

**Wolcott Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
April 17, 2019**

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

Present: Eric Furs, Michael Davidson, Richard Lee
Absent: Kimberly Gravel, Jennifer Holton-Clapp
Town Employees: Skip Patten, Bernard Earle, Duncan Hastings
Public: Kee Gillen, Belinda Clegg, Leonard Percy, John Wheeler, Bill Cotten, Kurt Klein
Reporter: Doug McClure, *Hardwick Gazette*

Eric called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Amendments to the Agenda

Animal Control Officer Certification: The Animal Control Officer (ACO) for Hyde Park will attend a two week training/certification program. Once certified, the ACO will meet statutory requirements to investigate animal cruelty reports. Hyde Park is offering to Wolcott and Johnson an opportunity to share the costs of certification. If Wolcott contributes \$434.37, a one-third share of the training, the Town could then pay an hourly rate plus mileage for the Hyde Park ACO to investigate Wolcott animal cruelty complaints. Kurt will discuss the options with Bernard, Wolcott's ACO, then follow-up with Hyde Park.

Ordinance Complaint: A complaint was received regarding trash on a property on School Street. The complaint has been forwarded to the Ordinance Committee for investigation.

Liquor License: Motion by Michael to sign the renewal of the liquor license for the North Wolcott Country Store. Amended to have Linda Martin attest as well. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor. The business is current with their property taxes. No complaints have been received pertaining to liquor sales.

Comments from the Community:

Kee Gillan, Chair of the Recreation Committee, reported that gravel needs to be cleaned out of the ditch, by the culvert, at the School Street ball field. Kee applied for a \$1,500 grant for soccer goals for the School Street park. Kee is waiting to hear if the grant will be awarded. No matching funds are required. Kee is also seeking a basketball hoop for the ball field.

The board was asked who will do the mowing of the ball fields this year. Brad Blaisdell did the mowing last year. Bernard understands Brad is interested in the mowing contract this year as well. Motion by Eric to have a notice published in the *Town & Citizen* seeking bids for the mowing contract. Bids are to be submitted prior to the May 1, 2019 meeting. Seconded by Michael. Voting: All in favor.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Michael to approve the Minutes of the April 2 Special Meeting as amended to include the name of John Wheeler as being present. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor. Motion by Michael to approve the Minutes of the April 3 meeting as written. Seconded by Eric. Voting: All in favor.

Duncan Hastings - Highway Grants; Road & Bridge Standards: Duncan met with Skip last week to discuss the highway grants. Duncan also met recently with Rob Moore of Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) regarding pending Better Backroads (BBR) Grants. Duncan provided a written document to the Selectboard summarizing his findings. The three BBR grants are: 1) East Hill culvert replacement; 2) Morey Hill Road ditches and culvert project; 3) East Elmore Road culvert replacement. All three grants have a completion deadline of June 30, 2019. These grants require a Town match. Given the Town is down to a two-man road crew, it is not possible to complete all three projects by the deadline. The Town will seek an extension on all three grants, but it is unlikely extensions will be granted for all. Skip thinks with good weather they can get the Morey Hill Road project completed by the deadline. The Town will definitely seek an extension on the East Hill project, and may decline the East Elmore Road grant and reapply at a later date.

Green Up Day - Kee Gillen, Coordinator: Green Up Day is again scheduled for the first Saturday in May, which this year is May 4. Posters will be up at various locations indicating bag distribution points. A notice will be posted on Front Porch Forum. Skip confirmed the road crew will pick up bags left on the side of the road by volunteers. Motion by Eric for the Transfer Station to charge half-price for tires for the month of May. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

Ordinance Committee - Update: Kurt reported that Jenn will email to the board a copy of the Junk Ordinance with proposed amendments. This version provides more leverage on enforcement of trash and other types of violations. The Committee requests the board submit the ordinance with the proposed amendments for legal review before taking steps to adopt. Motion by Eric to seek legal review of the proposed amended ordinance. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

During 2018, the Committee received 11 complaints. Three landowners complied by cleaning up their properties. There were two referrals to the State of Vermont, as unlicensed junk yards. One landowner is in the process of cleanup. Five landowners have not yet complied. Late last year letters were sent to those in non-compliance granting an extension until May 1, 2019 due to winter weather. The Committee would now like to send follow-up letters to those in non-compliance. Motion by Eric to have the Committee's enforcement officer sign the letters on behalf of the Selectboard. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor. The Committee will extend the deadline for compliance to June 1, 2019 due to late snow melt. If landowners do not comply by the deadline, the next step is to issue a ticket for violation of the ordinance with the matter being referred to the Judicial Bureau in Hyde Park.

The Committee will investigate new complaints that have been received. Certified letters will be sent to violators. Landowners then have an opportunity to appear before the Selectboard to address the matter.

The Committee would like to bring attention to the Junk Ordinance in conjunction with Green Up Day. A notice will be posted in Front Porch Forum.

New Business:

Motion by Eric to sign and submit to the State the list of Officers Appointed and Recommended by the Selectboard, with the following amendment: replace the office of Constable with that of Animal Control Officer. Seconded by Michael. Voting: All in favor. Eric noted there are two vacancies on the Planning Commission, and one vacancy on the Development Review Board.

Old Business:

Percy - Tax Sale: Leonard Percy requested extra time to pay back taxes to avoid his property going to tax sale. Leonard pointed out that he and his wife received several properties three years ago from his father-in-law. They will be selling some properties as well as personal property. It was noted that the Ordinance Committee has received complaints regarding his property on Morey Hill Road. Percy stated he removed a large amount of trash from there last year. The Ordinance Committee requested from the Selectboard a firm date by which the mobile home with the caved-in roof must be removed from the Morey Hill property. A certified letter will be sent in response to the complaint that was filed. Eric suggested Leonard get on a future Selectboard agenda if he can come current on the back taxes. No action taken.

Pinnacle Lane - Viewing: The Selectboard will determine a date to view Pinnacle Lane, along with Skip, as part of the process to determine whether to reclassify the road, making it a Town maintained road. The viewing scheduled for last year had to be postponed due to snow cover.

Transfer Station: The board will discuss with the Transfer Station attendant certain expectations.

Response to Vermont Department of Health: Signs have been posted in the Town Highway Department stating the building is a smoke-free area.

Road Crew Applications: The Selectboard will review road crew applications received to date, and discuss with Skip.

Review Correspondence:

Sign Payroll and Monthly Orders: Kim is working on a new process for reviewing orders.

Sign Health Care form: Board members signed forms regarding health insurance coverage required by the State.

McNeil, Leddy & Sheahan, Attorneys: Motion by Eric to authorize payment of \$1,040 to cover fees incurred as a result of the FOIA following Town Meeting day. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

Dog Complaint: A dog complaint was received and forwarded to the ACO.

AOT Grant Monitoring Visit: A favorable report was received following the Agency of Transportation grant monitoring visit that occurred March 12, 2019.

Sunny Acres Solar Project: Received an update on the status of the solar power permit.

Use of Town Office Space: Records relevant to the Wolcott school treasurer to be turned over.

LCSD March 2019 Monthly Report: Received.

VLCT News: Received.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion by Eric to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Klein

The next regularly scheduled Selectboard Meeting will be May 1, 2019