

**Wolcott Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
March 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, Richard Lee, Kurt Billings
Employees: Belinda Harris Clegg, Deb Klein
Public: Karen McKee, Melody Shirley-Eldred, Raymond Earle, Dolan Patrick, Monica Cross

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

Amendments to the Agenda: Martin requested that Selectboard approval of road closures/weight limit restrictions be added to the Agenda. No objection.

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

Comments from the Community/Correspondence

Raymond Earle took issue with the fact that the Animal Control Officer (ACO) issued him, and his two sons who are renting a property on East Hill Road, tickets for barking dogs in violation of the Town's Animal Control Ordinance. Martin asked that the board be provided a written report from the ACO. Earle gave the Board a list of neighbors who are not bothered by the dogs barking. The board stated the issue needs to be addressed in the Judicial Bureau.

Selectboard review/action

Appointments: The Selectboard discussed filling Appointments. Martin is still waiting to hear back from some individuals. The board will continue to work on filling remaining vacancies.

New Committees – Town Forest Management: Martin reported that a diverse group of Townspeople have expressed an interest in serving on the Town Forest Management Committee. The main focus of this Committee will be policy, or how community members want to see the land used. It is anticipated that the Committee will meet one time per month for approximately one year. Kate Wanner with The Trust for Public Land will attend their first meeting. The group will also meet with the County Forester, and relevant organizations. Kurt Billings asked to join the Committee. Martin stated other committees will be formed as well, for example, a trails committee. The board just learned that the Town's application for a \$197,900 grant for trails, one of 104 applicants, was accepted.

Klein noted there needs to be a Cannabis Control Board for the Town to create ordinances and bylaws. The State is now issuing licenses for growers. Retail licenses are scheduled to be issued this fall. Since things are moving quickly, the Selectboard will start as the Cannabis Control Board. The goal will be to add members so that Selectboard members can withdraw.

Leased land: A landowner in Town submitted to the board a Quitclaim deed. The purpose is to clear up the issue of land, or lots, that were originally reserved for churches, schools and colleges when the Town

was first formed. The Towns owned such leases. The State legislature did away with leased lands some time ago, but the Town has not done so formally. Motion by Klein to approve signing the Quitclaim deed releasing the leased land to the current owner. Seconded by Lee. No further discussion. Voting: All in favor.

Federal Aid Highway – issues: Martin reported that the Town has received \$358,949.44 in State and Federal Aid Highway funds from North Wolcott Road repairs. The board discussed available options for use of the funds. A flood loan that had been taken out at 2.15% interest has a balance of \$153,135.27. That loan can be paid off, and a new loan from Union Bank taken out for \$400,000 at a 1.15% fixed rate for one year. The Brook Road culvert project is out for bid but costs are anticipated to be \$412,900 plus costs for some additional work. The Town's share for the School Street bridge will be \$311,530. It is unclear at this time when payments will begin for the bridge. The Town will need to have cash flow. Any cash balance from a new loan can be added to a capital reserve fund. Motion by Lee to pay off the loan balance of \$153,135.27; take out a loan from Union Bank for \$400,000 at a 1.15% fixed rate for one year; with remaining funds going into a capital reserve fund. Seconded by Klein. No further discussion. Voting: All in favor. The board asked the Treasurer to open an account for a capital reserve fund. Voters approved the creation of a capital reserve fund on Town Meeting day. The \$47,879.77 from the fund balance will be added to the capital reserve fund.

Culvert update: The Town's road crew will discuss with District 6 various alternatives regarding the culvert. An update will be provided later. The board signed the annual financial plan as required within 60 days after the Highway budget is approved at Town Meeting. This is done in the event emergency funding is needed from the State.

Posting of Roads: All weight limit restrictions on Town roads are to be approved by the Selectboard.

Mask mandate – revisit: The board discussed the loosening of mask requirements throughout the State. The board determined that within Town buildings, each department can make their own determination as to whether to require a mask in order to enter. This applies to Town Office, and groups that meet within Town Office, Town Hall, the Library, and the Highway Department. Changes will be made accordingly to the Town Hall permit, building signage, and on the Town's website.

Martin noted that a right-of-way excavation permit completed and submitted by Adam Allen on West Hill Road can be signed by the Road Foreman. Proper procedure is being followed.

Salary for third lister: Martin noted there is not sufficient work to employ a third lister on a regular basis. The role of the third lister is generally limited to attending the annual Organizational meeting, and the handing over the Grand List. Motion by Lee to set the salary for the third lister at \$15 per hour. Seconded by Carpenter. Discussion: None. Voting: All in favor.

Project Manager position: The Selectboard conducted two interviews for the newly-created position of Project Manager with a salary of \$25 per hour. Candidates included Bob McGee, Duxbury; and Kurt Klein, Wolcott. No questions were posed by the public. Motion by Lee to enter into executive session pursuant to VSA 1 § 313(a)(3). Seconded by Carpenter. Voting: 4 in favor, Klein abstained. Klein was asked to step out. Board members entered executive session at 7:59 p.m. The board came out of executive session and resumed open meeting at 8:15 p.m. Motion by Lee to appoint Kurt Klein as interim Project Manager. Seconded by Billings. No further discussion. Voting: All 4 in favor, Klein abstained. It was noted that Klein is very qualified and committed. A contract will be drawn up to ensure

there is a line between the role of Selectboard member and that of Project Manager to avoid potential conflicts.

Adjourn: Motion by Lee to adjourn. Seconded by Billings. Voting: All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein

Next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting – April 6, 2022