

**Minutes of the Waterbury Selectboard
Special Meeting Monday September 30, 2024**

Attendees: Michael Bard, Roger Clapp, Ian Shea, Kane Sweeney, Tom Leitz, Justin Blackman, Sandy Sabins, Bill Shepeluk, Chris Viens, Billy Vigdor, Mike Dacey, Bette LeWicke (NDPC) | Online: Rebecca Mead, Valerie, ORCA Media, Evan Hoffman, Tessa Yip, Nora Miller, Anne Imhoff

Approve Agenda

K. Sweeney made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by M. Bard. A. Johnson proposed adding discussion of the VLCT voting delegate for Town Fair. This was seconded by M. Bard and pass unanimously. The agenda as amended was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda Items

- a.) Minutes of September 9, 2024 and September 16, 2024 Special Meeting
- b.) First Class Hotel License for Evaan Hospitality, LLC (Best Western Plus Waterbury Stowe) 45 Blush Hill Road Waterbury
- c.) Outside Consumption Permit for Corbyn & Topper Hospitality LLC (Michael's on the Hill) Garden area on property - approximately 28'x45' - surrounded by both permanent fence and roped-off sections. 4182 Waterbury-Stowe Road Waterbury Center
- d.) Special Events Permit (Manufacturer) for Bakersfield, LLC 10/12 10am-5pm Cabot Creamery Famer's Annex in Store Tasting 2657 Waterbury-Stowe Road Waterbury Center

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by K. Sweeney. The motion was seconded by I. Shea and passed unanimously.

Public

R. Clapp noted that at Vermont State Police Annual award ceremony on September 13th, several people with Waterbury connections were recognized. Lt. Thomas Howard was noted for rescuing a two-year-old boy in drowning incident; Trooper Mae Murdock performing resuscitation on a 68-year-old woman who had collapsed at a local golf course; and LeeAnne Viens for helping to rescue a man from the middle of Holland Pond.

Senior Center request to allocate ARPA funds

J. Blackman explained that the Senior Center had previously been allocated \$36,000 in ARPA funding for kitchen renovations. \$10,551 of that amount has been spent on the original plans, deposits, and materials for a new hood. Due to constraints from the owners of the building, they were not able to proceed with the renovations until 2026. Because of this, the Senior Center would like to use \$10,005 of the allocated funding for a Singer Kittredge range, which is their next most-needed piece of equipment and they hope that this replacement would last 25-30 years. It was noted that ARPA funds needed to be allocated by 2024 and spent by 2026.

M. Bard made a motion to approve \$10,005 of the expended funds for be allocated for the purchase of the range. K. Sweeney seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously. J. Blackman will come back regarding future spending before 2026.

CRew / NDPC interface

R. Clapp noted that the Selectboard had just recently received that draft Natural Disaster Preparedness Handbook from the Natural Disaster Preparedness Committee (NDPC), and that Community Resilience for the Waterbury Area (CRew) has not had a chance to review it. The handbook was written mostly by Matt Dugan and reviewed by other Natural Disaster Preparedness community members. B. LeWicke was present and provided additional updates. She wrote a piece about social emotional needs, and provided information on what is available from the Red Cross. It was noted that there was a lot of discussion about a coordinator role outlined in the document within the committee. The Board expressed appreciation for the work of compiling the resources for the handbook.

B. Shepeluk and M. Dacey shared additional background and context about the role of CRew. They noted the organization was founded in 2023 for the purpose of long-term recovery, and serves Waterbury, as well as Duxbury, Bolton, Moretown, and Middlesex. The desire for clarity and understanding of roles of CRew, and of all organizations, for the Selectboard, Town Manager, staff, preparedness Committee was emphasized. R. Clapp thanked and acknowledged the group taking on the Long Term Recovery challenge, as well as the participation in immediate response. There was additional discussion on ongoing roles and work of the group in supporting those impacted by flooding. It was noted that CRew meets monthly, and was scheduled for the next day, so they would not immediately be able to review the handbook. R. Clapp thanked the group for hosting a workshop on flood mitigation projects, and there was discussion regarding the potential for sharing cost estimates for specific mitigation projects for homeowners. T. Yip and N. Miller asked questions and provided additional information about CRew.

T. Leitz shared information about ongoing mitigation work, including the use of LiDar data for modeling, which is anticipated to be completed by early 2026. There was also reiteration of posts of Front Porch Forum regarding the process for the State to transfer the cornfield to the Town, which will require legislative approval. It was noted that 8 properties have been submitted for FEMA buyouts, and 3 have been approved by the state, but still have likely 20-24 months until the project closed.

Outreach Plan for Woody Avenue

T. Leitz provided background regarding the constraints on the parcel because of the Land and Water Conservation funding, and the steps regarding any potential modifications. A. Johnson provided an overview of outreach tactics from the VNRC Community Toolbox, and proposed opportunities for input. It was clarified that outlining proposed units or other goals would be valuable. There was additional discussion. By consensus, the Board supported the plan as outlined.

Housing Update

R. Clapp met with Joe Camaratta, Chair of the Housing Task Force. R. Clapp relayed an update regarding a grant application for funding to support homeowners with education on developing an accessory dwelling units. J. Camaratta also was meeting with the Housing Task Force to formulate a recommendation for the Housing Trust Fund for presentation at the next meeting.

VLCT Delegate

K. Sweeney made a motion to designate T. Leitz as Waterbury's Voting Delegate for Town Fair. The motion was seconded by M. Bard and passed unanimously.

Next Meeting Agenda

The group discussed a VLCT Update, Housing Task Force Update, Goals for Woody Ave. project, and Auditors (if feasible) as topics for the next agenda. It was noted that "Joint EFUD/Town meeting for Health Insurance" should be added to the Parking Lot for an upcoming meeting.

Executive Session

K. Sweeney moved to find the premature public knowledge of pending litigation would clearly place the Town of Waterbury at a substantial disadvantage. The motion was seconded by A. Johnson and passed unanimously.

A. Johnson moved to enter Executive Session for the purposes of discussing pending legal matters and invite the Town Manager to join. The motion was seconded by K. Sweeney and passed unanimously.

The Selectboard exited Executive Session at 9:40 pm with no action taken.

Being no further action, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting of the Select Board: Monday October 7, 2024