-and-greet on June 21.

Let Kord know if anyone can attend.

7. Payroll/Bills

Motion: To approve the check warrant reports from the town treasurer. George moved, and all agreed. Kord will sign these.

8. Guest and Staff Reports with Discussions and Possible Decisions

A) Website Manager – Kord reported that Bea Eliastam told him she had a kick-off meeting with Curly Sprouts Creatives, the folks revising our town website. She will have a report on their progress for the July 1 selectboard meeting

B) Grant Strategist – Cathy reported on three grants. (1) An application to The Trust Initiative has been submitted. This is for “transformational revitalization projects” in small towns. Interviews will be conducted to narrow down the applicants for this three-year grant. (2) The meeting with the fire marshal, Jenna from the Bruhn grant, and others from the state

will take place this Thursday, June 20, at the Meeting House. Some scheduling issues were discussed, but no changes were necessary. (3) The Vermont Building Authority announced that grant proposals are due in September. There are five categories for funding, and the one for Education might be something to pursue for the school house, once decisions are made about its future.

C) Listers – Antje reported that the listers' focus now is on contiguous parcels. Chris from NEMRC continues to be helpful. Antje will attend a three-hour training webinar put on by the state. There is also a 90-minute training on June 26 for members of the Board of Civil Authority regarding the responsibilities of the listers, the selectboard, and others on the BCA for upcoming tax appeals. Maureen and Phil expressed the importance of this training. Antje expects the final Grand List will be done as required by July. She said she will be in Germany July 16 to August 2.

Next Step: Ellen will find out if the BCA training is going to be recorded, so it can be watched at any time. She will also send out the BCA handbook.

D) Town Clerk – Ellen thanked Dawn Bower for the flowers she planted in the boxes outside the Town Office and for the cut flowers she brings for inside the office. She also thanked the selectboard for new computer for her assistants, which they appreciated. She created a clipboard to record repairs that are needed in the office, but thinks it may be easier to email when something is needed. She said there is only one appeal so far requiring a BCA decision, and there's only one more day before the deadline for appeals can be requested. All dogs that were previously registered have registered again, except for five. There are others that have never registered, and she will contact the animal control officer about that.

In regards to the town meeting on June 8th, Ellen noted that the largest percentage by age of registered voters in attendance were the 80-89 year olds at 68%. The next largest group there were the 70-79 year olds. She thought the meeting went smoothly although she hopes to find a faster way to distribute the name tags. The only challenge of the day was counting votes by having voters raise their hands or stand. Perhaps a better way can be determined.

E) Planning Commission – There has been confusion about the status of the revised zoning application. Some changes are still being incorporated. The PC is trying to avoid making the application too complicated, and at the same time, it should be thorough enough to avoid past problems. One tricky issue has to do with wetlands, as the permit has required info from a website that isn't useful. Another issue relates to building on sloped land and what percentage of slope is acceptable. There is a meeting on Tuesday at Mac and Michael's to look at the slope there and gain a better understanding of the issue. A final issue is dealing with inconsistencies related to housing density. Also, language currently doesn't allow swimming pools or tennis courts in Windham's two historic districts. Do we want that restriction? Kord wondered if there was a permitting process for landowners directly from the state regarding wetlands as there is for septic. If so, that would eliminate the town having to oversee this. Imme said she is concerned about the three or four of homes near her that are being rented out short-term.

Next Steps: The PC will finalize the application as soon as possible. Mac will activate discussion of short-term rentals for an upcoming meeting.

F) Meeting House Committee – Maureen reported that they have had a couple of money-making events. She and Imme cleaned the place for a private event there on Friday. Kord will remove the AV equipment. A meeting will be held on July 18 at 6:00 for Forest Park &

Recreation folks to discuss with the town past problems related to Hamilton Falls.

G) Conservation Commission – Mac read a report from Alison Trowbridge, urging residents to be aware of invasive plants, such as wild chervil, on their property and recommending that they cut down the seed heads. An email has been sent to the Friends Group formed to advise the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Andy French from the USFWS sent an email today asking for input from the Friends.

9) New Business

A) Discuss how school votes and school house future relate to selectboard – The school board wants to meet with the selectboard about the possibility of the town buying the building. The school board needs to make some decisions first. Crystal said she hopes the selectboard will buy the school house for \$1, as she said was voted in 2018. There was some question about whether or not the Fire Company would want to move the fire house there. Kord felt the property should be kept and used for the town pending the decisions of the school board and viability of sale to the town.

10) Old Business

A) Update on road issues – George said the RFP for the new truck has been completed, except for dates. He suggested setting July 22 as the deadline and the August 5 selectboard meeting for the opening of the bids. Also needed is adding phone numbers for Richard and George. Kord reported that the beaver deceiver has been repaired with input from Skip. Everett has been in touch with FEMA regarding the stream erosion in West Windham. Kord has asked the Windham Regional Commission if the grant funds for the salt shed can be used to purchase property. Imme suggested using the school property for the salt shed and garage. There could be issues related to current garage property if the garage were moved, as that land is polluted with salt, etc. A new garage would have to meet new codes. Maureen asked if the current garage could be painted. Regarding Christmas Tree Road, Andover is backing off the idea of throwing up that road, so it is not an issue for Windham. Revision of the current access permit to include all right-of-way construction still need to be completed.

Next Steps: Mac will put the possibility of painting the garage on the parking lot. Kord will talk the Fire Company about their input on a possible move. The SB will continue to consider right-of-way requirements.

B) Discuss open meeting laws and application to our town groups – Questions remain that need clarification from the state legislature. It seems that “advisory” groups will be able to meet remotely, but the safe approach for all groups as of July 1st will be to have hybrid meetings until the questions are addressed.

C) Update on AV equipment purchase – We have received but not unpacked some of the new equipment. The rest has been ordered. BCTV has offered its services for town meetings. **Next Step:** Mac will put on parking lot BCTV’s offer.

D) US Talc and maintenance of their pond’s overflow on White Road –Bob Fisher (town attorney) still has not heard from US Talc’s lawyer, but he is confident that US Talc or whoever buys the property will be obligated to control the pond’s discharge.

E) Update on upgrades for phone and internet services – George wants a test done of the Town Office’s current upload and download speeds to compare to what First Light offers. He is sure First Light’s fiber service is faster. Michael had left the meeting, so the budgetary

implications were not discussed. Questions were raised about the internet speed at the Meeting House provided by VTel, which seemed slow for the town meetings. Kord said when that service was set up, a slower speed was ordered. He could not get more details from VTel, because his name is not on the account. They said it was someone with a Yahoo email address. No one knew who set it up, but perhaps Beverly Carmichael (who no longer lives in Windham).

Next Step: Determine current internet speeds at Town Office. Find out who set up the account with VTel for the Meeting House.

11) Adjourn regular meeting and stop recording.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:06 PM. George moved, and all agreed.

**Next Regular Selectboard Meeting is scheduled for
Monday, July 1, 2024 at 5:30 PM**

Respectfully submitted,
Mary McCoy (Mac), selectboard clerk
Approved July 1, 2024