

# Wolcott Selectboard Meeting

## Minutes

### April 21, 2021

Zoom/phone-in meeting: 6:00 p.m.

All Minutes are draft until approved by the Selectboard  
Please see future Minutes for approval of these Minutes

Present: Linda Martin, Kurt Klein, Allen Carpenter, Kurt Billings, Richard Lee  
Employees: Randall Szott, Dillan Cafferky, Deb Klein  
Guests: Nat Kinney, Roy Mercon  
Public: Kaya Burbank, Kee Gillen, Ryan Bjerke, Monica Cross  
Reporter: Doug McClure, *Hardwick Gazette*

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Martin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Amendments to the Agenda:** Klein stated he would like a discussion regarding mileage.

**Approve Minutes of April 7 and April 12, 2021:** Motion by Klein to approve the Minutes of April 7. Seconded by Billings. Discussion: None. Voting: All in favor. Motion by Klein to approve the Minutes of April 21. Seconded by Billings. Discussion: None. Voting: All in favor.

**Comments from the Community:** None.

#### Highway Department

**Sand Bids:** The board reviewed the three bids that were received for winter sand: Gravel Construction at \$6.75/cy; Manosh at \$7.55/ton; Salvas at \$7.41/cy. Discussion ensued regarding the location of the sand pile, how many yards of sand to purchase, and the timing of pick up. A motion to accept a sand bid will be taken up at a future board meeting.

**Driveway Permits:** Cafferky, as Foreman, approved three driveway permits: Linda Cote on West Hill Road; Shane Brown on Cross Road; and Amy Brochu and William Reed on Town Hill Road. Motion by Lee to accept the three driveway permits. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All in favor.

Cafferky updated the board on other Highway Department issues. Rob Moore, Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC), will conduct a site visit on May 3 for a grant to address hydrologically connected roads. In about mid-May, the engineer will view the site of the Town Hill culvert.

#### Town Administrator's Report

Szott reported on some of the activities in which he has been involved:

-attended a panel discussion with Senator Sanders regarding the American Rescue Plan;

- attended a program with Vermont League of Cities and Towns regarding employment practices;
- confirmed with the State that Wolcott has adopted the Road and Bridge Standards;
- submitted the application for the AARP Community Challenge grant;
- attended modules presented as part of the Town Officer Education Conference;
- continue work on details of the health care addendum to the Personnel Policy.

### **New Business**

**Green Up Discussion:** Kee Gillen updated the board on plans for this year's Green Up Day event on Saturday, May 1. Green bags are available for pickup at the Wolcott Store, the Post Office, and Town Office. Gillen will be in contact with the elementary school about distributing bags to students. Gillen will lead a crew starting at the canoe launch on Elmore Pond Road. The crew will move on to Gulf Road by the Transfer Station, and continue on from there. Safety measures were discussed for the more dangerous stretches of road. Information will be posted on Front Porch Forum.

Cafferky confirmed that the following Monday the road crew will pick up green bags and tires on the sides of the road. The board agreed to offer half price on tires brought to the Transfer Station on May 1. Klein reported that the Litter Committee will distribute yard signs to discourage littering. A limited number of safety vests will be available for those picking up trash. There will be a plant swap at the Library that day. Green bags will be available for pickup at the Library that morning. Coffee and muffins will be provided.

**Wolcott Law Enforcement Study Group:** Martin reported on her discussion with the Town Administrator and Selectboard Chair from Hyde Park regarding the now defunct committee. LCPC may be asked to do a study on the feasibility of regional policing. The Lamoille County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) has difficulty retaining deputies due to their retirement system.

Nat Kinney, Johnson Selectboard member, lauded the work of the group, saying they had laid a good foundation. Johnson currently has no representatives on the committee.

It was noted that Wolcott is maintaining their own group, which now has four members. The report of the former chair of the study group has been distributed to the new members. The board would like the Wolcott group to look at what law enforcement options may be available to our Town, yet continue to work in parallel with the three Town option. It was noted that Wolcott seems to be at a geographic disadvantage when it comes to service coverage by the LCSO. It is unknown whether Hardwick or Morristown police departments may provide a service option. The Wolcott group will meet early next week.

**Rail Trail ROW Discussion:** On April 15, Martin and Klein met with representatives of the rail trail to discuss the proximity of the Town Garage to the rail trail right of way. The front corner of the Garage is five feet up against the rail trail easement. This would preclude Town vehicles from accessing the area behind the Garage. The other side of the building does not allow access to the back of the Garage because that is where the sand pile is located. It was determined that the sand pile is in an ideal location and should not be moved. A small corner of the salt shed, and the public access sand pile, is also in the right of way. The board discussed

the short-term solution of the Town leasing from the State 25 feet of the right of way to allow Town vehicles to access the area behind the Garage. Estimated cost would be \$250 per year. Safety issues regarding Town vehicles and those using the rail trail can be addressed with signage. Motion by Klein to engage with the State of Vermont to draw up lease terms as discussed for 25 foot access along the rail trail. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor. The board will look at options for the future.

**In Person Selectboard Meetings/Review of Wolcott Covid Directive:** The board discussed how the Town's Covid Directive may be amended to allow for socially-distanced, in-person gatherings in Town properties. Public meetings would still need to be offered virtually to allow for greater participation in spaces where there can be only one person per 100 square feet. The current Directive will be reviewed. The Selectboard may allow limited in-person participation starting with their June 2 meeting. Masks are still required.

**Transfer Station Grant:** Szott reported that the Town was awarded a grant to develop a design plan for the Transfer Station. According to the terms, the State would be responsible for \$1,800 of the cost of planning, while the Town would be responsible for \$2,700. The \$1,800 would be paid to the Town once actual construction begins. Following discussion, the board decided to decline the grant. While it would be beneficial to have a formalized plan, there are no funds available to cover the expense. The board will look for other resources to assist with a design.

**Asset Management Plan:** Carpenter discussed with the board the advantages of having a management plan for all Town assets. It would be similar to what the board currently does for the Highway Department. The board will consider touring all Town buildings this summer. Board members could be assigned to inventory assets in a particular area, and assess their condition.

### **Unfinished Business**

**Drone Photography Discussion:** Roy Mercon, St. Albans, described to the board his goal to capture video of each Town in Vermont using his drone. Mercon was seeking ideas for drone footage of Wolcott. Several recommendations were provided. There is no name yet for his project, and no specific time frame has been established. Mercon agreed to contact Szott prior to filming in the area.

**Town/Informational Meeting Questionnaire Discussion:** Szott received a few more responses to the survey that appeared in Front Porch Forum. Paper copies of the survey are available at Town Office. The survey will also be available at the Library during the May 1 Plant Swap. Residents are encouraged to complete the survey.

**Personnel Policy Revision:** Szott continues work on the Personnel Policy and Addendum. A draft will be sent to board members next week for feedback.

**Harris + Allen, Gardner, and Tallman Deeds (Brook Rd.):** Work continues on determining the owners of land that will be impacted by the culvert work on Brook Road.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Lee to adjourn. Seconded by Martin. Voting: All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein

*Next regularly scheduled meeting - May 5, 2021*