

**Wolcott Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
December 1, 2021**

Wolcott Town Office/Zoom/phone-in: 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
Absent: Richard Lee
Presenters: Laura Stone, VTrans; Bob Klinefelter, VTrans, Rob Moore, LCPC
Employees: Belinda Harris Clegg, Deb Klein
Public: Diane Olson, Karen McKee, David Holton, Bruce Wheeler, Monica Cross, Dolan Patrick
Reporter: Doug McClure, *Hardwick Gazette*

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

Amendments to the Agenda

LCPC Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC): Proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure will be taken up later in the meeting.

East Hill property - update: To be taken up later in the meeting.

Approve Minutes of November 17, 2021: Motion by Klein to approve the Minutes of November 17. Seconded by Carpenter. Discussion: Plow bids were due by November 15, not December 15. Voting: All 4 in favor.

Comments from the Community/Correspondence: Diane Olson asked why the Library closed early on November 24. The librarian and Town Office staff working that day left early for Covid tests. Their results were negative.

East Hill property - update: Clegg reviewed a Court Order requiring the Town's property on East Hill be vacated by October 28, 2021.

LCPC Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC): Martin reported that the Selectboard had just received from Lamoille County Planning Commission a document outlining proposed changes to the TAC Rules of Procedure. Basically, the changes make the Committee more in line with Planning Commission rules as far as who can give input at meetings, and who can vote. Martin will advise LCPC that the Town has no objection to the changes.

PRESENTATION

Laura Stone, Civil Engineer with VTrans, led the discussion with a PowerPoint presentation. Stone addressed the condition of the School Street bridge, site constraints, and options considered in the scoping report. Stone noted that we are in the early stage of project development. Options were discussed for the construction of the permanent bridge, and

possibly shifting its location. Trusses are recommended rather than steel beams since it is an historic bridge. Discussion also ensued regarding the use of a temporary bridge, or using Flat Iron Road as a detour during construction. Klinefelter, an engineer with VTrans, weighed in on variables in the construction of the new bridge. Construction could start before the bridge would have to be closed. The time table for closure could be from ten weeks to perhaps six months or so. Stone responded to questions posed by the board and the public.

The next step is for the board to respond with a preferred alternative. Then conceptual plans will be developed. Once the plans are approved, then agreements and right-of-way projects can begin. A website will be available to track progress.

Rob Moore and Seth Jensen assisted the Selectboard in responding to a questionnaire about the community back in 2019. Martin noted that tonight is the opportunity for the community to weigh in on the bridge project. A mailing was sent out to those who are most likely to be impacted by the project. A notice of the presentation at tonight's meeting appeared in the November 24 edition of the *News & Citizen*. Notice of the meeting was posted on Front Porch Forum. A member of the public noted that Selectboard meetings can be accessed by landline phones if folks do not have Internet access.

2022-2023 Budget Proposals

Town Clerk: Clegg presented board members with a written proposed budget. The proposed budget is about \$1,100 higher than last year. It was noted that some IT items may be pulled out of the Clerk's budget to appear elsewhere.

Highway Department: Tabled to the December 15 meeting.

Selectboard review/action

Resignation of Janitor: Martin announced that the janitor tendered her resignation effective December 5. The position will be advertised.

Mask mandate law: The Governor signed a local mask mandate into law that would allow Towns the option to impose a mask mandate for indoor public spaces. Masks are already required inside all Town buildings. Following discussion, the board determined to leave it up to the few indoor public spaces in Town as to whether they will require a mask. The Selectboard recommends people wear a mask inside all public places in Town.

Road names on E-911 map: The Listers, who also serve as Wolcott's E-911 Coordinators, asked the board to submit a letter to the State's E-911 board requesting they correct their map to reflect the true names of West Hill and East Hill, with the words West and East spelled out, rather than just the letters W and E. The request was made to help ensure proper delivery of goods and services for residents. The request was approved.

Wolcott Photo Contest - Judges: The deadline for the Wolcott Photo Contest is December 15. The judges will be: Dolly Holton, Amy Noyes, Rebecca Ventrice, and Gabe Tempesta. The judges should make their decisions by the end of December. Winning entries will appear in the Town Report.

Community Garden/Park - update: Jim Holton, Fire Chief, filled the skating rink with water. It is now frozen and ready for use. Solar lights have been installed around the rink. The Wolcott

Community Garden is a member of the Vermont Community Garden Network. Membership comes with many advantages including workshops, and seeds for next spring's seed swap.

Adjourn: Motion by Klein to adjourn. Seconded by Martin. Voting: All 4 in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein

Next regularly scheduled meeting - December 15, 2021