

SELECTBOARD MEETING
November 30, 2023
Draft Minutes

Present:	Bill Cleary	Holly Delisle
	Lee McClenny	Callie Hamdy
	Dave Baczewski	Greg Barrows
	John Roberts	Sean Cushing

Guests: see attached.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held in person and via Zoom.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Bill Cleary made a motion to enter Executive Session at 5:32 p.m. to discuss personnel, seconded by Dave Baczewski. Motion passed 3-0. People in attendance were Bill Cleary, Dave Baczewski, Lee McClenny, Jeff Hutchins, Erin Panattu, Basil Panattu and Holly Delisle. The Board exited the Executive Session at 6:11 p.m. No action taken.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT (ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)

Ben Bornstein mentioned the Tuesday, Dec. 5, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission Legislative Affairs Breakfast for those who may be interested. Four principal issues will be discussed: housing, climate resilience, transportation subsidies, and pending extension of the open meeting law. Ben will be attending and will provide a written summary.

Clayton Wilburn was present. He said he is disappointed by the Selectboard's neutral stance on the wastewater vote as well as recent comments made in a November 29 VT Digger article by the Selectboard. He is looking forward to new leadership as the board expands to five members.

MINUTES

Bill motioned to approve the October 26, 2023 minutes as amended. Lee seconded. Dave abstained due to his absence at the October 26 meeting. Motion passed 2-0, with one abstention.

Dave motioned to approve the November 9, 2023 minutes as written. Bill seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 1705 PROJECT

There was no public comment on the closure of the 1705 Project, which was established to investigate the potential future use of the property located at 1705 VT Route 128 in Westford..

FY24 GENERAL FUND BUDGET STATUS REPORT

Treasurer Greg Barrows reviewed the FY24 General Fund Budget Status Report.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND PAYROLL WARRANTS

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A - Animals in the Road

Holly reported the town clerk received another email about animals in the roadway on Brookside Road. This time it was about goats. The sheriff made a courtesy stop at the residence in question and spoke with the animal's owner, who insisted the goats do not leave the property. Holly, Carl, and Nanette reviewed animal nuisance ordinances in other jurisdictions, and suggest one option is for Westford to pass an animal nuisance ordinance or combine an animal nuisance ordinance with the current dog ordinance. Holly said an animal nuisance ordinance would give the town some recourse for future animal nuisance events. The selectboard asked Holly to research the procedure for pursuing an animal nuisance ordinance or updating the current dog ordinance for the town.

B - Wastewater Project and Planning Commission Letter

Lee read the November 14, 2023, letter to the selectboard from eight Westford residents with concerns about the wastewater project, the bond vote, and the planning commission. The letter writers said that when they attempted to communicate with the planning commission on the project and the bond vote, "the planning commission responded with increasing amounts of disdain, derision, and deceit." They request the selectboard not automatically renew planning commission member's appointments in March 2024, but instead provide for a change in planning commission membership. "The planning commission has determined what they as a small group think is best and only welcome new members in agreement with themselves rather than welcome new and alternative ideas and solutions," they wrote.

Selectboard members Dave and Lee clarified that there is town policy based on state statutes that govern the appointment, termination of terms, and removal from office of those serving on boards and commissions. There is no automatic renewal.

The selectboard told Planning Commission Chair George Lamphere, who was present, that they would give a copy of the letter to all five planning commission members, and that the planning commission members could then discuss it at their next meeting, which is on Tuesday, Dec. 12.

"Whoever is on the selectboard, we have implicit and explicit confidence and an absolute requirement to look to the experience of the other volunteers elected or appointed in town to use their expertise to listen to what they have to say, and to then make a decision one way or the other," said Lee.

The selectboard said they would listen to comments as "there is a lot to unpack in that letter." Listening would help them determine how to proceed and help them prepare to answer specific questions when this is discussed at a future selectboard meeting.

GUEST LIST

Ben Bornstein	Maureen Wilcox
George Lamphere	Lori Johnson
Mark Letorney	Dave Lavallee
Pat Haller	Dick Lavallee
Wendy Doane	Tess Lavallee
Steve Knight	Jacob Kenney
Ron Rodjenski	Andrea Letorney
Harmony Cism	Gordon Gebauer
Seth Jensen	Tara Pereira
Barb Peck	Lindsey Ferris
Clayton Wilburn	Joan Farmer
Sue Roediger	Julia Andrews
Carol Winfield	Martha Heath
Vicky Ross	Dale Rogers
Sheila Franz	Peggy Rogers
Kim Guidry	Diane Siegriest
Ira Allen	Alice Astarita

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ADOPTED THIS 14 TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2023.

WESTFORD SELECTBOARD

Lee McClenny, Chair



David Baczewski



William Cleary