

Minutes of the Select Board
Monday August 5, 2024
28 North Main Street and via zoom

Attendance: Kane Sweeney, Alyssa Johnson, Ian Shea, Tom Leitz, Karen Petrovic, Roger Clapp

Public Attendance: Chris Viens, Sandy Sabin, Amy Keller, Tom Gloor, Kelley Hackett, Owen Setti-Ducati, Kati Gallagher, Skip Flanders, Corey Hackett, Mike Hedges, Bill Shepeluk, Dan Snyder, Dan McKibbin, Lisa Scagliotti Waterbury Roundabout, Hanif Nazerali, Rueben MacMartin, Tom Buonomo, Billy Vigdor, Evan Hoffman

ZOOM: ORCA Media, Joe Hayes, Pete Moran, Mike Bard – Select Board, Valerie, Liz Schlegel, Theresa Wood, Eric Gross, Sandy Yusen

R. Clapp called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Approve Agenda: K. Sweeney moved to approve the agenda as written. I. Shea seconded the motion. A vote was held and passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda: A. Johnson moved to approve the consent agenda as written. K. Sweeney seconded the motion. A vote was held and passed unanimously. *

Public: A. Keller from Fuller Acres asked about the culvert that washed away because of the flooding in July that has not been repaired. Folks have been parking on the opposite side of the culvert and walking into their homes. She is concerned about the bussing as the school year begins. She would like an update on plans to repair the culvert. T. Leitz provided an update stating Grenier Engineering has been hired to conduct an assessment; they recommend larger than the previous 8' culvert. The new culvert is recommended to be 115" x 80" with an arc and a natural bottom. It will take approximately three weeks to be delivered and an additional 10 days to get it installed.

K. Hackett wondered why the Town cannot get a loan and repay it when we receive FEMA reimbursement. T. Leitz stated all repairs are funded by the Town while FEMA decides on the level of reimbursement. We just received a payment from the 2023 flooding. Staff has been in contact with the school district regarding the road closure; it is the schools responsibly to communicate bus routes and times to parents.

K. Gallagher updated the board on the Vermont [Better Connections Program](#) which aligns state and local investments that increase transportation options, improve water quality, support public health, and strengthen economic vitality in Vermont's community centers. The team feels like Waterbury's goals are well matched to their mission. K. Gallagher feels this opportunity may fit nicely into the Zoning and Town Planning that is taking place. There is an opportunity to apply for a grant with a \$7,500 match. There is no immediate action being asked for at this time but updating the Select Board and making them aware that Waterbury LEAP will be coming back to the board to request match funding.

Leaf Peeper Traffic: R. Clapp introduced the topic to the Board stating in the past the Town has received several complaints regarding traffic backing up during the foliage season when tourists are moving around from Waterbury to Stowe. D. Snyder, owner of Cold Hollow Cider Mill stated the State is lucky to have this problem as it is a boost to the economy in general. D. Snyder stated he made a valiant effort last year to get some traffic controllers in place but due to several situations he was not able to get a law

enforcement officer. D. Snyder has spoken to both Washington and Lamoille County Sheriff's offices regarding traffic controllers on Route 100 and is awaiting their responses at the time of tonight's meeting. Internally they have added several directional signs to assist. He has contracted with ADA Traffic Control in the lot to assist in getting traffic in the driveway opposed to backing up traffic along Route 100. O. Setti-Ducati reaffirmed that the traffic issue along Route 100 is a result of the many businesses that tourist patronize along Route 100. O. Setti-Ducati stated it would be unfair to pick and choose which business is contributing to the traffic. D. Snyder requested planning and infrastructure changes over time. K. Sweeney stated he is mostly concerned with Guptil Road being a corridor for leaf peeper traffic making it difficult for local individuals to get to and from work. K. Sweeney proposes a Local Traffic Only sign placed on Guptil Road to discourage tourists from using it. **K. Sweeney moved to have Closed to Through Traffic signs on Howard Ave, Hollow Road and Guptil Road where they meet Route 100. I. Shea seconded the motion.** Discussion followed, to be placed on Indigenous People's Day, Friday the 4th through Sunday the 6th. Friday the 11th through Monday the 14th. **A vote was held and passed 4-1** with A. Johnson abstaining.

Summary Flood Mitigation help 7/29, and Flood Mitigation Grant Update: A. Johnson thanked all the participants who attended and participated online following the meeting. There will be continued discussions as the board prepares to apply for the mitigation grant. The focus will be on all the projects that have been discussed already. The deadline to apply has been moved to August 30th. The one challenge for this grant is that you submit the concepts for the grant then you work with the State to narrow the request down to feasible ideas. Lowering the cornfield was the most voted for item; lots of great ideas about what happens next.

J. Hayes asked specifically about the flooding that takes place at the end of Union Street and Huntington Place. He sees a bottleneck on Armory Drive as well as the bridge that crosses Main Street. There is also a lot of debris that has accumulated under the bridge. J. Hayes wondered if that can be dealt with. R. Clapp was in the break out group with many of the lower Union Street residents and stated it was a discussion. There is an issue regarding the Town's lack of equipment to safely perform this clean up. Increasing the size of either of those bridges will be a long-term discussion. The hydrologist study, currently being conducted by SLR Consulting, is going to include the Ice Center to Jenny Davis Road and Thatcher Brook up to Kneeland Flats. The hydrologist needs to wait until the leaves fall from the trees this fall in order to get accurate lidar data; a report of his findings should be published by the end of the year.

***Alley Space located on Stowe Street; up to three special events per year contingent on Entertainment Permit approval and zoning compliance: I. Shea made a motion to grant Hill-Ford LLC their OCP with up to three special events per year contingent on Entertainment Permit approval and Zoning Compliance. A vote was held and passed unanimously.**

FEMA Buyouts: T. Leitz introduced the FEMA Buyouts to the Board. E. Gross would like to apply for both the Elevation Permit and the Buyout. E. Gross has the last home on Union Street. E. Gross is struggling with which option he would like to pursue. He has made his home more flood resistant at this time and moved his utilities up. He understands he will need to choose which course of action he takes and approving both would buy him additional time to make an informed decision. **A. Johnson made a motion to approve the Buyout request for 42 Union Street. K. Sweeney seconded the motion; a vote was held and passed unanimously.**

P. Flanders spoke about the personal effects of future flooding. Their first-floor elevation is at the 100-year flood mark. Their home suffers mostly from mud and water in the basement with recent flooding. He is not committed to the Buyout but would be interested to know the options when the time comes and a FEMA offer is made. R. Clapp asked why P. Flanders would not just sell his home as opposed to entertain a Buyout. P. Flanders stated his house is not in the shape of the recent sale on Randall and he does not want to see a new young family take on many of the obstacles he has faced. R. Clapp is concerned because once the Board begins to allow houses on Elm and Randall to participate in FEMA buyout those homes cannot be rebuilt and Waterbury is already suffering from a housing shortage. P. Flanders stated he appreciates R. Clapp's perspective however there is another flood coming and this situation is no fun to deal with. I. Shea shared reservations regarding vacated spots along Randall and Elm Streets. **I. Shea made a motion to further study additional options and come back at the August 19th meeting to make a final decision about 21 Elm Street regarding a Buyout option. K. Sweeney seconded with an amendment.** Considering we have two Buyout requests in the same neighborhood (Randall and Elm Streets), is the Board going to consider there are some neighborhoods they will and will not allow for Buyout options? **K. Sweeney made an amendment to the motion to consider the third Buyout request at next meeting. I. Shea seconded that amendment, to include any requests from Randall and Elm Streets to be reconsidered at the 8/19 meeting. A vote was held on the amendment and passed unanimously. A vote was held on the amended motion and passed unanimously.** B. Kravitz stated a lot of his decisions are based on his ethics and the tenants he must worry about. His experience is not the same as other residents on the street because he has so many worries about other considerations. He believes he is the first to flood when it happens. Consideration needs to be made to the long-term effect of repeated flood waters to the homes along the streets. All options should be explored and kept open.

Community Bike Share: H. Nazerali, volunteer community liaison and R. MacMartin from the CVRPC reintroduced the Bike Share Concept to the Board. They are requesting \$3,000 for a scoping study. Funds would not be required for 6-9 months but tonight they are requesting a letter of commitment. CVRPC is not modeling this after the large city shares that are privately owned. They are still exploring types of bikes that would be conducive for the uses the study identifies a need for. R. Clapp stated the feedback he has received following the last meeting was not positive as most individuals that voiced concern were worried about safety. K. Sweeney thanked H. Nazerali for answering many of the concerns the Board had previously such as cargo and families using this service. R. MacMartin explained that the study will make the determination about user costs and Town costs if the program moved forward. H. Nazerali stated he is looking for a letter of commitment but not necessarily asking for Town funding; he would appreciate any funding source that came forward. A. Johnson stated she is not comfortable with a hard no but also feels the timing with other more pressing commitments is real. A. Johnson expressed perhaps the Town of Waterbury could commit a smaller amount of money to the initiative. I. Shea is worried about the feasibility of connecting these remote locations. M. Bard has received public feedback as well and worries about such a commitment at a time when the Town has so many other pressing matters. M. Bard shares safety concerns especially with inexperienced riders.

Road and Pedestrian Safety Plan: Concerns were brought to the Board about pedestrian crossings. The discussion at that time was flashing pedestrian crossing at the village entrances. Other components were brought up regarding speeding concerns on Maple Street. The flashing speed sign was removed from Maple Street to be utilized elsewhere as it was intended. K. Sweeney supports speed tables on Kneeland

Flats and Maple Street. B. Shepeluk stated he does not believe speed tables are a great solution; they impact storm water and winter maintenance. B. Shepeluk believes enforcement would be a better solution acknowledging the police are strained. **A. Johnson moved to table this discussion to a later meeting to allow for Public Works' recommendation. There was no second.** M. Hedges commented that the Agency of Transportation has a lot of valuable information regarding traffic calming. **A. Johnson made a motion to encourage the manger to seek increased police patrol on Maple Street and Kneeland Flats and to revisit this topic including AOT traffic calming recommendations.** K. Sweeney seconded the motion; a vote was held and passed unanimously.

Adopt Changes to the Traffic Ordinance: A. Johnson moved to amend the Waterbury Traffic Ordinance to include a handicap parking spot at the Congregational Church. K. Sweeney seconded the motion. T. Leitz reminded the board this will need to be published in the paper. **A vote was held and passed unanimously.**

Approval of Loan for Public Works Truck: T. Leitz reminded the Board this purchase was previously approved; the Department of Public Works has been waiting to take delivery until now. T. Leitz stated only two bids were returned to his inquiry with Union Bank having the most favorable rate at 5.375% for 5 years. **I. Shea moved to approve the capital equipment note and awarding the bid to Union Bank.** K. Sweeney seconded the motion; a vote was held and passed unanimously.

Approval to Amend the Boundaries of Designated Downtown to include the Stanley Wasson parcel: T. Leitz stated probably a year ago he proposed adding the Stanley Wasson site into the Downtown district. Memo presented to the Board is in the packet. **A. Johnson made a motion to amend the boundaries of Waterbury Downtown Designation area to include the Stanley Wasson parcel.** K. Sweeney seconded the motion; a vote was held and passed unanimously.

Next Meeting Agenda:

Randall and Elm Buyouts

Move Natural Preparedness Committee to first meeting in September

Future of Shaw Mansion Road

Add Bill Woodruff to the Police discussion regarding speeding and enforcement

Grant Hazard Mitigation Grant application

Change to Town Meeting format (first discussion)

Add division of Local Option Tax allocation to the parking lot

TextMyGov

Executive Session: T. Leitz requires an executive session to discuss a real estate matter, pending litigation and a contractual matter. **A. Johnson moved to find that premature public knowledge of a real estate matter will place the Town at a severe disadvantage.** K. Sweeney seconded the motion, a vote was held and passed unanimously. **A. Johnson moved to enter executive session to discuss real estate, pending litigation and contractual matter and that the municipal manager join.** K. Sweeney seconded the motion, a vote was held and passed unanimously.

Adjourn: 10:35pm the board exited Executive Session having taken no action. **K. Sweeney made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by A. Johnson, a vote was held and passed unanimously.**