

PUBLIC COMMENT

Becky Roy expressed her frustration with not having a hearing accommodation in place as requested for this meeting. Becky submitted a request after hours on Friday, May 4th when she saw the posted agenda. She added that she made the request per a note that is at the bottom of every agenda to contact the Town Office if an accommodation is needed.

Becky stated that in January she requested an accommodation for Town Meeting, which was arranged and worked great. At that same time, she stated that something should be arranged for accommodations at the Town Office for other meetings, such as the Selectboard and Planning Commission meetings. When she requested an accommodation for this meeting, she was told the window was too small to put in place an accommodation. She finds this unacceptable.

Allison stated that she frequently deals with accommodations in the workplace and they are very personal. A hearing accommodation for one person is very different than a hearing accommodation for another person. It was noted that the assistive listening devices (ALDs) purchased for Town Meeting require a sound system. The ALDs were purchased specifically to be used with the sound system owned by and located at the school. The Town does not have a sound system. Allison stated that every attempt has been made since receiving Becky's May 4th request to make an accommodation available for this meeting. Unfortunately, the efforts were unsuccessful.

Grant stated that the Town is working on researching options not just for Becky's circumstances but also for other people who may have a different type of hearing loss and would need different accommodations. He added that Becky's input is valuable whether the Board receives it in real time, or if she reviews the meeting at her own leisure and submits a comment later, her comments are always welcome.

MINUTES

Grant Thomas made a motion to approve the April 12, 2018 minutes as amended, seconded by Julia Andrews. Motion passed: 3-0.

Grant Thomas made a motion to approve the April 26, 2018 minutes as amended, seconded by Julia Andrews. Motion passed: 3-0.

ROAD SCHEDULE

Julia Andrews made a motion to approve the April 27, 2018 through May 10, 2018 Road Schedule, seconded Grant Thomas. Motion passed: 3-0.

FUNDING FOR PEDESTRIAN ACCESS – MAPLE SHADE TOWN FOREST

The Selectboard received an email from the Planning Coordinator seeking clarification of where funds will come from for the installation of a pedestrian access on the west side of Brookside Road for the Maple Shade Town Forest. The Highway Department has the culvert and gravel and will be installing the access. It is unclear if the cost of the materials will be absorbed in the highway budget or from another account.

Grant Thomas made a motion for the cost of the materials for the pedestrian access to the Maple Shade Town Forest be absorbed under the highway budget, with the understanding that Melissa and John work together for a one-time spec that is manageable, at a cost not to exceed \$1,500, seconded by Julia Andrews. Motion passed: 3-0

Going forward, the Board would like to see a wholistic approach with regard to the overall cost of future projects rather than piece meal bits of the project.

ACCESS PERMIT – BROOKSIDE ROAD

Julia Andrews made a motion to approve an access permit submitted for an access on Brookside Road to connect the Maple Shade Town Forest trails to the school trails, seconded Grant Thomas. Motion passed: 3-0.

ORDINANCE TO REGULATE OPEN FIRES

Dennis Angiono, Fire Warden, was present to discuss the draft Ordinance to Regulate Open Fires. Dennis requested a new Ordinance be adopted because the existing Ordinance has never been enforced and it lacks things such as the ability of providing a warning rather than a ticket for the first offense.

Dennis views the Ordinance as a mechanism to provide safety for Westford residents, adding he is not trying to make things difficult. The new Ordinance will enable him to issue a warning or a ticket for offenses such as leaving a fire unattended, using accelerants to start a fire or burning items such as mattresses. It was pointed out that State Statute covers many of these things. Dennis stated that without the Ordinance he can only issue a warning or ticket if a person has not obtained a permit. Using accelerants or burning prohibited items would require the State to investigate.

Several people in attendance spoke in opposition of the requirement to get a permit for campfires or fires that are contained. They feel residents are adults and should be able to determine if it is safe to have such a fire. It was noted that campfires are exempted under State Statute, citing the ability to have a campfire at a campground. Several people also spoke to the difficulty of obtaining a permit because the system is frequently closed. Dennis uses the national weather report, paying particular attention to wind speeds and dry conditions, to determine if permits can be issued or not.

The Selectboard members support the intent of the Ordinance but agreed that it needs more work before any action can be taken. One item that the Board will look into is whether or not the Fire Warden has the authority to access property when he/she believes there is an illegal burn occurring. Providing educational materials to residents regarding what is legal and illegal to burn, how to start a fire and other safety precautions to take when they burn was also discussed.

TRASH/RECYCLING CONTRACT

The contract with Myers for the collection of trash and recycling expires the end of June. The contract includes a provision to extend the contract two years if both parties agree. Myers has indicated that they are interested in extending the contract. It was noted that neither the contract nor the bid submitted two years ago referred to an increase in the cost of collection.

Grant Thomas made a motion to extend the contract with Myers for two years under the contract's current conditions, seconded by Julia Andrews. Motion passed: 3-0.

TRAFFIC ORDINANCE – POSSIBLE AMENDMENT

The no passing zone indicated by signs on Woods Hollow Road is not included in the Traffic Ordinance therefore law enforcement is unable to issue warnings or tickets. The property owner on this section of road boards horses. The horse owners frequently ride their horses on the road. Due to several near misses, the property owner requested that no passing signs be

installed. It is unclear if the Town researched the ability of installing the signs. Before taking any action, the Road Foreman will conduct research on installation of the signs and report back to the Board.

REVIEW/UPDATE TASK LIST

This was tabled until the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Selectboard received an email from a resident on Rollin Irish Road regarding pot holes that were temporarily filled with stone, which is no longer in the pot holes, as well as difficulty using an access due to the level of the road decreasing over time. It was noted that John has met with the property owner and she is satisfied with the interaction that took place.

Since the last meeting, there has been a few email exchanges with the people who purchased 4 Common Road. They want to know who is liable if there is any property damage or personal injury that is a result of no spring cleanup being done. They requested the response to be from the Town attorney. Nanette has submitted an inquiry to the insurance carrier, however at the time of this meeting no response had been received. The Town attorney has not been contacted. It was noted that all the town owned property located south of Common Road are being treated the same and is no different than how the Town managed that property in the past. The difference is the prior owners of 4 Common Road took it upon themselves to maintain the town portion in addition to their property. The Town will await the insurance carrier's response before responding.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL WARRANTS

The Board approved the accounts payable and payroll warrants.

EXCESS WEIGHT PERMITS

The Chair signed excess weight permits for Gaylord West, Spaulding Construction and R.J. Smith Transportation

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Allison Hope made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 9:22 p.m. to discuss a confidential personnel matter, seconded by Julia Andrews. People in attendance were Allison Hope, Julia Andrews, Grant Thomas, John Roberts, Nanette Rogers and Greg Barrows. The Board exited Executive Session at 9:50 p.m. No action taken.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison Hope, Chair
Selectboard

Nanette Rogers
Town Administrator

TOWN OF WESTFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
GUEST LIST

Date: May 10, 2018

Name (please print)

Address

Andre Ruy

Westford VT

54
Marilyn Thomas

Westford, VT

Dave Lavallee

84 Covey Rd

SEVE JENSEN

138 Old #11 Rd

274 ~~Windsor~~ Road

Stacey Walker

82 Old #11 Rd

DENNIS ANGIOMO

14 GREENWOOD LAKE

Dick Lavallee

#11

Aretchen Kutsos

83 Allen Irish Rd

Steve Willard

191 Old Number 11 Rd

Joe Forbes

247 Huntley Rd.

Ken Tardie

Machia Hill Rd.

Heidi Tardie

Machia Hill Rd.