

**Wolcott Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
September 21, 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, Alan Carpenter, Kurt Billings
Absent: Richard Lee
Employees: Belinda Harris Clegg, Deb Klein
Public: Jim Robert, Lucien Gravel, Bill Morrison, Luke Hardt, Monica Cross, Dolan Patrick

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

Amendments to the Agenda: Martin asked that a delinquent tax issue be added to the Agenda. No objection. A celebratory card has been purchased for one of the road crew members. Individuals who wish to contribute may do so following the meeting.

Approve Minutes of September 7, 2022: Motion by Klein to approve the Minutes of the September 7 meeting. Seconded by Billings. Discussion: None. Voting: All 4 in favor.

Comments from the Community:

Bill Morrison, Pond Brook Lane, presented to the board his thoughts on what should be done with property that was taken over by the Town on East Hill Road through a tax sale. Morrison shared with board members a map of the 9 acre parcel along with Bear Swamp. Morrison is concerned that if the property is sold to a private individual, and developed, it would negatively impact what is an exceptional natural area. Luke Hardt, Cross Road, spoke about the special flora and fauna seen there. He added it is part of the legacy of the Town. The board noted the parcel cannot be sold without authorization from voters at Town Meeting. It was noted that the Town incurred legal expenses, and paid for cleanup of the property. The board would like to recoup those expenses. Morrison will continue to investigate whether the land can be preserved in some way.

Lucien Gravel provided the board with an update on the Brook Road culvert project. Once guardrails are installed, the road can be reopened. The board should find out soon whether FEMA will reimburse the Town for certain expenses involved in the project.

A resident asked the board for additional time to pay their taxes totaling \$937.55. The resident cited health problems as the reason for the delay in payment. Motion by Billings to enter into an agreement whereby the resident will pay \$468.77 by October 3, along with registration fees for dogs, and pay \$468.78 by October 10, 2022. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All 4 in favor.

Correspondence:

The Town has received a complaint about excessive garbage at a residence on Town Hill Road. It was noted this has been an ongoing problem. The board will reach out to a family member of the landowner to seek a solution.

The board considered a driveway permit submitted by Katy Leadbetter on Cross Road. Motion by Klein to accept the proposed change in location of driveway as requested. Seconded by Billings. Voting: All 4 in favor.

Martin noted that the 2023 Municipal Planning Grant applications are available. The board received a communication from Comcast regarding various programs.

Board members reviewed an email sent by Paul McGrath, Gulf Road, which will be made part of the record. McGrath requested the board revisit their decision not to pursue a speed study, or reduction of speed, on Gulf Road. The board discussed the matter. Motion by Klein for the board to not rescind their decision regarding speed on Gulf Road. Seconded by Carpenter. Voting: All 4 in favor.

Jim Robert, Planning Commission – Composting toilet: The Town Planning Commission, along with Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC), has been discussing a possible grant for a composting toilet that would be located near the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. The cost of the toilet would be \$75,000. A 20 percent, or \$15,000, match would be required from the Town. Discussion included possible location, and maintenance. The board determined there is no suitable land available. Concern was also expressed regarding the required maintenance that would fall to the Town. Porta-lets were suggested as a possible alternative. The board suggested the Planning Commission pursue another idea for a grant, such as creating a pedestrian/bike lane along School Street.

Project Manager Report

Schoolhouse Revitalization Committee Request: Klein reported that the Committee is seeking authorization from the Selectboard to move forward with the hiring of an engineer. The engineer would be asked to outline the first steps necessary to shore up the building and identify what needs to be done to avoid further deterioration. LCPC is still checking on the cost of engineering services. The Committee has an assigned fund balance of \$5,507.68. Motion by Martin that the Selectboard approve the Schoolhouse Revitalization Committee hiring an engineer for up to \$10,000 with \$3,500 being paid from the assigned fund balance, and any additional cost paid for with ARPA funds. Seconded by Klein. Discussion: If the cost exceeds \$10,000, the Committee needs to come back to the Selectboard. Voting: All 4 in favor.

The International plow truck ordered by the Town is now at Viking with an expected delivery date of October 20. Financing has been approved by KS StateBank with an interest rate of 4.150 percent. The stated interest rate will expire on October 8. The Town has the option of signing the bank contract now in order to keep the interest rate. After October 8, it is anticipated the interest rate would increase considerably. Motion by Klein for the Selectboard to sign the bank contract for the International plow truck prior to October 8, 2022 to preserve the interest rate of 4.150. Seconded by Carpenter. Voting: All 4 in favor. The first payment will be due September 13, 2023.

The group of Towns discussing the idea of a shared assessor has not met recently due to schedule conflicts. The online mapping project is moving forward. The Transfer Station received payment for trash that came from the recent Lamoille River cleanup.

Selectboard review/action

Handyman position: The board discussed the creation of a part-time handyman position. A potential applicant has been interviewed. Job duties would include general maintenance, repair, and painting of Town buildings. Also included would be plowing, shoveling, and assisting the road crew in winter

months. Motion by Martin to hire Nathan Dawley as Wolcott handyman/plower for 16 hours per week at \$23 per hour starting immediately until June 30, 2023. Seconded by Carpenter. Voting: All 4 in favor. Funding of the position may require approximately \$11,000 for the remainder of the fiscal year, which can come from the Building Maintenance fund.

Sander for 1-ton truck: The board discussed getting a sander for the 1-ton truck that could be used in winter for the sanding of Town parking lots. The sander that is currently available is a Snowex Helixx 3.5 cy spreader poly at a cost of \$9,623. The road crew prefers the poly spreader rather than a stainless steel spreader because it is lighter for the truck. Motion by Billings authorizing the purchase of a Snowex Helixx poly spreader, using equipment funds. Seconded by Carpenter. Voting: All 4 in favor.

Vermont Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Initiative – Declaration: The Vermont Declaration of Inclusion group has invited Wolcott to join other Towns throughout the State to adopt a Declaration that condemns discrimination and welcomes all. Sample Declarations will be forwarded to the Wolcott Planning Commission for review at their next meeting. Jim Robert noted that the Planning Commission has already discussed with LCPC including similar language in the next Town Plan.

Request for Driveway Permit: Addressed under Correspondence.

Community Barbeque – review: The barbeque and information sharing event was very well attended. The Town received \$170 in donations from the donation buckets on the tables, and another \$35 donation. Special thanks to SFC Matthew Cook and the Vermont Army National Guard volunteers who helped set up the canopies. The WES Principal, Dennis Hill, brought a lot of folks to the event. Ballet Wolcott received rave reviews for their performance. The Library was an active place. Kids had balloon animals, and the Girl Scouts organized games. The Fire Department did a great job grilling up burgers and hotdogs. Thanks to all the volunteers who assisted with food, provided information to folks who stopped by the tables to find out what exciting things are going on in Town, and so much more. Thank you cards will be sent out. Next year more volunteers are needed so everyone can take a break and enjoy the activities. Leftover buns and hotdogs will be preserved for the fall Green Up Day event on Saturday, October 22. Volunteers who participate in cleanup can swing by the Gazebo/Pavilion in the afternoon for sloppy joes, chili, or chili dogs.

Town Office – cleaning/organizing: The date for office cleaning and organizing that had been scheduled for September 23 is postponed to a date later in the year.

Adjourn: Motion by Billings to adjourn. Seconded by Carpenter. Voting: All 4 in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein

Next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting – October 5, 2022