

**Wolcott Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
February 16, 2022**

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, Richard Lee
Employees: Belinda Harris Clegg, Deb Klein
Guest: Juli Beth Hinds, Birchline Planning, LLC
Public: Dolan Patrick, Pam Locke, Monica Cross, Linda Brady, Amber Fecteau,
Adam Allen, Barbara von Schlegell, Brayton Marvell, Ben Trevits,
Matt Allen, John Wheeler, Ruthanna Demag, Denise Ashman

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

Amendments to the Agenda: The board agreed, without objection, to enter into executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss a personnel matter. Klein asked that IT Discussion be added under Selectboard review/action. No objection.

Approve Minutes of February 2, 2022: Motion by Billings to approve the Minutes of February 2. Seconded by Lee. Discussion: None. Voting: All in favor.

Comments from the Community/Correspondence: Martin acknowledged the Selectboard received a thank you card from the Lamoille Area Cancer Network. Since the new can/bottle deposit shed was installed at the Transfer Station, they have collected \$933.75 for their organization.

Barbara von Schlegell, West Hill Road, expressed concern regarding a property owner cutting back brush and trees in order to widen West Hill Road towards his property. Her concerns included: increased traffic, noise, and the general appearance of the widened road, since it leads to the Zack Woods Pond area, which is part of the Green River Reservoir State Park. Another concern was the possibility of the road being upgraded from a Class 4 to a Class 3 road.

Martin stated the Road Foreman is authorized to grant permission to a landowner to cut back brush 25 feet from the center of the road, which is in the Town's right of way. Since the landowners, Adam Allen and Amber Fecteau, are building a home on the site, the road needs to be wide enough to allow for emergency vehicles, and for insurance purposes. Martin noted that West Hill Road is considered an emergency exit in the event there is a flood, which would provide access to Hyde Park. Martin emphasized that the Town is not interested in taking over any new roads. Doing so would require expansion of the road crew. Klein added that Class 4 roads, generally, are not maintained by the Town. Landowners can get a permit from the Town that allows them to do some maintenance of the road, and to plow for essential services. Ben Trevits, an abutting landowner, had talked to Allen before any brush had been cleared. He has no objection to the work that has been done.

Adam Allen stated he and his fiancé are clearing the land and will build a home on the property. Allen has a small logging business and needs to get his equipment to his property for maintenance. Allen will

clean the brush from the right of way, and keep the road functional. Other work may need to be done to avoid erosion. Martin stated the Road Foreman will check to see whether this is a hydrologic segment of roadway as identified by the State. If so, there are certain requirements regarding ditching.

Selectboard review/action

- a. **Interview – Janitor position:** The board interviewed a candidate for the open position of Janitor.
- b. **Chair updates:** Martin reported that all the necessary paperwork with FEMA has been completed. Funds for all designated projects will now go through State Emergency Management.

The amendment to the Federal Aid Highway grant, involving North Wolcott Road, was approved and has been sent to the State for reimbursement.

Martin noted that thought needs to be given to how to pay for the Town's share of the Brook Road culvert project. Payment must be made up front, then the Town gets reimbursed.

Martin has been contacting various entities to find grants to aid in the reconstruction, design, and upgrade of Flat Iron Road. This needs to be done prior to the installation of the permanent School Street bridge. During installation, Flat Iron Road will serve as a detour.

A notice will appear in the newspaper seeking names of individuals who would like to be considered for the Town Forest Committee. The Committee needs to be a diverse group, representing a broad spectrum of interests.

- c. **Authorize funds for RSF grant for updated school house cost estimate:** The Preservation Trust of Vermont has expressed strong interest in our request for an RSF grant. The grant would cover the cost of an architect to determine what work needs to be done in the old school house, beyond the initial \$500 contribution from the Town. The total cost is estimated to be between \$1,000 and \$1,500. Martin noted that the school house restoration fund currently contains \$6,257.68, of which \$2,000 was a gift from the Library. Motion by Klein to allocate \$500 from the school house restoration fund toward the RSF grant to cover the cost of the architect. Seconded by Lee. No additional discussion. Voting: All in favor. J.B. Hinds confirmed that once the Preservation Trust receives confirmation from the board to move forward, an architect should be out to see the building fairly quickly.
- d. **Informational Meeting 2-23-2022:** The Selectboard will hold a virtual Informational Meeting on Wednesday, February 23 at 6:00 p.m. Information on how to Zoom or phone in to the meeting will appear on the Town's website at wolcottvt.org. Anyone who may need assistance accessing the meeting may call the Town Clerk for other options. This meeting will provide voters an opportunity to ask questions of the board regarding the Budget, Articles, or other concerns they may have regarding the Warning.
- e. **Exterior lighting:** Additional lighting will soon be added to the exterior of the Town Office to provide additional light for the parking area.
- f. **Zoning/Scanning:** Klein will conduct an informal survey of what Town documents need to be scanned in order to be accessible online. More information will be available next month. It is anticipated ARPA funds will cover many of the costs involved in these projects.

- g. Mask Mandate:** The board wished to open the discussion on whether the mask mandate for Town buildings should remain in place. Following discussion, the board will revisit the issue at their March 16 meeting. In the meantime, the mask mandate for Town buildings will remain in effect.

- h. IT discussion:** Klein stated the Town's server is old and needs to be replaced. After 12 years, problems are starting to occur. Following discussion, the board instructed the Town Clerk to order a new server. Next, Klein noted that his home phone number is on the Town Garage answering machine as an emergency contact person. If he needs to contact the crew while they are on the road, it is often impossible to reach them on their cell phones due to dead zones. A handheld radio would be a better option. It is estimated the cost would be \$635. Motion by Martin to authorize Klein to purchase a handheld radio to contact the road crew for emergencies. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor.

Executive Session: Motion by Klein to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor. The board entered executive session at 7:27 p.m. The board came back into open session at 7:33 p.m. Motion by Klein to offer the job of Janitor to Pam Locke, pending a check of references, at a rate of \$19.00 per hour for up to 7 hours per week. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor.

Adjourn: Motion by Lee to adjourn. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein

*Informational Meeting – February 23, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.
Next regularly scheduled Selectboard Meeting – March 2, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.*