

Special Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board

Monday December 23, 2024

**In Person: Steele Community Room
28 North Main Street**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://www.zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 820 8414 3360

Passcode: 094477

Dial by your location

- +1 301 715 8592
- +1 305 224 1968

- 7:00pm Approve Agenda
- 7:05pm Consent Agenda Items:
a.) Minutes of Special Meeting December 10, 2024; Emergency Meeting December 11, 2024 and Meeting December 16, 2024
b.) First and Third Class Restaurant/Bar License for PineMarten LLC (Stone's Throw Pizza) 13 Stowe Street Waterbury
- 7:10pm Public
- 7:15pm Letter of Attestation for the upcoming FY25 Downtown Vibrancy fund
- 7:25pm Discussion of funding request from the Waterbury Area Trails Association
- 7:45pm Local Options Tax Spending
- 7:55pm Have your Say Day update
- 8:05pm Adoption of Section 125 health plan documents
- 8:15pm Animal License Fee Schedule
- 8:25pm Next Meeting Agenda
- 8:35pm Executive Session
- 9:00pm Adjourn

Next Meeting of the Select Board: Monday December 30, 2024

Parking Lot:

- 3 Year Budget Plan
- Parade and Event Permit
- Wesley Church MOU
- Natural Disaster Preparedness Committee Handbook
- Route 2 Neighborhood Public Safety

Thomas Leitz

From: Alex Showerman <alexshowerman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 10:25 AM
To: Roger Clapp; Thomas Leitz
Cc: Logan Shuman
Subject: WATA Funding Request for 2025

Hi Tom and Roger,

We (Waterbury Area Trails Alliance) are reaching out to request funding for FY 2025 for climate resilience projects at Perry Hill/ the Perry Hill trailhead.

WATA will be entering its 10th year as an organization, and has been a proven partner in the town managing and maintaining Perry Hill and the LRSP Mountain Bike Trails. On average Perry Hill attracts 20,000 user visits (according to FPR trail counter) to the south end of our historic main street and is a walkable/ bikeable forest playground for our village residents. Our trails at LRSP have tripled day use visits to the state park since their construction, and combined with the Waterbury Center State Park, day use in Waterbury accounts for 9% of all visits across the state (per FPR Data). Joe's Trail and Perry Hill have been consistently rated one of the top trails and trail networks in Vermont as well as received acclaim in national publications.

Annually WATA has put in between 600-1200 volunteer hours into our trails and in partnership with FPR we've brought in hundreds of thousands of dollars of investment through donations, membership and state funding into building and maintaining the trails. Including substantial projects like the lower main climb overhaul, construction of S'mores (a beginner flow trail), the LRSP Mountain Bike Trails, the rebuild of Six Flags and Disneyland trails as well as most recently a hazard tree mitigation cutting down dead red pine to prevent major wind storm damage.

WATA has recently run into a coalescence of two challenging headwinds - increase in extreme weather leading to a need to rebuild with climate resilience in mind, as well as a drop in volunteerism (a trend nonprofits across the board are facing), with our volunteer levels at 50% compared to pre-pandemic levels. WATA spent 2024 conducting a climate resilience assessment of our networks and developed a subsequent five year maintenance plan to address major needs. The drop in volunteerism means that more of this work has to be done by professional trail crews. Which is why for the first time in our organization history we are asking the town to financially support our work.

We currently have two shovel ready projects for spring/summer of 2025 that we are looking for funding support.

1. Pump Track - The pump track at the trailhead is a beloved resource and used by many kids and adults alike. It has been flooded several times now, and is in a state of dis-repair. WATA is planning several volunteer days in the spring to clean up the pump track, however it could really benefit from one week of professional trail builder work to rehabilitate it. The Pump Track sits on town land, and is a resource that is available to its recreation programs and camps. **WATA is requesting \$5000 dollars for one week of professional trail builder time to rehabilitate the pump track.** Our hope is to be able to partner more with the Waterbury recreation department and offer this as a resource for the summer programming. In its current state it is not an ideal resource and not representative of the high quality recreation experience Waterbury is known for.

2. **Main and Campfire Climb Climate Resilience Rebuild.** This summer the sanctioned route of the main climb of Perry Hill washed out, which currently now has the main artery of our network on an unsanctioned re-route that falls within a stream buffer. WATA has been working in partnership with FPR on a plan to build a more climate resilient version of the climb as well as bring the main climb and climb to campfire/ smores to a

beginner and aMTB rating. This work would not only expand access for who can recreate at Perry Hill, making our lower trails more appropriate for beginner riders and kids, it will also help the trails better handle major storms. **WATA has already secured a \$7000 VMBA trail grant, WATA is requesting \$7000 to match the VMBA Trail grant funds, and is prepared to pay the remainder of the cost of the project (\$24,000 in total).** Without this project, We risk losing access to all trails at Perry Hill as this section of the climb currently is not sanctioned.

Both of these projects would be a huge benefit to the broader recreation community in town by rehabilitating an easy access resource (the pump track), and making our network both more climate resilient and more accessible to a broader skill of riders. These projects are currently slated to be completed during the 2025 work season. Thank you so much for your consideration and please let us know what appropriate next steps would be. Sincerely, Alex Showerman, WATA Trails Director

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Memo

Date: 12/20/24
From: Tom Leitz
To: Selectboard
Re: Section 125 cafeteria plan

Please find attached a packet of information related to adopting a section 125 cafeteria plan. These documents have been put together with the assistance of a health insurance consultant.

Although complex, the documents do not impact the health plans offered by the Town. They are an IRS requirement to ensure the town's health benefits remain non-taxable to our employees.

A section 125 cafeteria plan is a requirement whenever an employer wants to allow employees the opportunity to pay for health insurance with pre-tax dollars. In our instance, this would ensure employee deductible expenses remain pre-tax expenses, as well as employer payments towards deductibles.

While the Town may have adopted a section 125 cafeteria plan in the past, I cannot find a record of this, and recommend the new documents be adopted. The same will be requested of EFUD at their next regular meeting.

Page 7 contains a resolution related to adopting the documents.

I am available to answer any questions.

**TOWN OF WATERBURY
RESOLUTION
HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ARRANGEMENT**

WHEREAS, Town of Waterbury has determined that it would be in the best interests of its Employees to adopt a "Health Reimbursement Arrangement" allowing Town of Waterbury Employees to receive reimbursement of medical benefits, so-called; be it known that a vote was taken, and all were in favor.

RESOLVED, that Town of Waterbury adopt a so-called "Health Reimbursement Arrangement" all in accordance with the specifications annexed hereto; and, be it known that the Town of Waterbury "Health Reimbursement Arrangement" Plan Document was executed January 1, 2025.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Company undertake all actions necessary to implement and administer said plan.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have executed my name for the above named Company on January 1, 2025.

A True Record

ATTEST:

Witness

By: _____

Thomas Leitz

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• +1 301 715 8592

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Budget Discussion
Library
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