

Special Minutes of the Select Board
Monday September 9, 2024
28 North Main Street and via zoom

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

Public Attendance: Liz Schlegel, Doug Gleason, Chris Viens, Rachel Muse, ORCA Media, Jonathan Griffin, Tessa Yip, Matt Dugan, Kayta D'Angelo, Lisa Scagliotti - Waterbury Roundabout, Evan Hoffman

ZOOM: ORCA Media, Wayne Quillin, Valerie, Evan Hoffman, Rebecca Mead, Pegeen Mulhern, Mike Dacey, Anne Imhoff, Amy Marshall-Carney, Sandy, Eric Gross, Cheryl Gloor

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. K. Sweeney seconded the motion; a vote was held and passed unanimously.

Public: C. Viens asked for an update on paving projects. Kneeland Flats and Union Street are the top priorities, however, many of the contractors lost a lot of ground following the summer floods. T. Leitz stated Gupitil Road will not be done this year.

K. D'Angelo respectfully requests the Board consider establishing a local police department in the next 2-4 years. Discussion followed regarding the uptick in crime and news of several incidents that occurred in town recently.

Appointment to the Library Commission: K. Sweeney moved to appoint Erin Mooney to the unexpired seat of the Library Commission ending March 4, 2025. A. Johnson seconded the motion; a vote was held and passed unanimously.

Natural Disaster Preparedness Committee (NDPC) Update: M. Dugan from the NDPC provided an update on the manual the board has been working towards. There is one remaining committee member to weigh in on the draft. Once the current draft is edited, the NDPC will send the document to CReW for their input before they share with the Select Board for comment. M. Dugan hopes to have the manual completed this fall. The table of contents was shared for all.

After Action Report CReW: L. Schlegel presented the DRAFT After Action Report which A. Johnson was able to share on line for Zoom participants. The long version is attached to these minutes. CReW will be working to streamline the data and make it more consumable. They welcome additional comments.

Flood Expenses: This is highlighted in Known Flood Costs to Date as of 9/6/2024. Laurel Road and Stowe Street needed extensive work following the July 2024 flood. Gregg Hill is scheduled to have a new culvert installed this fall. Non-Reimbursable Expenses is tied to individual home clean up or mold mitigation that FEMA historically will not pay for.

CReW and future floods: R. Clapp introduced the topic for conversation, however, L. Schlegel stated she is not prepared for the conversation. The CReW board has not met and discussed what they are prepared to do in the event of another flood. T. Yip stated as things stand CReW does not have the capacity or energy to head another emergency response for a disaster.

C. Gloor appealed to the board that 100% of the Local Options Tax be allocated to infrastructure of the Town to better prepare. CReW will be holding a public conversation, no date set, to learn what folks have done to improve their resilience and how can that be implemented elsewhere so others can benefit.

Mitigation Update: The Hazard Mitigation Grant was submitted before the August 30th deadline. The submission is available on the Town of Waterbury website. [Microsoft Word - Town of Waterbury Hazard Mitigation Pre-Application Additional Detail - 8-30-24 \(waterburyvt.com\)](#) The State Department of BGS met with T. Leitz and R. Clapp; BGS is applying for FEMA funds to scrape off the silt from the cornfield behind Randall Street. T. Leitz stated he believes the cornfield should be in the control of the Town to better manage debris collection and removal. T. Stevens and T. Wood have also been consulted to see if the Town can work towards owning the cornfield. The Town has removed all debris from under the Armory Drive and Main Street bridges. T. Leitz stated a Storm Water Ordinance would be a great asset to the Town, however, it would be hard to implement and enforce on established homeowners but is easier to impose on new construction.

Division of Local Options Tax (LOT) Allocation: R. Clapp gave some background on what the board originally stated the funds would be used for.

- a.) Payment of Debt
- b.) Capital Expenses
- c.) Economic Development and Community Vitality including Housing
- d.) Municipal investments to ensure long term savings

The Town should receive the first payment of LOT from the State this November. The next payment should arrive in February 2025 but will be allocated to 2024.

T. Lietz stated the unbudgeted money for this year should be considered for grant match for flood mitigation. T. Leitz will make every effort to not use LOT funds for operational expenses. T. Leitz believes he can produce a list of small infrastructure projects that could be completed by the end of this year. He will focus on gravel roads and culverts because it is getting too late in the season for paving.

K. Sweeney stated the Board has voted to establish the Housing Trust Fund and can allocate money to that fund and not spend it until the details about how it will be used is approved by the board.

Town Meeting Day (second discussion): The Board and staff are considering the “Duxbury model.” R. Clapp is proposing a Saturday in January to entertain ideas about uses of the LOT and the budget as well as discuss a change in format to Town Meeting Day. There was a question about whether the Board would make more broad ways for public input such as Survey Monkey. Discussion followed about managing something like this and how questions could be phrased for input. **A. Johnson moved that the Select Board plan a 2025 Town Meeting Season meeting, with intention to have a full draft budget available for public feedback and comments. To create a widely published meeting seeking feedback. Feedback from this meeting will be used to inform changes for the Town Meeting Budget. Intent to have a question regarding the future format of Town Meeting on the March 4, 2025 Town Meeting warning. K. Sweeney seconded the motion.** Discussion followed about hybrid meeting and binding Town Meeting decisions that will take place at Town meeting on March 4, 2025. **A vote was held and passed unanimously.**

Development Project on Town Owned Land: K. Sweeney stated he would not support the lower parcels being sold for single family homes because of the overwhelming need for housing. With the change in the Zoning Bylaws, the new storage building would require DRB approvals, however, the single-family

homes would not require DRB approval. If the community and Select Board approve this project, the lots can be marketed and developed. C. Gloor has concerns about the loss of green space if this moves forward. She also stated she is concerned about the current property owners suffering a lot of upheaval due to traffic and construction. A. Marshall-Carney offered pro-bono work for community outreach.

Town of Hyde Park for Kennel Services: T. Leitz presented the Interlocal Agreement Regarding Animal Shelter Services. Hyde Park has built their own kennel to manage their Animal Control Ordinance and offered kenneling services to other towns at a cost. By consensus the board would like to see a contract for one spot and a one-year commitment.

Next Meeting Agenda:

Infrastructure Initiatives

ACO Fee Schedule

Housing Trust Fund Allocation

Input process for feedback on Potential Development of Woody Ave

Executive Session: none needed

Adjourn: K. Sweeney moved to adjourn at 10:05pm. I. Shea seconded the motion. A vote was held and passed unanimously.