

**Wolcott Selectboard Meeting
February 1, 2017**

All minutes are draft until approved by the Selectboard;
Please check future minutes for approval of these minutes.

Members Present: Belinda Clegg, Eric Furs, Kim Gravel
Members Absent: Bessie Martin, Richard Lee
Town Employees: Linda Martin, Bernard Earle
Public: Michael Davidson, Rob Moore, Andrea Day
Reporter: None

Eric called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

Amendments to the Agenda: None

North Wolcott Road Scoping Study –

Alternatives Presentation with Rob & Andrea: Rob Moore of LCPC and Andrea Day of the Dufresne Group presented alternatives from the North Wolcott Road Scoping Study. The project goals are stated as providing safe connections to places in the village area, to provide access to the LVRT and to improve safety for bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists traveling on the North Wolcott Road. It was explained that there was a public comment process which consisted of a local concerns meeting that was held on July 27, 2016. Several comments were received from that meeting as well as written public comments after the meeting. Comments were also received as part of an online survey. Mapped wetlands and potential wetlands as well as possible archaeological sensitive areas and identified hazardous waste areas pose potential environmental constraints as well as potential additional costs and delays in construction. Existing roadway characteristics have been mapped out along the road such as ledge, a mostly 26 foot road width and a 25 foot bridge that is located before entering into the village. It was noted in the presentation that the North Wolcott Road does not meet the VTrans standards which require a minimum lane width of 10 feet with 3 foot shoulders. It was explained that 3 foot wide shoulders are considered sufficient for on-road bicycle traffic. The alternatives overview shows two approaches for North Wolcott Road pedestrian/bicycle facilities: 1) Widen shoulders to 3' wide on both sides of roadway, re-stripe yellow and white lines and add bicycle traffic signage. 2) 8' separated asphalt shared use pathway. The alternative also shows three approaches for North Wolcott Village pedestrian/bicycle facilities: 1) Widen shoulders to 3' wide on both sides of roadway, re-stripe yellow and white lines and add bicycle traffic signage. 2) 8' separated asphalt shared use pathway. 3a) 5' wide concrete sidewalk with a granite curb and bicycle lanes. 3b) 5' wide concrete sidewalk with no bicycle accommodations. There are also three approaches for the bridge crossing adjacent to Four Wheel Drive: 4) Add signage for traffic approaching bridge to warn of pedestrian/bicycle traffic. 5) Bridge replacement with 30' wide rails to allow 5' wide shoulders on either side. 6) Construct separate bicycle/pedestrian bridge adjacent to the existing bridge. The

presentation also showed these in typical cross-sections. The study broke the road up into 5 phases. **Phase 1 (VT 15 to Gulf Road) – 6,000 linear feet of roadway.** It is stated that in this phase there are many areas of narrow sightlines and large drop offs on the east side and areas where existing shoulder width does not support asphalt extensions and would require cut/fill. Alternative 1 under this phase has a cost estimate of \$560,000. Alternative 2 has a cost estimate of \$1,275,000. **Phase 2 (Gulf Road to Four Wheel Drive) – 12,500 linear feet of roadway.** It states in the report that the existing road plus the shoulder width is sufficient to allow for 10' wide travel lanes and 3' wide shoulders/bicycle lanes without the need for fill, but additional width would require cut/fill. Alternative 1 under this phase has a cost estimate of \$825,000. Alternative 2 has a cost estimate of \$2,660,000. **Phase 3 (Bridge at Four Wheel Drive)– 25' wide bridge crossing** at Four Wheel Drive is not sufficient width to allow 4' wide shoulders on both sides. Alternative 4 for this phase has a cost estimate of \$4,000. Alternative 5 has a cost estimate of \$255,000. Per the Board's request, Andrea will get back to the Board with an estimate for an ARC culvert for a cost comparative to the precast box culvert. Alternative 6 has a cost estimate of \$75,000. **Phase 4a (Four Wheel Drive to Birch Lane) – 1,600 linear feet of roadway.** This is the busiest section of the village with access to 12 driveways and the general store. The width is sufficient for 10' lanes and 3' shoulders/bicycle lanes. Alternative 1 under this phase has a cost estimate of \$110,000. Alternative 3a has a cost estimate of \$660,000. Alternative 3b has a cost estimate of \$550,000. **Phase 4b (Birch Lane to Morey Hill Road) – 3,100 linear feet of roadway.** An addition 4a allowing access to the village from more northern houses. This would include 22 driveways and the general store. The width is sufficient for 10' lanes and 3' shoulders/bicycle lanes. Alternative 1 under this phase has a cost estimate of \$210,000. Alternative 3a has a cost estimate of \$1,260,000. Alternative 3b has a cost estimate of \$1,060,000. **Phase 5 (Morey Hill Road to the town line) – 6,100 linear feet of roadway.** The report states that this is the widest section of the North Wolcott Road with less obstructions to deal with. There are only 16 driveway crossings total along this stretch of roadway. No cut/fill is required to provide 10' lanes and 3' shoulders/bicycle lanes. Alternative 1 under this phase has a cost estimate of \$410,000. Alternative 2 has an estimated cost of \$1,925,000. These phases have been mapped and the challenges and benefits are explained along with the associated costs. It was noted that the cost estimates are for construction costs only. It was discussed that the highway department can do some of the necessary work. Surveys were researched and right of ways were established, but the Board asked that an overlay on the tax maps showing resident's parcels along the North Wolcott Road to determine who could potentially be affected. The Board agreed that alternative 1 is practical and the least expensive. Grants were also discussed as well as prioritizing phases and timelines. Andrea will make the changes requested by the Board. She will send a revised copy that will be available for the public to view at the town office and on the town's website. The Board plans to discuss this under non-binding business at Town Meeting. This power point presentation and maps provided will also be on display that day. The Board also discussed having a survey available. One more public meeting will be held after Town Meeting Day. The date is to be determined.

Comments from the Community:

- **Bernard Earle** – Bernard attended tonight's meeting to inform the Board that he has placed 3 dogs at Lamoille Kennels after they attacked a Wolcott resident's dog

and knocked the resident down while she was attempting to shield her dog from the attack on Tuesday, January 31st. The badly injured dog was taken to the veterinarian and was possibly going to be transferred to another clinic in Burlington. The dogs were not licensed are believed not to be current on their rabies vaccinations. Bernard has asked that NCAL evaluate the dogs for possible rehabilitation. Bernard informed the Board that he has had issues with the dogs owner in the past regarding a different dog under his care. The Board will await the written recommendation from NCAL before making a decision on the fate of the dogs at the next Selectboard meeting.

Approve the Minutes of January 26, 2017: Motion by Kim to approve the minutes of January 26, 2017 with the change of adding Linda Martin to town employees being present at the meeting. Seconded by Belinda. Voting: 3 in favor, 0 against.

Liquor Control Board – License Renewal – Wolcott Store, Incorporated: Discussion. Motion by Eric to approve the renewal of the Wolcott Store’s license to sell alcohol and tobacco as no violations have occurred. Seconded by Kim. Voting: 3 in favor, 0 against. All present Board members signed the renewal.

Old Business:

- **Action –Website Changes:** Bruce Wheeler was not present at tonight’s meeting. Eric will speak with him. The Board will put this on the agenda for the next meeting.
- **Bus Barn – Comments from the Zoning Administrator:** Eric read a letter from Tom. In his letter he explained that the southern half of the barn is in a 500 year flood plain and is subject to town and state flood hazard regulations. He stated that minor repairs could be made but anything substantial could be a problem and would need to have an application certified by a licensed engineer. The building would have to be anchored and materials used must be flood resistant. He mentioned that current use may also be a problem because it is prohibited to store hazardous materials, junk and ATVs. The Board will table this until spring until measurements can be taken and the surrounding area explored.
- **Request – VAST & Eden Snwmobile Club:** The Board discussed the existing town ordinance and the fact that Skip does not want the groomer grooming on Morey Hill as it has created a ridge in the road in the past. Motion by Eric to deny the request. Seconded by Kim. Voting: 3 in favor, 0 against. Eric signed the request as being denied.

New Business:

- **Financial Statements July – December 2016:** The Board will review these on their own time. Discussed that the election costs were higher due to the need of a separate ballot for zoning. The audit was also over, due to the new retirement liability figures. Discussion of the School Board. It has come to the Selectboard’s attention that 2 school board members spoke after a recent meeting and put 2 items on the agenda for the next meeting. The first being to get rid of all library and media and to remove school choice. It was voted down at the next meeting but this is

against meeting protocol. It was also discussed that the school board did not put the budget in the town report, that the proposed budget has increased 15 cents and that the school has a deficit of \$100,000. The school board plan to review the proposed budget at their special meeting on February 20th. The Selectboard and the public in attendance at tonight's meeting feel that the school budget should be in the town report for the taxpayers to have plenty of time to view, have questions and make an informed decision. The Selectboard discussed asking the school to include it in the town report for next year and every year following.

Review Correspondence/Sign:

- **Sign Payroll Orders:** Signed.
- **Review & Sign Certificate of Highway Mileage:** Discussion. No changes. The Board signed the Certificate of Highway Mileage Year Ending February 18, 2017 to be returned to the State of Vermont Agency of Transportation.
- **Wood Stove Change-Out Incentive:** Email received from the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation Renewable Energy Resource Center informing the public that there is a financial incentive to encourage Vermonters to replace their old non EPA-certified wood stoves with cleaner heating systems by properly recycling or disposed of at a solid waste district, licensed salvage yard or certified recycling facility. This is through the Clean Energy Development Fund and Air Quality and Climate Division. The Board will post this on Front Porch Forum and the town's website.
- **Efficiency Vermont Municipal Street and Public Lighting:** Bruce Wheeler contacted Efficiency Vermont again about LED street lights. The paperwork had been misplaced. Linda re-submitted the Agreement signed in June. Linda will reach out to Hardwick Electric Department for an inventory of the all the street lights.
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- **Vermont's Universal Recycling Law:** Email received from the State of Vermont stating that trash disposal has decreased by 5% statewide and that recycling and composting rose 2%. The Board discussed the mandate and agree that only the residents of Wolcott recycling be accepted at the Transfer Station due to the mandate's cost to the town. Food scraps were also discussed as July 1, 2017 the Transfer Station must start collecting them.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion by Eric to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Kim. Voting: 3 in favor, 0 against. The next Selectboard meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2017.

Respectfully submitted by Val Mason.