



There is a large tree that can be cut back more than in the past but that is also outside of the right of way.

Seth Jensen suggested that gate posting be looked at as an option when CCRPC does the analysis. Bill asked John if he thinks it would be difficult to get permission to cut the grass and trees. John was unsure. The Board was not sure of the extent of what they can or cannot do in deciding if the area is a dangerous intersection or not. The Board will seek an opinion from the Town Attorney on the Town's ability to erect stop signs and will investigate gate posting.

Sheila Franz expressed support of the Hechmer's desire for action. The Franz's noted they had not seen any law enforcement on Woods Hollow Road so do not feel the area is getting needed attention.

#### **REQUEST FOR CONSTRUCTION OF RETAINING WALL OFF CAMBRIDGE ROAD**

Art Woolf was requesting that a retaining wall be built off Cambridge Road within the Town's right of way. The sloping of the road and bank is affecting his barns structural integrity. Art also proposed excavating to the base level of the barn and having a hill to the barn window level. It would be approximately four feet down. This was proposed in conjunction with John's advice, but the excavation would be within the right of way. Bill thinks re-sculpting the land is perfectly reasonable, as this would take the area back to its original grade as long as other affected property owners are notified. Art Woolf would pay for the work done and will fill out the required town form. Bill Cleary made a motion authorizing Art Woolf to relandscape within the town right of way to adequately drain water away from his barn, seconded by Dave Baczewski. Motion passed: 3-0.

#### **ADDING PICKUP TO HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT FLEET**

The Road Crew wanted to add a pickup truck to the highway fleet because they often use their personal vehicles when traveling to pick up smaller supplies or attending educational seminars. John submitted quotes from Betley Chevrolet and Champlain Chevrolet. They are about the same price. The Board discussed using the Contingency Fund to purchase the truck.

#### **ACCESS LOCATED BETWEEN TOWN OFFICE AND LIBRARY**

This is an ongoing topic. The Town is not sure the status of the driveway between the Town Office and Library. The property owner behind the Town Office may have a right of way as one of her deed states that, but it is not stated in earlier deeds. The Town needs to determine who owns that property and where the right of way is located to go forward with Town Office improvements. The State has expressed that they would like to see that entrance/exit go away due to the poor sight lines on Route 128. The property owner was invited to this meeting, but she declined.

#### **TOWN WIDE REAPPRAISAL PROPOSALS**

The Town received a Reappraisal Proposals from Vermont Appraisal Company and NEMRC. NEMRC also does the Town's assessing services. Ted Nelson from Vermont Appraisal Company was present. Lee asked if it is better to have a company that does not do the assessments do the town wide reappraisal. Ted stated it would give a fresh look at the properties, but overall assessment is a very personal service and if the Town is satisfied with NEMRC it is suggested that staying with them for the town wide reappraisal would not be a bad thing. The Board was not prepared to decide at this time and thought it warranted further discussion.

## **2022 CHITTENDEN COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL ALL-HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN**

The CCRPC forwarded the 2022 Chittenden County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan for the Board's review. At the time of the meeting, the Westford Annex was not available. The Annex will be forwarded to the Selectboard. This item will be on the October 13 agenda.

## **WETLAND DELINEATION BEHIND TOWN OFFICE/LIBRARY**

Seth Jensen from the Planning Commission (PC) was present. The wetland delineation is something that needs to happen for the design phase and permitting for the Community Wastewater Project. The two areas that need delineation are behind the Town Office/Library and a small area in the Maple Shade Town Forest. The PC knew this was going to be required; Stone Environmental was selected to do this and other environmental related work. The intent was for this to be funded from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, unfortunately with Green Mountain Engineering no longer being in business they are reaching the end of the window for when the delineations can be done. Delineation needs to be done before loss of vegetation due to dormancy. If the delineation is not done this season, it has the potential to delay projects. The PC discussed using special project reserve fund for the delimitation of those two sites.

Nanette mentioned that this work would also benefit the Town Office Feasibility Study, so the wetland delineation does double duty on two projects. Bill asked if we would be reimbursed for the money. Seth was unsure at this point, but the PC is looking into ways to recoup the money.

Lee McClenny made a motion to authorize the Selectboard Chair or Town Administrator to approve and sign a contract for wetland delineation services to be provided by Stone Environmental with said services to be paid for from the PC Special Project Fund in an amount not to exceed \$6,200, seconded by Dave Baczewski. Motion passed: 3-0.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Essex Rescue is requesting to meet with the Board outside of the budget process to discuss the state of their organization and finances. Nanette has seen the presentation given to other towns; there is a large increase in requested funds. Nanette asked if the Board wanted to meet with Essex Rescue twice or in combination with the FY'24 budget request. Lee was open to hearing the presentation; regardless of the increase this is an important municipal service.

Barb Peck was present. She had written to the Board to express her desire that the Selectboard remain neutral and not advocate for the Community Wastewater System as requested by the Planning Commission. Lee had responded to Barb via email. Bill thought the Board should remain somewhat neutral; he took a stance on the entire subject a while ago. He is not trying to hamstring the PC in the process of getting to a bond vote, but ultimately it is the residents of the Town that get to decide on the project. In his opinion it is the PC's job to get across the merits of the project. He is ready for a vote to occur and thinks it is time to get residents' opinions. Dave thinks what Barb is asking for is that the Board does not take a position. Dave stated that this topic was on his platform when he ran for Selectboard; he is allowed his own opinion. He feels the Board has done well to stay above everything. He has supporters who have asked him about what he is going to do about certain things, and he is going to give those constituents his opinions. He believes it is the Board's job to get the public to a bond vote in the most educated way that they can, and he thinks the Board has done well

on that so far. Lee's response in email had been like Dave's opinion. Some members of the Selectboard had made a commitment to their constituents that they were going to get this to a bond vote.

Seth Jensen said that as the elected officials of the community he will defer to their wisdom as the whole board acts. He feels the wastewater fatigue and expresses that all the PC members want to be at a bond vote at this point. Many things they have been dealing with are beyond their control, but the purpose of dealing with this is so we are the generation that deals with this. This problem is not going away, and we are going to have to figure out a solution without the resources that we have now if we wait. It is important for everybody to remember that we have four inches to groundwater around here. People that live in the area have been raising concerns about their homes, the library, the town office, the Brick Meeting House, and many important places in town. As a private resident he feels that the project needs to pass and feels the Selectboard is in the fray already and will be more in the fray if the bond vote does not pass as there are some very negative implications for what will happen in Town if it does not go through.

Barb is not for the wastewater project and feels it is her job to advocate against it as a resident. She feels that the Selectboard needs to stay above the discussion.

The Board received a resignation from the Recreation Committee; this results in three vacant seats. Lee mentioned that users of Westford's Recreation opportunities should consider joining the Committee going forward because he does not see how the current offerings can continue without committee members. One person has expressed an interest in the Rec Coordinator position.

The Library Trustees invited the members of the Selectboard to a meeting. The meeting was canceled however Lee attended anyway. He continues to be impressed with the Library Trustees and Librarians. One of the things that came out of that meeting is that they would like to produce a formal request form for building maintenance, as the Town owns the building. Lee does not have any objection to something like that, but it seems emails have been operational so far.

Tory submitted his resignation from the Road Crew; his last day will be the October 10<sup>th</sup>. The position will be advertised

#### **COMMUNICATION**

Advertising Road Crew position, communicate with the Recreation Committee to meet with the Selectboard, putting a plea out to the public for the three vacancies on The Rec Committee.

#### **REVIEW GENERAL FUND AND HIGHWAY FY'23 BUDGET STATUS REPORTS**

Greg reviewed the General Fund and Highway Budget status reports.

#### **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL WARRANTS**

The Board reviewed and signed the accounts payable and payroll warrants.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

Bill Clary made a motion to find that premature general public knowledge of legal advice would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage by disclosing confidential attorney-client

communications and disclosing the Selectboard's strategy and position, seconded by Dave Baczewski. Motion passed: 3-0.

At 8:23 p.m. Bill Cleary made a motion to enter Executive Session to consider confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the Selectboard and the Town, seconded by Dave Baczewski. Motion passed: 3-0. People in attendance were Lee McClenny, Dave Baczewski, Bill Cleary, and Nanette Rogers. The Board exited Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. No action taken.

At 9:35 p.m. Bill Cleary made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a matter of personnel, seconded by Dave Baczewski. Motion passed: 3-0. People in attendance were Lee McClenny, Dave Baczewski, Bill Cleary, and Nanette Rogers. The Board exited Executive Session at 9:35 p.m. No action taken.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee McClenny, Chair  
Selectboard

Callie Hamdy  
Minute Clerk

**GUEST LIST**

Seth Jensen  
Clayton Wilburn  
Michael Hechmer  
Pat Hechmer  
Ben Bornstein  
Barb Peck  
Sheila Franz  
Ted Nelson  
Lori Johnson  
Art Woolf  
Dave Lavallee