

**SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**July 24, 2025**  
**Draft Minutes**

Present:	Pat Haller	Greg Barrows
	Julia Andrews	Holly Delisle
	Deb Jorschick	Callie Hamdy
	Nick Nichols	Sean Cushing

Guests: See page 7.

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. The meeting was held in person and via Zoom.

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**RECEPTION IN RECOGNITION OF TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S SERVICE**

A brief reception was held for **Holly Delisle**, Town Administrator, as her last day with the town is tomorrow.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**MINUTES**

**J. Andrews** motioned to approve the July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, minutes as amended. **N. Nichols** Seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

**CCRPC UPDATE**

**Ben Bornstein**, CCRPC Representative, was present. There were funds left over from the mini grant from the energy resiliency work on the town garage. Those funds can be allocated elsewhere.

**ROAD SCHEDULE**

**S. Cushing**, Road Foreman, was present and went over the Road Schedule from July 11, 2025, to July 24, 2025.

**REVIEW PAVING GRANT AWARD**

Every year we apply for paving grant funds from the state for highway structures. How much award we get depends on how many other towns request funding and where we are in the order. If you received a grant recently you are at the end of the list. We have reached the point where we are close enough to the top of the list to be awarded a \$200,000 grant. We intend to use the funds for the paving of Westford Milton Road, however underfunding for the past several years has left us without enough. There had been additional money budgeted this year to accommodate that underbudgeting. The grant would need to be used by 2027; this would move up the project. Hutchins estimated it at about \$419,000 for the project, but **H. Delisle** also assumes prices will go up since that quote was given; She predicted around \$450,000. If

they do not accept the grant this year it does not diminish our chances for future grants, but there is no guarantee next year we will get \$200,000.

**J. Andrews** asked if looking down the road, understanding that the Highway Reserve Fund will be depleted, are there other things on the horizon we need to be considering? **H. Delisle** explained that everything we currently own is considered; but if we were to purchase anything new that might affect things. **P. Haller** asked Sean what his assessment of doing the paving now vs later is? **S. Cushing** noted that a lot of the patching currently done on the road is late winter/springtime, there is still patching being done on Westford Milton Road. It will hold, but it will get progressively worse each year it's pushed out. The unevenness of the road also contributes to a lesser quality plow in the wintertime. The board needs to decide on the grant by tomorrow. **G. Barrows**, Treasurer, was comfortable with it, because it will cost us regardless, but we might not get this much from the state for a grant if it is pushed off. **N. Nichols** motioned to accept the \$200,000 for paving Westford Milton Rd. **J. Andrews** seconded. Motion passed 4-0. **P. Haller** motioned to authorize Holly to sign the documentation for the Grant. **D. Jorschick** seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

#### **BEAVER DECEIVER UPDATE**

The town had been working with installing a beaver deceiver on the Schutlz Pond to avoid trapping and killing a beaver that may otherwise block the culvert. Protect Our Wildlife suggests they could partially fund the full cost of the \$4,500 beaver deceiver, \$4,000 with \$500 needed from the town.

**Randy Barrows**, director of the Vermont Trappers Association, was present. He has nothing against beavers and thinks they are amazing animals, but in his 40 years of trapping experience, he feels the only good method of taking care of a situation where beavers might block a culvert is to trap them. He brought pictures of deceivers that had gone unmaintained and caused damage. He understands we already work with a nuisance trapper that already takes care of beavers in town, he thinks they are a very reasonable price compared to a deceiver. When the deceivers work, they work very well, but they need to be cleaned/cleared at least once a year. **P. Haller** asked if Randy's seen success with well-maintained deceivers; He had. The way they are designed is a fencing that allows the water to flow through, but water that moves, flushes debris down which builds up and creates a dam of its own, creating further problems upstream. **R. Barrows** noted that it is not a simple task to clean them out, it can be 4-5 feet of water and might require scuba gear. **H. Delisle** asked if Randy could tell them what removal looks like when beavers are trapped. **R. Barrows** described the traps he uses for beavers, when the beaver comes through it is designed to catch them and kill instantly.

**Carol Winfield** was present. She agreed that the deceivers need to be maintained every year, much like a culvert needs to get cleaned out. Debris happens even in culverts without them, and she noted that in some areas they have been installed for 10 years with routine maintenance. She listed several towns that had a significant number of deceivers. To her the proof of them working well is that the towns that have them continue to put in more. The Westford Conservation Commission (WCC) had also endorsed the project. She believed it to

be a very small risk financially for the town. She lauded the environmental benefits of maintaining beaver ponds and wetlands as a reason to choose deceivers over trapping.

**Kim Guidry** was present. She was grateful for the offer of the grant from Protect Our Wildlife; She is hearing about other towns needing subsequent deceivers. Would the town need to fund any future deceivers? How many beavers could we expect in a 12-month period? **R. Barrows** noted that in a 1-year period two adults can have around four kits, so you end up with six beavers. If you go out for 10 years without keeping them in check, you will have around 618 beavers. **J. Andrews** asked why we do not see that many beavers now. **R. Barrows** responded that it is because of the number of trappers. **C. Winfield** disagreed with Randy's numbers because many kits die during their first year and adults do not breed every year. She cited the effectiveness of the beaver baffle that has been on Woods Hollow Road for some time.

**D. Jorschick** asked Sean what the likelihood of the maintenance is he will have to do on something like this given his schedule and the number of road crew employees. **S. Cushing** noted that they will have to set aside time each year to take care of it. His other thought on this is that the deceiver is going to be on the inlet side of the culvert, but it is the outlet side of the culvert that is the issue. Right now, we do not have water backed up in the inlet, but it will back up with the deceiver. Yes, the deceiver stops beavers building in the culvert but does not stop them building so you will have another pond like they have on Woods Hollow Road where there are multiple dams up the river.

**H. Delisle** noted that the agreement for the deceivers' states that beavers cannot be killed at that site for 10 years. She would want more clarity on that. **J. Andrews** thinks the statement is too broad, she is not against the deceiver but is uncomfortable signing because the agreement is so broad and feels it puts us at risk. **D. Jorschick** did not feel comfortable without speaking with an expert on the deceivers. **P. Haller** thinks we should ask somebody from Monkton, such as the Road Foreman, who has seen those installed. He agrees it is very broad, if we did want to install a deceiver, he would want to change the wording of the agreement. **N. Nichols** wanted to talk about different options for maintenance, does it have to be the road crew, or can it be volunteer based?

#### **FY'25 HIGHWAY BUDGET STATUS REPORT**

**G. Barrows**, Treasurer, was present and went over the FY'25 Budget Status Report.

#### **WESTFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ADVOCACY GROUP PRESENTATION**

**Kirsten Tyler**, **Meghan Orisko**, and **Alyssa Koop** were present. They presented information about ACT 73 and potential opportunities that Westford may have. With the new law, the existing districts including EWSD will be dissolved. There is currently a task force for creating new districts and regional school boards, removing potential town representation. This means that we will be in a new district with new towns. We will probably be grouped with Essex, Essex Junction, Colchester, and Milton. If we do not request where we are placed, we will not be given a choice. In this scenario with the larger towns, Westford would be the smallest town and school in the district. With the region-based representation we would have even less influence than we do now. They would like the board to request Westford be placed in a more aligned rural district with towns that are more like Westford. They submitted a list of towns that

about Westford we could think about. The reason for this is that they would be more rural and smaller.

Right now, in EWSD, there is a current narrative that Essex subsidizes Westford, which is untrue. Westford pays over \$4 million annually to EWSD and the cost to operate the Westford School is around \$3.8 million. Also, we have a lack of representation, having two half votes on the school board while Essex and Essex Junction hold ten full votes. This limits us on decisions that affect us. We asked about more representation on the board, and it was a resounding no with the school board saying in the articles of agreement representation was based on population. In the articles of agreement there are no protections towards the closing of Westford School. Other districts have more protection. The school board does not want to update EWSD's articles of agreement. The framing of Westford as a declining school does not represent the data. The town has limited time to act before the redistricting master list is finalized in December. They are requesting the Selectboard help the community discuss this in a town forum and decide if we want to be grouped with other rural towns or be grouped with Essex, to decide to join the Rural School Alliance (RSA) or not and reach out to other towns to inquire about joining with them. Once a decision is made, they are requesting the town draft a letter to the redistricting task force.

**Margaret** from the Rural School Alliance (RSA) was present. She gave a summary of the alliance. They represent one hundred towns. In about ten, the school board situation is similar to ours where they are dominated by a much larger town. In those instances, the Selectboard chooses to join vs the individual school. As an alliance they work through the legislative process and were asked to nominate appointees to the task force. Two of their nominees are on the redistricting task force. They will begin meeting in August and finalize the districts by December, each between four and eight thousand students. In our case our voice is so diminished, choices about our school will be made by other towns and not us, especially school closure and they are looking to change the education system and save money; So it does potentially put us on the chopping block even if our current district says otherwise. They think in a situation like ours we might be better off working with Mt. Mansfield, Jericho, and Underhill, who are more similar demographically to Westford than Essex is. Even if we partnered outside of Essex we will be part of a large group, but we have a chance to not be the only small town/small school within that district and may be able to have a more understanding relationship with others in our district because of that.

**P. Haller** likes the idea of having a forum with the town residents. He has some reservations; we elected school board members but would appoint a member of the community to be the voice of the school children in this issue. **J. Andrews** thinks the challenge is that our school board members cannot represent both the school board and the RSA since those entities are at odds. Her understanding is that the board members are often asked to be part of a united front. It seems clear to her they would have to treat lightly in this issue. **K. Tyler** did ask the school board if they would join the RSA, they did not say no but they never joined. A Selectboard member can be the representative of the alliance, but they are busier, that is why the RSA suggests a dedicated community member.

**Rebecca Davanon** was present. If the town holds a forum and determines that they would like to stay part of a larger district as we are currently does the alliance help us still advocate within

that larger group? **Margaret** stated that in ACT 73 that existing districts will stay together unless any requests or information come to the task force to suggest something different. They would represent the town through the redistricting process, but not after. They are a grass roots volunteer organization. **R. Davanon** commented that as a mother of a toddler and current Westford School child, she does not want Westford to be asleep at the wheel. She wants us to coalesce as a town and get everybody involved. She does not know if the consensus is for a larger town district or to be with rural towns. Until we get that answer we cannot decide. She urged the board to move as fast as they can.

**P. Haller** read the bullet point summary of the next potential steps. The board was in favor of doing a public hearing. **D. Jorschick** asked what the responsibility of the board doing this would be. **J. Andrews** thinks in this case the board is to represent the community and help them come together to decide. She also thought that the current parent group should not represent the RSA and thought they should find a more neutral party as not everybody was against the Westford middle schoolers going to Essex Middle School. **P. Haller** thought the first step was holding a forum. **N. Nichols** thinks one potential decision is to have Westford formally request not to be grouped with Essex. Because of this the board must advertise the intention of the forum very specifically.

**K. Tyler** stated that to withdraw from a school district there is a state statute that we must get 5% petition of the member towns in the district. They have many signatures because of those anti middle school consolidation petitions. They also have a petition for the withdrawal from EWSD and have 206 signatures, which is a lot more than 5%. There is already a number of people that are interested in withdrawing from the district. **J. Andrews** understood this and noted that as the board they have a responsibility to make sure every voice is heard, this is why the forum was the first step. **Sarah Roberts** was present. To her the most important part of the forum is to make sure everybody understands exactly what is going to happen. She thinks a lot of people do not understand and the forum would allow people to become educated so they can decide.

#### **CZAPSKI ROAD MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT REVIEW**

Czapski's built a property off Rogers Road off the Class 4 Section. The board approved that section up to their access. They recently signed a roadway agreement that included an insured deposit; It was intended to be extended, but that did not come to fruition, and they do not intend to improve it beyond where it is now. This agreement amends the previous agreement and allows for return of the remaining surety.

**N. Nichols** motioned to approve. **J. Andrews** seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

#### **CHANGES TO COMMON FENCE REPLACEMENT REQUEST**

**Lori Johnson** from the Common Committee (CC) was present. The board had previously approved the fence replacement with the black locus, but there is a supply issue with the black locus. An option suggested was to do a different, but similar-looking cedar which is similarly rot resistant. It would be more cost effective.

**D. Jorschick** motioned to approve use of the cedar. **J. Andrews** seconded. Motion 4-0.

### **1705 UPDATE**

Jan from Vermont Preservation Trust will be there in a few weeks. He does not want anybody there besides somebody to get him into the building and give him a summary. There were some folks out last week for the Wetland Delineation, but further updates are still in process.

### **REVIEW FY'25 GENERAL FUND BUDGET STATUS REPORT**

**G. Barrows**, Treasurer, was present and went over the FY'25 General Fund Budget Status Report.

### **REVIEW AND APPROVE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND PAYROLL WARRANTS**

**G. Barrows**, Treasurer, was present and went over the Accounts Payable & Payroll Warrants.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **Bouncy House Question**

**R. Davanon** had written questioning if those with small properties that cannot sustain a bouncy house and were not allowed to put them on the Common. She thought this created an inequity between those that had a large acreage and those who do not. **J. Andrews** noted that what they learned last year is that it is a serious liability if somebody gets hurt. The job of the Selectboard is to protect the interests of the entire town and she does not think we are prepared to take on that sort of risk.

The board also received correspondences from **K. Tyler** regarding a traffic calming suggestion, the Essex Rescue Quarterly Report, LCATV Schedule change, notice of finalization of the Little Free Library on the Common, Common Committee recommendations to suggest approval of the fence funding, and several emails regarding inclusion.

### **COMMUNICATION**

The board discussed their meeting schedule for August.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**P. Haller** moved to find that premature public knowledge of matters relating to personnel would place the Town at a significant disadvantage. **D. Jorschick** seconded, motion carried 4-0.

**P. Haller** moved to enter an executive session on matters of personnel and invited Holly Delisle to attend. **D. Jorschick** seconded, motion carried 4-0.

**P. Haller** moved to exit the executive session at 10:06pm. **D. Jorschick** seconded, motion carried 4-0. No action was taken.

### **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Haller  
Selectboard Vice-Chair

Callie Hamdy  
Minute Clerk

**GUEST LIST**

Bill Cleary  
John Doane  
Barb Peck  
Carol Winfield  
Lori Johnson  
Dave Gauthier  
Lynn Gauthier  
Harmony Cism

Dick Lavallee  
Dave Lavallee  
Ben Bornstein  
Wendy Doane  
Kim Guidry  
Ira Allen  
Randy Barrows  
Kirsten Tyler  
Sarah Roberts

Rebecca Davanon  
Meghan Orisko  
Michelle Brennan  
Sarah Pinto  
Alyssa Koop  
Elias Rosenblatt  
Margaret (RSA)

DRAFT



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**Re: Resident would like to speak to Selectboard member**

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**From** Casey Mathieu <Casey.Mathieu@westfordvt.us>

**Date** Thu 8/7/2025 10:08 AM

**To** Sean Cushing <road\_foreman@westfordvt.us>; Town Clerk <townclerk@westfordvt.us>; Julia Andrews <Julia.Andrews@westfordvt.us>; Harmony Cism <zoning\_admin@westfordvt.us>; selectboard <selectboard@westfordvt.us>

Just so the board is updated Allen had been dealing with this issue during the John Robert days and Allen was assuming John was still there. Sean and I had a great conversation with Allen and cleaned up most of the issues.

I will outline that Allen is quite the entrepreneur and he is one of those people that you should never judge the book by the cover.

Casey

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**From:** Sean Cushing <road\_foreman@westfordvt.us>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 6, 2025 4:30 PM

**To:** Town Clerk <townclerk@westfordvt.us>; Julia Andrews <Julia.Andrews@westfordvt.us>; Harmony Cism <zoning\_admin@westfordvt.us>; selectboard <selectboard@westfordvt.us>

**Subject:** RE: Resident would like to speak to Selectboard member

Hello all,

The only work we have done was to go over today to dig and locate a fiber line that was in the area we will be digging. Casey and I went over and spoke to Mr Reynolds Today and we will be doing the culvert replacement as scheduled tomorrow. We should have the job completed tomorrow.

Thank you

Sean Cushing

Town of Westford

Road Foreman

802-324-0984

Road\_foreman@westfordvt.us

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**From:** Town Clerk <townclerk@westfordvt.us>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 6, 2025 3:07 PM

**To:** Julia Andrews <Julia.Andrews@westfordvt.us>; Harmony Cism <zoning\_admin@westfordvt.us>; selectboard <selectboard@westfordvt.us>

**Cc:** Sean Cushing <road\_foreman@westfordvt.us>

**Subject:** RE: Resident would like to speak to Selectboard member

Julia,

I have cc-ed Sean for his knowledge . The road work is ONLY occurring tomorrow from 8am-4pm. Sean estimates that this time frame is longer than the work will actually take. I believe the only work that's been done so far is some staking of the area, although perhaps if Sean could clarify that would be helpful. Sean did speak with the Allen prior to all this. Casey and Sean went over there and spoke with Allen today.

**Callie Hamdy**

Town Clerk – Westford, VT

802-878-4587

<https://westfordvt.us/>

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**From:** Julia Andrews <[Julia.Andrews@westfordvt.us](mailto:Julia.Andrews@westfordvt.us)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 6, 2025 3:01 PM

**To:** Harmony Cism <[zoning\\_admin@westfordvt.us](mailto:zoning_admin@westfordvt.us)>; selectboard <[selectboard@westfordvt.us](mailto:selectboard@westfordvt.us)>

**Cc:** Town Clerk <[townclerk@westfordvt.us](mailto:townclerk@westfordvt.us)>

**Subject:** RE: Resident would like to speak to Selectboard member

Hi Harmony,

Thank you for sharing this. Is Sean aware? I think it's important to make sure the road crew knows of this for their safety as they work in the vicinity.

Also, could you or Callie please give us a read on how much more time the road crew needs at that site, if any? If it is going to be several days, wondering if we should have the sheriff go out and speak with Mr. Reynolds.

Thanks, Julia

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**From:** Harmony Cism <[zoning\\_admin@westfordvt.us](mailto:zoning_admin@westfordvt.us)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 6, 2025 12:24 PM

**To:** selectboard <[selectboard@westfordvt.us](mailto:selectboard@westfordvt.us)>

**Cc:** Town Clerk <[townclerk@westfordvt.us](mailto:townclerk@westfordvt.us)>

**Subject:** RE: Resident would like to speak to Selectboard member

Hello all,

I wanted to share an update related to this topic, as I just received a call from the Westford, **Massachusetts** Police Department. It appears they were contacted in error by Allen Reynolds, Jr., who was attempting to reach a police department in **Westford, Vermont (?)**.

According to the officer I spoke with, Mr. Reynolds spoke with the Westford, MA Town Manager and made a statement that was interpreted as a threat — something along the lines of, *“I can see why that person in Georgia shot someone for coming onto their property.”* (Note: this is not an exact quote.)

Given the nature of the comment, the Westford, MA Police Department found it concerning enough to notify the Vermont State Police and file a report.

I thought this was important information to pass along for awareness. Please let me know if you'd like me to follow up further.

Sincerely,  
*Harmony Cism*  
**Administrative Officer & Planning Coordinator**  
Town of Westford  
(802) 878-4587

*This email message, along with any response or reply, is considered a public record, and thus, subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Law (1 V.S.A. §§ 315-320).*

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**From:** Town Clerk <[townclerk@westfordvt.us](mailto:townclerk@westfordvt.us)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 6, 2025 12:12 PM  
**To:** Harmony Cism <[zoning\\_admin@westfordvt.us](mailto:zoning_admin@westfordvt.us)>  
**Subject:** FW: Resident would like to speak to Selectboard member

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**From:** Deborah Jorschick <[Deb.Jorschick@westfordvt.us](mailto:Deb.Jorschick@westfordvt.us)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 6, 2025 9:23 AM  
**To:** Town Clerk <[townclerk@westfordvt.us](mailto:townclerk@westfordvt.us)>; selectboard <[selectboard@westfordvt.us](mailto:selectboard@westfordvt.us)>  
**Cc:** Sean Cushing <[road\\_foreman@westfordvt.us](mailto:road_foreman@westfordvt.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Resident would like to speak to Selectboard member

I have asked Casey if he can contact homeowner

?bSent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.  
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

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**From:** Town Clerk <[townclerk@westfordvt.us](mailto:townclerk@westfordvt.us)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 6, 2025 9:16:05 AM  
**To:** selectboard <[selectboard@westfordvt.us](mailto:selectboard@westfordvt.us)>  
**Cc:** Sean Cushing <[road\\_foreman@westfordvt.us](mailto:road_foreman@westfordvt.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Resident would like to speak to Selectboard member

Hi Board,

Greg did not have the full picture when he answered the phone and I was busy. For clarification, Sean is doing a cross culvert replacement on Old Stage Road where it intersects with Snow Hill Lane, which is where Alan lives. It's a basic sort of replacement that we do often, nothing out of the ordinary is occurring. I have cc-ed Sean on this email so he can better explain if needed.

**Callie Hamdy**  
Town Clerk – Westford, VT  
802-878-4587  
<https://westfordvt.us/>

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**From:** Greg Barrows <[treasurer@westfordvt.us](mailto:treasurer@westfordvt.us)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 6, 2025 9:11 AM  
**To:** Town Clerk <[townclerk@westfordvt.us](mailto:townclerk@westfordvt.us)>  
**Subject:** FW: Resident would like to speak to Selectboard member

**From:** Greg Barrows

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 6, 2025 9:02 AM

**To:** selectboard <[selectboard@westfordvt.us](mailto:selectboard@westfordvt.us)>

**Subject:** Resident would like to speak to Selectboard member

Good morning – Alan Reynolds on 8 Snow Hill Road. He has some questions and concerns regarding some issue with a road and Sean. He would like have one of the members, his phone number is (802) 307-2926. If possible can someone call before noon.

Thank you!

Greg



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**Town Admin?**

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**From** Town Clerk <townclerk@westfordvt.us>

**Date** Wed 8/6/2025 11:56 AM

**To** selectboard <selectboard@westfordvt.us>

Selectboard,

The staff are starting to get pretty curious about the new town administrator and have had no communication from the Selectboard on this matter. Could we get some sort of update?

Holly told us who was chosen when she was in briefly to finish up some paperwork and pick up personal belongings at the office, but beyond knowing that somebody was hired, the staff feel very out of the loop.

Questions I have received and/or had myself:

1. When is he starting? Monday the 11<sup>th</sup>? We've had no confirmation on this from the board themselves.
2. Will staff be having a "get to know you" round table as we did when Holly was hired? We only met the candidates briefly during a work day where we exchanged a few casual "hello, nice to meet you" sort of sentences, but it would be nice to get to know a new co-worker a little better than that, especially one in such a crucial role.
3. Who is onboarding the new admin when they arrive? Usually it is the Town Administrator who onboards new staff and gets their paperwork and various accounts set up.
4. Is the new admin expected to jump right into the role or will they need some instruction and/or introduction to the municipal office structure? I know the chosen candidate has grant writing experience, but beyond that do not know his background well.
5. There is a Selectboard meeting the week of the 11<sup>th</sup> (8/14). Will current office staff need to assist the new administrator with this process? (Taxes AND payroll are also due the week of the 11<sup>th</sup> so staff ability to assist will be extremely limited during this week as both will be a priority for MJ, myself, and Maria).

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

**Callie Hamdy**

*Town Clerk – Westford, VT*

802-878-4587

<https://westfordvt.us/>



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**RE: Beaver issue**

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**From** Julia Andrews <Julia.Andrews@westfordvt.us>

**Date** Tue 7/29/2025 9:31 AM

**To** Wendy Doane <vtdoane@gmail.com>; selectboard <selectboard@westfordvt.us>

**Cc** Sean Cushing <road\_foreman@westfordvt.us>

Hi Wendy,

Thanks for the question. The goal of the Beaver Deceiver that we're considering is to create an alternative to trapping/exterminating problem beavers. I do think you've captured the tension of the issue here though- I think what we need to weigh, in addition to the wildlife impact, is cost and time necessary to enact something like this. As you may have noted, I don't think we're at a decision point quite yet (though I imagine we are close).

Thanks, Julia

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**From:** Wendy Doane <vtdoane@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, July 27, 2025 6:31 PM

**To:** selectboard <selectboard@westfordvt.us>

**Cc:** Sean Cushing <road\_foreman@westfordvt.us>

**Subject:** Beaver issue

7/27/25

Dear Selectboard,

John and I are wondering what is the goal for the beaver situation? We think you are probably in an information gathering phase. It would be helpful to know if the goal is to manage or eradicate them. As citizens, we do not want to add more burden on the road crew; but we do believe in upholding wildlife management and conservation.

Thank you.

Respectfully,  
Wendy and John Doane

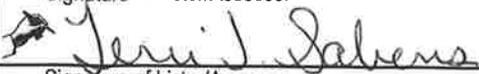
# Form PVR-4261-E

## ERRORS AND OMISSIONS CERTIFICATE

The Board of Listers of the Town of WESTFORD are hereby supplying the following changes to the 2025 Grand List. Specifically:  
(Year)

Owner <b>SWANSONG TAKE TWO LLC</b>		SPAN <b>720-229-10888</b>
Change From <b>\$1,430,100</b>	Change To <b>\$977,200</b>	Difference <b>-\$452,900</b>
Reason <b>NO MYLAR RECORDED, REMOVED SUBDIVISION LOTS &amp; RETURNED LAND TO ACREAGE OTHER</b>		
Owner		SPAN
Change From	Change To	Difference
Reason		
Owner		SPAN
Change From	Change To	Difference
Reason		
Owner		SPAN
Change From	Change To	Difference
Reason		
Owner		SPAN
Change From	Change To	Difference
Reason		
Owner		SPAN
Change From	Change To	Difference
Reason		
Owner		SPAN
Change From	Change To	Difference
Reason		
Owner		SPAN
Change From	Change To	Difference
Reason		

**LISTERS/ASSESSOR AND SELECTBOARD**

Signature of Lister/Assessor  <i>Jerril Sabens</i>	Date 8/6/25	Signature of Selectboard/Alderman 	Date
Signature of Lister/Assessor 	Date	Signature of Selectboard/Alderman 	Date
Signature of Lister/Assessor 	Date	Signature of Selectboard/Alderman 	Date
Signature of Lister/Assessor 	Date	Signature of Selectboard/Alderman 	Date
Signature of Lister/Assessor 	Date	Signature of Selectboard/Alderman 	Date

**TOWN CLERK**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, town clerk of \_\_\_\_\_, certify receipt of these changes. This certificate will be attached to or recorded in the grand list of \_\_\_\_\_ for tax year \_\_\_\_\_.

Signature of Town Clerk 	Printed Name	Date
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**32 V.S.A. § 4261. Correcting omission from grand list**

When real or personal estate is omitted from the grand list by mistake, or an obvious error is found, the listers, with the approval of the Selectboard, before December 31, may supply such omissions or correct such errors and make a certificate thereon of the fact; provided, however, the listers may make a correction resulting from the filing or rescission of a homestead declaration without approval of the Selectboard.

**MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE FINAL GRAND LIST FILED WITH THE TOWN CLERK.**

**Maria Barden**

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**From:** Pat Haller  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 13, 2025 2:47 PM  
**To:** selectboard  
**Subject:** School Availability for a forum in 1st 2 weeks of September

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

As per Terri Martin, Seems like Friday, Sept 5, there's a back to school social and we should avoid Wednesday's because of a potential basketball group playing. As I noted before the School Board also meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays.

Terri says nothing is on the calendar on either Saturday.

<b>SEPTEMBER 2025</b>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	<del>2</del>	<del>3</del>	4	<del>5</del>	
	Labor Day					
7	8	9	<del>10</del>	11	12	
14	15	<del>16</del>	17	18	19	

## Maria Barden

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**From:** ben.mcelvany@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 14, 2025 10:51 AM  
**To:** TownAdmin; Town Clerk; Greg Barrows  
**Cc:** gtselliott@gmail.com; Pat Haller  
**Subject:** Westford Recreation Coordinator

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good morning,

We had our monthly meeting this past Tuesday without our coordinator nor with a proper agenda. It also wasn't announced because she didn't do that. No one on the board has heard from or seen Amanda in at least three weeks if not more. All of us have reached out to her but haven't heard back. Looking at the recreation email account it's clear she hasn't responded to any emails since around July 8<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately we couldn't wait any longer to meet as our fall soccer program is about to start and it's one of the biggest events of the year to coordinate and it has to get done.

So...

We are wondering how to handle this. First off we are hoping that Amanda is okay health wise but we really don't know. With that said, she has posted on her horse business social media account recently. She also has a cell phone that the recreation department pays for so I believe she should be able to at least text us back and let us know what has been going on.

**Q1: Can you officially reach out to her as she is a town employee and see if you can find out what's going on?**

**Q2: When was the last time she was paid?**

**Q3: How do we start the procedure of replacing her? How long do we have to wait before we can do this?**

Because we have duties that need to be performed immediately for fall soccer (and have winter basketball planning to do that is happening NOW) we voted to pay a "community" member at the rec coordinator pay rate in lieu of paying the coordinator to coordinate these two programs.

**Q4: How can we make this happen?**

Amanda is a town employee, was hired by the town (selectboard) and therefore is paid by the town. However, unfortunately we can't wait weeks for the fall soccer program to be coordinated, it has to happen RIGHT NOW. So, in the meantime while we are sorting out the "official" coordinator issue, could the Rec Department issue a check to pay a person for the work they are doing to coordinate this program...they literally will be doing the work the coordinator should be doing (but obviously isn't). And then would it be possible down the road for the town rec account to be credited that amount from the town employee fund that should/would have gone to Amanda, the officially hired coordinator?

## Maria Barden

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**From:** Harmony Cism  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 12, 2025 12:48 PM  
**To:** selectboard  
**Cc:** Max Tyler; Andrew Collier; Dennis Angiono; Francois Ross; Jesse Labrecque; Matt Wamsanz; pzarmata@yahoo.com; William Cleary  
**Subject:** DRB appointments

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello Selectboard,

At last night's DRB meeting, the board voted to recommend the following appointments:

- **Max Tyler** – DRB Member
- **Dennis Angiono** – DRB Alternate

Currently, Dennis serves as a DRB member and Max as the Alternate. Due to health issues, Dennis has been unable to attend most meetings, and Max is willing to step into the member role. Dennis is happy to remain involved as an alternate and be called upon when needed.

Both terms run through 2026, so they will be up for reappointment (if desired) next spring. This change would not affect the term lengths.

The DRB requests that the Selectboard add these appointments to an upcoming agenda. This is not urgent, as there are currently no DRB meetings scheduled (though one is likely in September). If it can be added to this week's SB agenda, that would be great, but it is not imperative.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

*Harmony Cism*

**Administrative Officer & Planning Coordinator**

Town of Westford

(802) 878-4587

*This email message, along with any response or reply, is considered a public record, and thus, subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Law (1 V.S.A. §§ 315-320).*

**TOWN OF WESTFORD HIGHWAY DEPT.**  
**ROAD SCHEDULE**  
**July 24, 2025 – August 14, 2025**

**Work to be Done**

- Haul in winter sand.
- Grade roads.
- Road ditching, stone lining and hydroseeding.
- Haul in Staymat.
- Change a cross culvert on Plains Road

**Work Completed**

- Graded Phelps Rd., Rollin Irish Rd., Allen Irish Rd. (twice), Bill Cook Rd., North end of Old Stage Rd., North end of Woods Hollow Rd. (twice), the hill on Osgood Hill Rd. and the lower half of Old #11 Rd.
- Ditched and stone lined a section of Cambridge Rd. between Rt. 128 and Huntley Rd.
- Replaced a failing cross culvert on Old Stage Rd., near Snow Hill Lane.
- Hauled in Staymat.
- Hauled in Winter sand.
- Cut and chipped brush and trees on a section of Brookside Rd. to prepare for ditching.
- Started doing some ditching and cutting shoulders on Brookside Rd.
- Had a broken left front spring on the 2020 International changed.
- Had 3 worn out ceiling fans replaced at the town garage.

Approved at the \_\_\_\_\_ Selectboard Meeting.

## Holly Delisle

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**From:** Kirsten Tyler <kirstenbeat@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 14, 2025 3:56 PM  
**To:** TownAdmin  
**Subject:** Re: Westford School Advocacy

Hey,

Clarifications:

- 25 or 30 minutes I think would suffice for the whole shebang.

- Westford School Advocacy group plans to talk about what Act 75 could mean for Westford. I assume we'll take less than ten minutes. I will provide a document to the SB beforehand. It will include everything we'll (Advocacy group) be talking about / presenting on.

- We also plan to ask the SB to host a town meeting (not school board meeting) to discuss the potential options for redistricting in the near future. This has nothing to do with our school board right now, as our district will be dissolved (and our school board will be dissolved) and this is a conversation about what happens after. The redistricting gives us the opportunity as a town to request (via a letter to the State Board of Education and the Redistricting Task Force) to be merged with specific towns. Margaret from the Rural School Community Alliance (RSCA) gave me this information and said we should act quickly as a town if we want our request to be considered. If we have a town forum, we could discuss these options and then make a recommendation/ request with a letter. I thought a forum would be a good idea (not just a SB meeting) but I'm open to any ideas. The point of this meeting isn't to ask the SB to write the letter now, but to start a discussion about this.

- Margaret (RSCA) will explain to the SB what the RSCA does and how it could help Westford. She said her blurb is like 10 minutes. They will probably have questions for her, so that'll probably take 15 or 20 total.

- I'm asking the folks in the email list to join so that they can give support to the idea of hosting a town meeting (or something else?) and joining RSCA.

I wrote that very quickly so let me know if I just made this more confusing!

Kirsten

On Jul 14, 2025, at 2:03 PM, TownAdmin <townadmin@westfordvt.us> wrote:

Hi Kirsten,

I have this on my list for the SB agenda on 7/24, but I wonder what amount of time you thought this might need? I would be hesitant to put it on the agenda for more than 20-30 minutes as there are other pressing matters for the SB to discuss during that meeting. Would 20 minutes be sufficient?

## Maria Barden

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**From:** Pat Haller  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 13, 2025 3:08 PM  
**To:** amy riley; selectboard  
**Subject:** RE: Westford children

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Amy,

Thank your email. At tomorrow's SB meeting we will be discussing scheduling a public forum, current thinking is for early September, regarding the State's School redistricting plan and options Westford might want to pursue. The new transition of 6-8 going to Essex Middle school is not the direct topic, but it certainly adds to the context of the State wide redistricting subject.

Sincerely, Pat Haller  
Westford Selectboard

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**From:** amy riley <amiasagrace@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 12, 2025 7:09 PM  
**To:** selectboard <selectboard@westfordvt.us>  
**Subject:** Westford children

I join the parents who are applied at the plan for children attending EMS and EHS from Westford.

My neighbor-a 12 year old entering 7th grade at EMS- will be picked up for school at 7am and returned at 5pm.

His parents are not able to drive him nor should they have to as this consolidation puts an unfair burden with an unacceptable distance for a child to manage on his or her own. Not all parents have transportation \$\$\$ and students should not be disadvantaged based on their parents financial situation. Education needs to be accessible to Westford children. Accessible and appropriate. Expecting a child this age to have a 10 hour day is absolutely ridiculous. How will children have time to do the things they may need to do at home? Eat meals? Homework?

A ten hour day is an unhealthy burden for our children. It is unreasonable to expect these children to have a day of this length and maintain their social/ emotional development and their academics. You are placing these students at an academic disadvantage. Their peers who do not have a 10 hour day will have more time to....

Study-academic

Eat meals-physical health

Connect with family-social emotional development

Sleep- a ten hour day will inevitably eat into sleep time because there are only so many hours in a day. -that affects all areas of development-social-academic- emotional. All areas.

I am really actually dismayed and applaud that anyone would think this is ok for any child.

These formative years are so important for children- asking a child at 12 years old to maintain appropriate behavior in their school environment for 10 hours a day is unreasonable. I am wondering what my pediatrician will think of this.....and the affect it will have on our children.

Shameful. Westford kids are kids just the same as Essex kids and are being treated as lesser citizens. Where even are we right now????

I hope the news does pick up this story. I look forward to chatting with them if they do I will follw up with my pediatrician tomorrow as well.

I think Westford needs to join the small school

Coalition ASAP. I think decisions like this really demonstrate that because our children are smaller in number they will be treated as lesser. We will still pay the taxes though....

I am becoming more and more in favor of unjoining the school District.

I did think consolidation was a mistake but....I never seriously thought they would do something like this. Not for a minute did I think the children would get treated like this. It really does say....we do not care about these students and their access to education.

Students with a 10 hour day.....unacceptable disadvantage to their Essex peers.

An Essex student at age 12 who is not burdened with an unreasonably long day will have an undeniable academic advantage. And these kids will all end up applying to college at the same time. Unacceptable.

Amy Riley

12 shady lane

Westford, Vermont. 05494

Children—

Age 9 (4th grade)

And Gracie- deceased and forever 21

By the way Gracie's mental health began to decline at just this age. The age where social emotional development is critical. The age where sleep is essential. The age where it is imperative that children have a "break" from the pressures associated with the social development.

12 year olds with a 10 hour day. I hope if any of these kids face declining mental health.....with this prolonged day (longer than an acceptable adult shift of 8 hours) ...I just hope that if any of these kids decline mentally the parents take legal action and hold the school

District accountable. Because it is shameful to treat these students like lesser citizens. It literally makes me cry thinking of Gracie.....and her struggles at this age -facing a ten hour day.

And Grace did not face unique challenges. No. Grace faced very common mental health issues for students as they develop at this age.

I really am just shocked that grown adults sat around and agreed this was ok to do to these kids....

Just shameful.

## Maria Barden

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**From:** LK Johns <lkjohnson4625@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 10, 2025 3:13 PM  
**To:** selectboard  
**Subject:** Common drainage system

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Selectboard members,

Hope you are enjoying(?) the hot weather.

There was some discussion at an earlier SB meeting about the Common drainage system. I wanted to point out to you that since we are in a very dry period, if you look over the Common you can “see” where much of the drainage system is because the grass over it is brown. This is particularly true between the big oak and the gazebo. Look for the herringbone pattern with a central line approximately from the oak to slightly north of the center of the gazebo and then parallel lines angling to that central line. The manhole location is similarly brown, near the culvert under 128.

I would be happy to meet any of you who are interested in boots on the ground to talk about it and see for yourselves. Or of course, you could do a self tour.

Best,

Lori Johnson