

WOLCOTT SELECTBOARD MEETING

August 6, 2014

Wolcott Town Office
6:00 p.m.

Board Members: *Belinda Clegg, Bessie Martin, Jeff Wright, Richard Lee*
Wolcott Town Employees: *Linda Martin, Tom Martin, Bernard Earle*
Public: *Greg Williams, Autumn Greene, Melinda Scott, Rob Moore, William Morrison, Bill Pickens, Katie Pickens, Paul Spitzer, Jan Roy, Ryan Bjerke, Florence Falk, Barbara Bramble, Christiane Romero, Oran Young, Philip Bertocci, Conche Alloy, Gail Osherenko*
Reporter: *Tyler Moller*
Correspondent: *Val Mason*

Belinda called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

Amendments To The Agenda:

- **Two Driveway Permits**
- **Payroll Orders**
- **Use Of Lister's Office**

Melinda Scott and Rob Moore of LCPC – Northern Borders Grant

Public Discussion On Trailhead Elements And Improvements: Melinda Scott and Rob Moore of the Lamoille County Planning Commission were present to give a general overview of the three designs that were on display. Melinda stated that the grant portion being funded is \$45,600 for a total project cost available of \$57,000. The town is responsible for twenty percent of which can be in-kind match. Rob discussed the differences and highlights between the three design options. The Board expressed the need for guidance on the concept with the importance being on aesthetics and functionality. Discussion with the public on cost, parking spaces, informational kiosk, landscape design and storm water management. Jeff made the motion to sign the Northern Borders Grant and enter into an agreement with preference to Design B with the expanded parking area, screening with landscaping and more open access offered. Richard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Now, a final consultant can be hired and discussion will continue on specifics on maintenance, cost and a final design will be drawn.

Autumn Green – Request to set up tax payments: Autumn Green appeared before the Board to ask that her property taxes remain in house, as she is going through refinancing her home and will have the money to pay her delinquent property taxes by the end of Sept. 2014. Belinda made the motion to accept Autumn's request to not send her taxes to the tax lawyer and to allow an extension of the end of September 2014 to pay her delinquent taxes, which will continue to accrue interest, until they are paid. Richard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Wolcott Pond Designation: Jan Roy, representing the Friends of Wolcott Pond, appeared before the Board to reiterate their desire to turn Wolcott Pond into a “Quiet Pond”. They requested the Board send a second letter to the State reaffirming their support and the support of this being in the Town Plan. This request started one year ago with support from the Board and a petition with it being written in to the Town Plan. The Board was informed that it is being met with some resistance at the State level. Discussion. Richard made the motion that the Board write another letter in support of the Wolcott Pond being designated as a “Quiet Pond”. Bessie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Brian Burgess – Water Well Issues: Brian Burgess of North Wolcott village was not present at the meeting to partake in this discussion. Belinda explained to the Board that it appears that Mr. Burgess has had a State paid well drilled on town property. Belinda sent a letter stating this. A survey by Mr. Burgess must be performed per the town’s attorney before any resolution can be made. The town will await the results of this survey.

Approve Minutes of July 2, 2014 and Special Minutes of July 30, 2014: Bessie made the motion to accept both the minutes of July 2 and July 30, 2014. Richard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

Comments from the Community:

Ryan Bjerke of Flat Iron Road asked the Board if the road crew could trim the foliage on parts of his road for visibility. He also requested pedestrian signs be placed, as he has two children who ride their bicycles on this road and a directive for the LCSD due to speeding on the road.

Greg Williams questioned Board member and town employee, Todd Harris’ ability to drive the roadside mower. He also brought to the attention of the Board that there are twenty-one houses for sale in Wolcott and a few are in foreclosure. Greg also discussed how Craftsbury has a sickle type cutter bar that seems very effective for the roadside mowing. He also discussed the septic system at the Town Garage.

Review Correspondence/Sign:

- **Department of Corrections Agreement:** The DOC is requesting a rate increase of \$2 per day for help at the Transfer Station. The current rate is \$16. Richard made the motion to sign a new agreement with the Department of Corrections and increase the rate to \$18. Bessie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Discussion that Mark was without a helper on Sunday.
- **Supply well sampling results:** The magnesium level still remains high and the town still has not heard on Custodial Care. Ross Environmental currently is in the process of proposing that the town only test for magnesium for their bi-annual testing.
- **Town Hall Permit:** September 13, 2014 from 3:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. for a 50th birthday party with alcohol. Belinda made the motion to accept this permit request. Richard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Belinda will inform that an insurance rider will be required.

Ballet Wolcott: Has given the town their new schedule. Their current rental rate is \$300 per month. Discussion. Belinda made the motion to increase the monthly rate to \$325 starting September 1, 2014. Richard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Notice from Waterbury Selectboard:** Belinda informed the Board that she received a phone call from the Administrative Assistant of the Waterbury Selectboard. She informed Belinda that a dog, who is a Boxer, had been removed by the town and was moving to Wolcott. The dog attacked a resident of Waterbury. She did fax a copy of the dog's rabies vaccination.

New Business:

- **Table Purchases for Town Hall:** An inventory of the town hall tables was completed. Belinda informed the Board that ten new tables need to be purchased to replace ten damaged tables. There is money in the budget. Discussion. The cost would be \$539 with free shipping for ten. Richard made the motion for the town to make this purchase. Jeff seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Set up committee to enforce ordinances:** Belinda gave the Board a history of a prior Committee that used to issue citations and a fine would be given after a certain number of days. There are several Ordinance violations currently that are not being enforced. Discussion on putting a request for volunteers on Front Porch Forum and the town's website in hopes to form another such committee.
- **Request to set up tax payment:** Belinda read a letter of request from a tax payer who has requested setting up tax payments they also requested a tax payment on last year's taxes. Explanation of circumstances. Tax payer able to pay \$500 a month starting August 31, 2014 until paid by March 2015. Discussion. Agreed that this will be the last extension granted. Richard made the motion to accept this arrangement. Bessie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Street Lights:** Letter received from Efficiency Vermont regarding a Vermont Municipal Street Light Program. This is a new incentive program. Jeff will look into this update of street lighting technology.

Old Business:

- **Curtis Lanphere – Steer:** Belinda updated the Board that Curtis has moved his steer back to his property and plans to move fence. Discussion with Bernard. Belinda spoke with David Polow regarding the sale of the property. If the town were to sell, it would need to be posted in three public places for 30 days and public comment would need to be taken.
- **Robert Knowlton – subdivision reconsideration:** Belinda read a letter from Tom Martin, Zoning Administrator, to reconsider the Board's prior decision as this is a continuation of an existing project and due to the errors found. Tom recommended only charging \$125 to cover the costs and placing it in the local papers. Jeff made the motion to accept Tom's recommendation. Richard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Children at play signs – feedback:** Belinda informed the Board that after doing more research, she found that the town may place Pedestrian Signs which places the blame on the driver and protects everyone. Belinda reached out to everyone, who in the past, had requested such signage.
- **Weight Limit – Gulf Road:** Discussion of existing weight limit. May possibly increase the tonnage of the Bridge which is currently 6 tons. Will discuss this at the next meeting.

Amendments To The Agenda:

- **Two Driveway Permits:** Tara Beeman on Town Hill Road and Sharleen Crossman on the North Wolcott Road. Skip has visited both sites and approved both. Belinda made the motion to accept both permits. Richard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Payroll – Orders Signed**
- **Use of the Lister’s Office:** Belinda read a letter from the lister’s office requesting limiting public use, the change of the existing lock and that the Board Room be used instead. Discussion. Recommended that the Board go into executive session due to a personnel discussion. Also a separate issue of Real Estate to be discussed in executive session.

Belinda called the meeting into executive session at 8:15 p. m.

Belinda called the meeting out of executive session out at 8:35 p.m.

Stated that no action will be taken at this time.

Belinda made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Jeff seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Next Selectboard Meeting – September 3, 2014