



**SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**TOWN OFFICE & ZOOM**  
**April 23rd, 2026, 6:15 P.M.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83677614523?pwd=CoYiP91RkRdVp7jJySzyApghQbgZ9.1>

Meeting ID: 836 7761 4523 - Passcode: 943MWX

OR dial +1 646 931 3860 – Meeting ID: 836 7761 4523 – Passcode: 668077

Please note that agenda times are approximate and are subject to change.

**AGENDA**

1. CALL TO ORDER
  - a. (6:15) – Roll Call Pat Haller
  - b. (6:20) – Changes to the agenda
  
2. (6:25) – PUBLIC COMMENT (Items not on the agenda)
  
3. MINUTES (review and approve) Pat Haller
  - a. (6:35) – April 9<sup>th</sup> – DRAFT Minutes
  
4. CCRPC UPDATE
  - a. (6:40) General update Ben Borenstein
  
5. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
  - a. (6:50) Review Road schedule Sean Cushing
  - b. (6:55) Access Permit Signature
  
6. DISCUSSION
  - a. (7:00) – Emerald Ash Borer Plan Discussion Pat Haller
  - b. (7:10) – Liquor License Renewal (Provisions) Tommy O’Connor
  - c. (7:15) – Update from Essex Rescue Tommy O’Connor
  - d. (7:25) – Mowing Bids Town Properties Tommy O’Connor
  - e. (7:35) – UVM Capstone Project Update UVM Students
  - f. (7:55) – VAST Update Casey Mathieu
  
7. TREASURER Tommy O’Connor
  - a. (8:00) – Review FY’25 General Fund budget status report
  - b. (8:10) – Review FY’25 highway budget status report
  - c. (8:20) – Review and approve accounts payable and payroll warrants
  
8. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT
  - a. (8:30) General updates from Town Administrator Tommy O’Connor

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. (8:35) – General email correspondence to Selectboard

10. COMMUNICATION

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION (anticipated)

- a. Legal Case

12. ADJOURN

***The next regular Selectboard Meeting will be held on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026.***

Disclaimer: If a quorum of the Board is attending in-person, the meeting will continue notwithstanding a disruption or disconnection in electronic participation. Therefore, in person attendance is recommended. The Vermont Department of Health recommends that each person decide if they want to take precautions, such as wearing a mask, based on their own personal level of risk. Please stay home if you are unwell. Any individual who believes that they need reasonable accommodation may submit a request to the Town Administrator. The Town will assess whether the request for reasonable accommodation is necessary to make the Town service, program, or activity available to an individual with a disability; whether there is an alternative accommodation which may provide an equivalent level of access and/or benefit; whether the requested reasonable accommodation would impose an undue financial or administrative burden; or whether the requested reasonable accommodation would require a fundamental alteration in the nature of the Town service, program or activity.

**SELECTBOARD MEETING  
APRIL 9, 2026  
Draft Minutes**

Present: Pat Haller  
Deb Jorschick  
Julia Andrews  
Nick Nichols  
Casey Mathieu

Callie Hamdy  
Tommy O'Connor  
Greg Barrows

Guests: see attached.

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

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

Added Fire Chief Resignation, added Personnel Issues under Treasurer's Report

**PUBLIC COMMENT – Items Not on the Agenda**

Lori Johnson was present. She noted an excessive amount of gravel on the Common and she's hoping to have it cleared by the road crew. The board did not know if the road crew had done that in the past. They asked Tommy to speak with Sean.

**MINUTES**

N. Nichols moved to approve the January 16, 2026 and January 28, 2026 minutes as amended. J. Andrews seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

D. Jorschick moved to approve the March 26, 2026 minutes as amended. N. Nichols seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

**FIRE CHIEF RESIGNATION**

Garrett Bartlett, Fire Chief, was present. He was resigning. The Chief that is taking over will be Bill Fay who has been a member of the department since its founding in 1984. Steve Willard will be assistant chief. The Fire Warden duties will go back to the Selectboard to appoint. Garrett hoped for an eventual return to the Fire Department.

P. Haller thought it would be important for the board to figure out what to do right now with the Fire Warden and potential fire danger before leaf out. He recommended a motion not to allow any burn permits through indefinitely until the season changes or until a Fire Warden is appointed. The state had already cautioned us to be very careful of burns right now. G. Bartlett described how a set date is not always an indicator of safety. We could still have fire danger after the set date depending on the weather conditions. J. Andrews moved to close down burn permits now until May 15<sup>th</sup> or until a Fire Warden is appointed. P. Haller seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

**CCRPC UPDATE**

Ben Bornstein, CCRPC Representative, was present. The next board meeting is April 15, which will be a hybrid meeting which includes a reading of the 2026 ECOS draft plan. It is anticipated that CCRPC will adopt it. There have been some edits, mostly having to do with

reviewing certain adjustments to town centers and the future land use map. On May 20th's meeting they will be discussing the range of impact from Tier 1B and Tier 3 in the future land use map. B. Bornstein urged a Selectboard member to attend. There was a municipal elected official forum on March 30th. With respect to the unified planning works program, the budget for that has had a shortfall, but Westford's items appear to be on the agenda. There is some pushback on Tier 3. B. Bornstein complimented Library Director Maggie Kabekko for her use of the MERP funds.

Max Tyler was present. He asked that the communications about the Tier 3 summary be shared with the community in an accessible manner.

J. Andrews wasn't sure if we were ready to tackle a solar project, but she works for a solar company and there is a range of federal incentives for solar projects between now and 2028 that sunset at various times.

#### **ROAD SCHEDULE**

Sean Cushing, Road Foreman, was not present. P. Haller went over the road schedule from March 29, 2026 to April 9, 2026.

M. Tyler has traveled Cambridge Road for the last 7 years every day and he usually avoids it as much as possible in the spring, but so far this year its condition is way better than previously. He attributed this to the road crew.

#### **TREASURER REPORT**

##### **Personnel Issues**

Greg Barrows was resigning as Treasurer. The board thanked him for his service. The board will discuss a transition plan at the next meeting. In the interim Tommy will work with MJ and provide some reports.

##### **Review FY'25 General Fund Budget Status Report**

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

##### **Review FY'25 Highway Budget Status Report**

G. Barrows, Treasurer, went over the FY'25 Highway Budget Status Report.

The board discussed the purchase of a trailer as requested by the Road Foreman. There was enough budget to purchase. J. Andrews mentioned the random funds such as the salt shed. P. Haller wondered if we might ask MJ to review the list of random funds and make recommendations of ones that did not need to be kept. D. Jorschick motioned allow the highway department to use the 17,500 to use for the needed trailer. J. Andrews seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Dave Gauthier asked if we knew what the trailer would be used for. T. O'Connor explained it would be for moving the skid steer and other small equipment that are not fast vs driving the skid steer through town. D. Gauthier wanted more information and asked a couple more clarifying questions.

**Review and Approve Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants**

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the accounts payable and payroll warrants.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

T. O'Connor, Town Administrator, gave the Town Administrator's Report.

**DISCUSSION**

**Access Permit**

Christopher King was requesting permission to change an existing agricultural access on his property on Cambridge Road to be residential use. J. Andrews motioned to approve the access permit. D. Jorschick seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

**UVM Capstone Presentation (1705)**

The UVM students were present to discuss the project they had done exploring possible uses for the 1705 VT Route 128 property. They are a senior capstone class at UVM. They've been working with the Town with improving environmental resilience in town. They've been working on apply a resilience index that looks at community resilience, the same one the EPA uses in regards to natural hazards. One of the materials that had been shared with the SB and in the packet was a map layout that shows the work they've done so far which applies the resilience index to a bunch of different block groups in VT including Westford. What they're hoping to do next is move forward with a Westford specific index to address things that the national doesn't address for the town. The purpose of this is in their design plans for 1705 they can show how different plans would affect the resilience of Westford over all.

P. Haller wondered if we could loop in our emergency coordinator, Francois Ross, as he seemed relevant to that conversation. The students thought that would be great information, as well as information and data about community social events and turnout which they don't have access to. J. Andrews noted the Westford's Future forums could be helpful. N. Nichols felt like a town's level of resilience was related to their volunteerism and if there is a culture of such. So much happens in Westford because of the volunteers. He felt that was important data to capture and the town was willing to provide that data.

The students were also interested in applying for the Trees for Streams project and utilizing that on the 1705 property. The Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD) was working with them. The 1705 property was three acres and the amount of trees they were looking to plant would be one acre. P. Haller expressed that the board is interested, but the capstone class will discuss further before moving forward. He also thought the minimum 1 acre was a large amount since it was 1/3 of the property. The board thanked the group with helping them conceptualize what might be done on the property and that they gave them high, medium, and low cost options. P. Haller explained that the board is not making any decisions tonight on what will happen with 1705, this project is helping the board have depictions and ideas of what might be possible and what else we might be considering for the community.

Lori Johnson was present. She really liked the remediation aspects and thought it would be great to have a list of recommended plants. The students did have a list and would follow up. Lori had sent an engineering study to the professor that described plunge pools and issues with the culvert. She wanted the students to be aware the structures on the 'high' option would

be a cost for a community. The students had not yet worked on the cost, but there are a number of grants available to help with much of the infrastructure that we could explore to fund any of the ideas. The students didn't want the town to feel like they are limited by expenses because there's a lot of resources to pay for such.

The students also talked about a survey that could be a method to internalize land initiatives and flood concerns. They asked regarding the example survey if there were questions the board liked or didn't like. P. Haller's thought on the survey was that he likes it but some of the questions were hot button questions in town and he didn't want the survey to explode out of the scope of 1705 and have the community think it's a survey that includes things other than 1705. The students were willing to reorder the questions and come back, but P. Haller thought if there were answers the students wanted to know for their project they could keep them in. The board suggested focusing survey questions in on 1705 specifically. N. Nichols also suggested refraining from putting any map plans in the survey as the board had not decided on doing anything specific on 1705 and did not want to give residents the idea that they had.

Max Tyler was present. Reflecting back on the vote of 1705 he feels like this conversation has been a lot about flood resilience which is appreciated and he applauds UVM's participation. On the other hand, he wanted to ground the conversation in his recollection. The 1705 vote was about wastewater for the town building and library and the potential for a new town office, so he didn't want us to lose sight that 1705 is not just about ecologic resilience. P. Haller wondered when a survey did go out to be as direct as Max just was to indicate that it is not about other aspects the town had purchased the property for, it is just one aspect, the access to the river. Ben Bornstein thought their work was engaging and interesting. We currently have a UPWP in for the staff at CCRPC to do a comprehensive study. He thinks we need to be mindful of not muddying the waters. He cautioned against questions that might distract from the work they've done such as 7, 9, and 12. The board and student group talked about making language in any potential survey as accessible as possible.

Another topic is that they're also applying for a grant with the Vermont Arts Counsel (VAC). This is the bench idea that would have a classic bench. The way this would relate to the VAC is they would go through the process to look for a local artist that would design something for the bench that could be painted by the school children. This could be a continual and annual thing. The board felt positive about this and suggested the art teacher at Westford School as a primary contact.

#### **VT Fish & Wildlife Grant**

Kirsten Tyler, Westford Conservation Commission (WCC), was present. We had received a VT Watershed Grant. Kyle Bach had applied for this on our behalf, and it was for \$5,000. The project takes 1705, focusing on Browns River access and using it as a point for education, adding a level of public communication about what the Browns River access is going to look like. This will help start the conversation on what people want to see for the river access portion of 1705. The WCC wanted to bring in the school and library. K. Tyler asked the board to allow the WCC to do this project.

Tangential to giving approval, J. Andrews was thinking about river access and ecology. Mr. Sherman, formerly a teacher at Westford School, had done a water health project with his

class each year for 30 years. She didn't want his data set to get lost and wondered if we could roll that data into the study. J. Andrews moved to empower the WCC to do the work associated with the grant. N. Nichols seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Barb Peck was present. She wondered if any abutting landowners needed to be contacted prior to work being done on 1705. Harmony Cism, Zoning Administrator, clarified that because it wasn't the type of project that would require Developmental Review Board approval there would be no need to contact abutters.

### **Legal Trails Guidelines**

P. Haller thanked Wendy Doane for her continued work on this. The board had also worked extensively with landowners Kati and Jim Anderson, Ben Bornstein, and the WCC. They are not ratifying anything tonight. He's hoping to get answers to some questions. The guidelines have a direction, and he wanted to make sure it was a direction they could all agree to.

- If they all agree that Westford maintain these trails per the Supreme Court decision that the town has a right to maintain said trails.
- Do they recognize that the Right of Ways are across private property and all users would treat them differently than Public Trails?
- Would the Selectboard have the authority over the maintenance of the trails while the WCC is charged with oversight of the maintenance and that also vested property owners may elect to maintain sections of the trail in agreement with the town.
- That the trails will be maintained as walking trails but open to other permitted users such as biking and horseback riding. J. Andrews wanted to better understand this point. Maintaining the trails for walkability, however, allowing for other uses. That was correct and it also helps provide the maintenance guidelines.
- That the trail maintenance conducted by the WCC would follow some reasonable process both for the WCC and the property owners that provides notification of maintenance activities. There is reference in the document to signage. The WCC would be those with oversight of signage. There is a larger discussion to be had on what sorts of signage.
- Regarding restrictions, P. Haller would like the board to agree that any restrictions of public use will not supersede any person's legal rights of access and egress, and they would work with the town attorney to ensure they do not superseded any legal rights. And that any restrictions on trails such as dog leashing, closing during hunting, etc. would not be including in these guidelines but rather added to the policies dealing with those items such as the Dog Ordinance and the Trail Ordinance.

The board members felt they were on the right path and had heard many of these questions brought up in previous meetings regarding the document. P. Haller asked the board's permission to work with the WCC and provide these guidelines to the land owners for comments so they can start making more of a complete guideline set that the board would

then ultimately review. Once that guideline set is up for review we can see if it meets the criteria. J. Andrews thought that was great but was thought we should make sure the guidelines include a process for conflict resolution regarding signage and trail maintenance agreement between the WCC, SB, and land owners.

Kirsten Tyler, WCC Chair, was present. She had contacted the chair of the trails committee for Tunbridge to ask if other towns had documents similar to this one we are pursuing. Tunbridge did not have a document like this but wanted one. That conversation ended up leading into a conversation with employees from VLCT. VLCT was asked if they would be interested in drafting a template for towns to use for a trail maintenance policy as a priority after the Tunbridge case. VLCT was very excited about the opportunity. K. Tyler knows we have been working on this for years, but VLCT is more legally inclined and would know what needed to be in a document such as this. She asked if the board would be interested in sharing the draft document with VLCT so they can work with it and/or provide feedback.

P. Haller is interested, feeling it might resonate with other towns. He asked the WCC to take the reins from here with assistance, including working with VLCT, engagement with the property owners, etc. J. Andrews was open to it and felt like the WCC is an interested party and that might not sit right with everybody. K. Tyler noted that the WCC would not feel comfortable taking it over in this stage. She feels the Selectboard should finish it, but the WCC was willing to provide support.

Kati Anderson was present. She cannot begin to say how much Schultz Trail ruins her existence in town. If we go back to and start over there is going to be a fence put up and it will be miserable. She is happy to help and feels it's an important thing. She cannot wait for every other town to decide what they think the best language is. The Selectboard was happy to continue working directly on this specific document in parallel with what we might be able to glean from VLCT, but they agreed with Kati.

D. Jorschick asked if it would be possible to have a soft deadline on when we want to complete the document. P. Haller thought he was happy to have a deadline. The board had already talked about summer as potential deadline, tentatively agreeing on June 15<sup>th</sup>. It will have to be a work in progress. K. Anderson thanked P. Haller both the work he had done and how communicative he'd been. B. Bornstein also appreciated the effort.

### **Dog Warden**

The board had received an email from Matt Bartholomew, the dog warden. He is giving the board an ultimatum to meet the request he had from last summer which was: a phone, a place to hold dogs, access to registration records by April 30<sup>th</sup>. The board had agreed they would do it for him, so J. Andrews wondered why we aren't doing it. P. Haller noted there is no place to put a dog in cold weather. She doesn't know if it makes sense to provide the dog warden with a heated building, she doesn't know how we would begin to do that. The town had purchased a kennel like structure, but it was at a previous dog warden's possession. The talks of a warm weather structure came later. T. O'Connor had looked into phones, one of which was \$38 a month. P. Haller said that getting an ultimatum from somebody they appointed and in such language is extremely disturbing to him. J. Andrews agreed, she didn't like the tone, but he had promised him this nine months ago and felt his anger was valid. T. O'Connor noted that

Matt did not want to hold dogs at his own property and any holding of dogs would have to be done elsewhere. J. Andrews proposed to step forward in good faith knowing they've already agreed to these things and get Matt back on track. She thinks they need to have a conversation on his input where a good place to hold dogs would be. She's unclear how he would care for a dog in his possession that is being kept off site.

#### **Planning Commission Appointment**

The board had an executive session after last meeting, but no conclusions had been reached. Firstly, they addressed Max Tyler. Last Friday Max Tyler had tendered his resignation from the Planning Commission (PC) and since then, P. Haller had talked with him and described how valuable he is as a Planning Commissioner. He has since rescinded his resignation. P. Haller is happy about this outcome. M. Tyler indicated that one of the reasons he had resigned was because it didn't seem like the Selectboard was supporting the PC's recommendations. As Chair, he was only working on the behalf of the members and didn't see the Selectboard recognize it was not him or the PC appointing members, it was always up to the Selectboard to appoint those members. J. Andrews moved to accept Max Tyler's non-resignation. D. Jorschick seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

The Planning Commission had recommended Art Woolf, Kirsten Tyler, and Ben Bornstein to the Planning Commission. Ben Bornstein would prefer the 2 year remaining seat while Art and Kirsten were fine with either of the other terms.

J. Andrews moved to appoint Ben Bornstein to the PC seat with 2 years remaining of a 5 year term. N. Nichols seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

J. Andrews moved to appoint Kirsten Tyler to the PC seat with the 3 years remaining of a 5 year term. N. Nichols seconded. Motion passed 3-1.

J. Andrews motioned to appoint Art Woolf to the PC seat with 5 years remaining. N. Nichols seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

#### **Common Committee Appointment**

Lori Johnson, Common Committee Chair, was present. Katherine Kearns was the only candidate. N. Nichols motioned to appoint Katherine Kearns to the Common Committee. P. Haller seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

#### **Long Term Planning Outlook**

During the budget planning process things would come up as they were discussing aspects of the budget, so the SB had produced a Top 10 list of items they wanted to work on. Deb went over the Top 10 action items and there was discussion on some of that with the public, specifically about 1705. Max Tyler talked about outreach and proactive updates to the public with the SB.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence from Barb Peck about the Land Use Review Board (LURB), email from Erin Ramsey regarding Sanctuary Road mailboxes, Pat Hechmer regarding the corrective actions from last meeting, email from Will Dunkley asking for the SB to show more partnership with the

PC, email from Seth Jensen asking about the student project, and an email from Town Clerk regarding amount of Dog Records.

There was a correspondence from a member of the community implying that P. Haller was not behaving in a way he wanted to be perceived. He's a new chair; he wanted feedback from the other board members. When an email comes to him like that he feels it's a reflection of the board. J. Andrews thinks as a group they've decided how they're going to handle comments and he just happens to be the Chair and takes the brunt of communication.

#### **COMMUNICATION**

School Budget Vote on April 14, 7am-7pm. Communicate on Front Porch Forum about the Burn Permits, communication regarding Greg and Garrett. Include those in Newsletter for May as well.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Pat motioned that premature public knowledge revolving personnel and legal would place the town at a significant disadvantage. Casey seconded. Motion passed 5-0. pat moved to enter executive session at 9:40p.m. and invite tommy and harmony. Casey seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The selectboard exited Executive Session at 10:14 PM

P. Haller made a motion to have the letter from the Town Attorney sent to the addressed party. J. Andrews seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0

N. Nichols made a motion to adjourn the meeting. D. Jorschick seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0

#### **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pat Haller  
Selectboard Chair

Callie Hamdy  
Minute Clerk

**GUEST LIST**

Garrett Bartlett  
Dave Gauthier  
Lynn Gauthier  
Greg Bemis  
Lori Johnson  
Kim Guidry  
Ira Allen  
Ben Bornstein  
Dick Lavalley  
Harmony Cism  
Max Tyler  
Barb Peck  
Rachel Trochenheim (UVM)  
Maureen Wilcox  
Maura O'Brien  
Michael G  
Camille Nelson (UVM)  
Grayson Donager (UVM)  
Kirsten Tiff (UVM)  
Kyle Bach (UVM)  
Julia Anghef (UVM)  
Sadie Ruth (UVM)  
Kirsten Tyler  
Carol Winfield  
Kati Anderson  
Jim Anderson

Application Rec'd 4/1/26

Fee: \$85.00 (new)  
\$40.00 (culvert replacement w/ changes)  
No charge (culvert replacement same length)

TOWN OF WESTFORD APPLICATION FOR ACCESS PERMIT

Applicant Christopher J Bacon Phone # 802-274-9638

Mailing Address 1502 Old Stage Rd, Westford, VT 05494

Location of Property: Same Parcel # 050C004

Intended use of access:  Driveway (single family dwelling)  
(Please check one)  Private Road to serve \_\_\_ homes  
 Commercial Establishment

The undersigned requests an Access Permit to allow TBD (contractor) to construct an access in accordance with Vermont Department of Highways Standards to serve the applicant's property, located on the west side of Town Highway No. 6 (The local name for this road being Old Stage Rd.) The proposed access will be located approximately 9 miles (feet or miles) from the intersection of this road with Rogers Rd. The applicant agrees to maintain said access and culvert, if needed, adhere to the directions, restrictions and conditions forming a part of this permit.

Dated at Westford, this 1 day of April, 2026.

Signature of Applicant Christopher J Bacon

ACCESS PERMIT

NOTICE:

This permit is issued in accordance with Title 19, Section 1111(b), V.S.A. relative to all highways within the control and jurisdiction of the Town of Westford. The issuance of this permit does not release the applicant from any requirements of statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations administered by other governmental agencies. The permit will be effective upon compliance with such of these requirements as are applicable and continue in effect for as long as the present land use continues. Any change from the present land use will require a new permit. This permit is issued subject to the directions, restrictions and conditions contained herein and on the reverse of this form and any attachments hereto, and covers only the work described in this application, and then only when the work is performed as directed. Violations are subject to the penalties set forth in Title 19, Section 1111(b), V.S.A. of fines of not less than \$100 nor more than \$10,000 for each violation.

DIRECTIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND CONDITIONS:

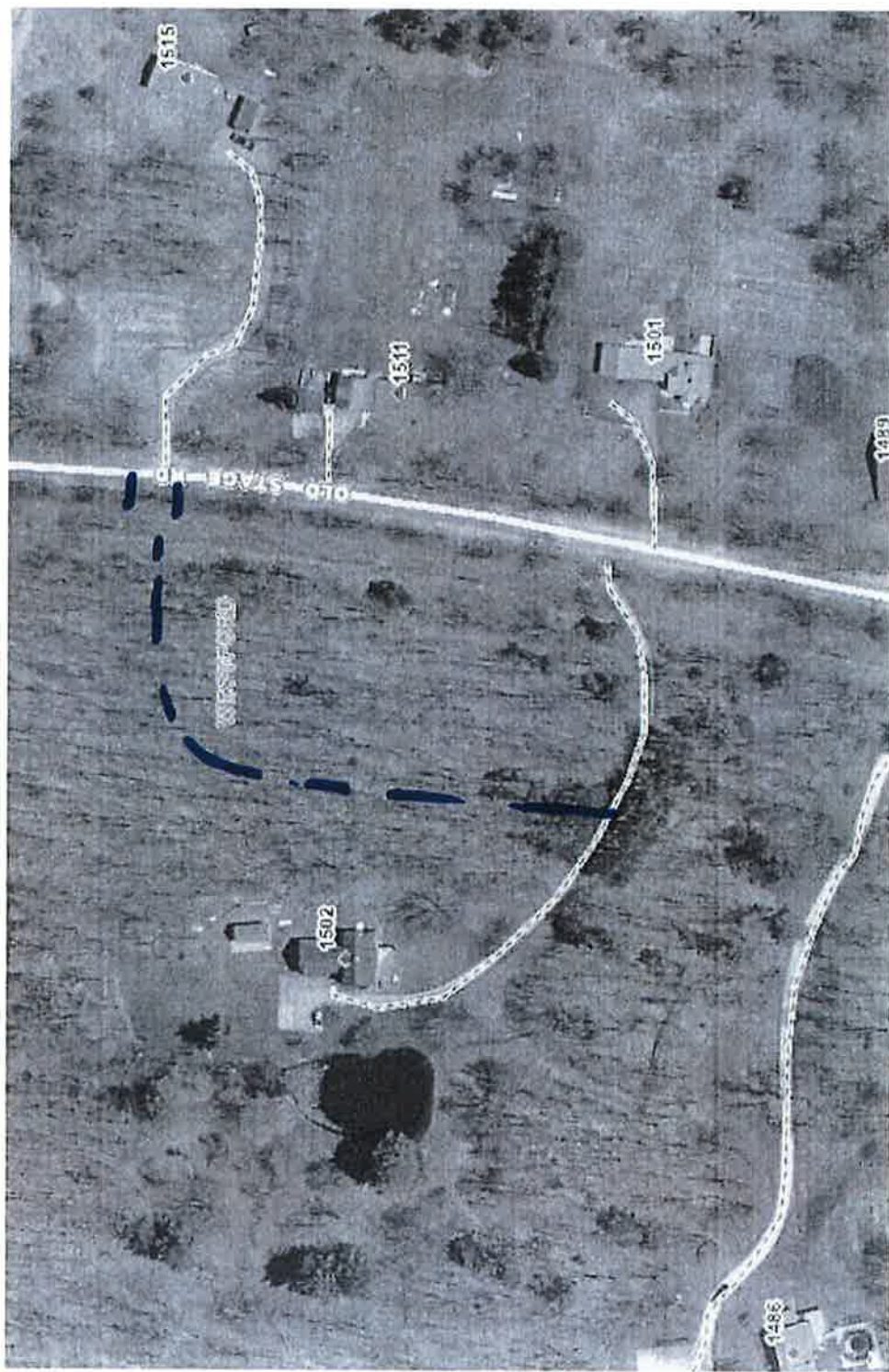
- Suitable culvert to be furnished and installed by applicant. Galvanized or plastic pipe at least fifteen inches (15") diameter, thirty feet (30') long, unless other wise instructed by Town Road Foreman. Conformance to the enclosed sketch required.
- Access must be installed according to Section 320 of the Westford Land Use & Development Regulations and as close to a 90 degree angle as possible to \_\_\_\_\_ Road and level for 20'.
- Additional conditions: \_\_\_\_\_
- Approval of this permit does not relieve the applicant from obtaining any other required State or local permits.

Culvert: Required \_\_\_\_\_ Not required X Initials SC Date 4/13/26

Dated at Westford, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Town Selectboard Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Inspected by \_\_\_\_\_ (Road Foreman) Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Tommy O'Connor

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**From:** Kirsten Tyler <kirstenbeat@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 11, 2026 7:55 AM  
**To:** selectboard; Harmony Cism; TownAdmin; Town Clerk  
**Cc:** Westford Conservation Commission  
**Subject:** EAB in Westford - April 9 agenda item

Hi Members of the Selectboard,

Harmony and I met with Noah Hoffman, the Invasive Species Coordinator for VT after we learned that EAB was present in Westford. He gave us a good rundown of what this means for our town. We have been emailing with the Planning Commission and Sean, Road Foreman to keep them updated. I wanted to bring you in the loop and provide you with materials for a future SB meeting.

I volunteered to get started on a plan and present it to you folks for review. I'm pretty sure Harmony already requested for us to attend a SB meeting and present the info to you on April 9, 2026.

Here is the summary I created (with help from ChatGPT) from notes I took when we spoke with Noah. This should be in your packet for the agenda item: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1E7AtqgSJzjSctNjZaQp0VXa1oRWMUJ5N35gGHFxNJM/edit?tab=t.0>

Below is a tentative plan for Westford, based on what Noah suggested too (which is also found in that link above, along with the links and background info). This should become more detailed after the meeting and the SB decides what's best for Westford.

Let me know if you have questions. Otherwise, I'll plan to see you at the April 9 meeting.

Thanks,  
Kirsten

## Summary of Westford's Path Forward

- 1. WCC starts a municipal EAB management plan.**  
Use the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program example municipality preparedness and management plan as a framework. Incorporate local priorities, roadside risk considerations, preservation strategies, and communication needs.
- 2. Present the plan to the Selectboard (SB) and Planning Commission (PC).**  
Seek feedback, alignment with town policy, and formal support for implementation. SB should appoint an EAB sub-committee made up of a member from SB, PC, WCC, and others.
- 3. Recruit and organize volunteers for the roadside ash assessment survey.**  
Identify potential volunteers, including retirees, forest professionals, and residents who can identify ash trees. Coordinate with the Westford road crew to help target priority roads and identify likely ash locations.

4. **Organize volunteer training with Joanne Garton.**  
Arrange formal training to ensure volunteers can correctly identify ash trees and recognize signs of EAB.
5. **Conduct the Rapid Roadside Ash Assessment Survey.**  
Follow the Vermont rapid roadside ash survey protocol:  
[https://vtcommunityforestry.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/rapid roadside ash final 2019 update.pdf](https://vtcommunityforestry.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/rapid%20roadside%20ash%20final%202019%20update.pdf)
  - Prioritize the largest and unhealthiest ash trees.
  - Focus on roadside trees that pose public safety risks.
6. **Prioritize management of hazardous roadside ash trees.**  
Trees showing signs of EAB should be considered for pre-emptive removal due to brittleness, safety risks, and increasing removal costs over time.
7. **Implement public education and communication.**  
Develop a clear public information strategy (e.g., PSA, website updates, newsletter articles) explaining why roadside ash trees may be removed and outlining the town's long-term management approach.
8. **Consider strategic preservation patches where appropriate.**  
Evaluate whether select healthy ash trees (including both male and female trees) should be preserved using insecticide treatment (emamectin benzoate / Tree-age G4), recognizing cost, licensing requirements, and restrictions near water.
9. **Hire arborists or Westford Road Crew to remove high priority trees.**
10. **Continue long-term plan moving forward.**

**TOWN OF WESTFORD SELECTBOARD**

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**APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL**

**CLASS TWO LIQUOR LICENSE**

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**Location Name:**

Westford Provisions / Kimberly Harris

**Location Address:**

26 Common Road,  
Westford, Vermont, 05494

**Business Name:**

Seagoat Enterprises LLC

**Business Address:**

100 Sam Webb Road,  
Fairfax, Vermont, 05454

**Mailing Address:**

PO BOX 416  
Fairfax, Vermont, 05454

**Contact Information:**

Phone: 603-731-8386  
Email: seagoatvt@gmail.com

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**License Type:**

Class Two Liquor License – *Renewal* – (Off-Premises Sale of beer, cider, RTD Spirit Beverages and wine)

**Payment:**

✓ \$70.00 local payment made to the Town of Westford

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**Submitted To:**

Vermont Department of Liquor and Lottery

**Submission Date:**

2026-04-09

Good Afternoon,

Please find the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter data for 2026 below. As you review the data there are some details which are worth noting.

Our overall call volume is down 176 calls when comparing last year's volume at this same time. Sadly, that is the impact extremely frequent callers can have on one services call volume. When they are no longer calling, you can have an abrupt change in your volume. We have a few frequent callers in our service area that we are no longer seeing.

We are also excited to see the true gains our second unit has had on relieving mutual aid requests into our service area. We have cut our monthly mutual aid requests in half by staffing our additional ambulances reliably. Last year, we requested mutual aid on average 53 times per month. The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of last year and the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of this year we have requested mutual aid only 25 times. This is a huge win for us all and I am quite excited to share that information with you.

**Overall Call Volume**

Out of service hours:	0
Volume since January 1, 2026:	715
Volume last quarter (2025 Q4):	842
Volume this quarter (2026 Q1):	715

**Overall Call Details**

Ratio of calls taken by ER:	597 : 715
Day/night Truck:	463
Swing Truck:	134
Both Trucks:	4

**Mutual Aid**

Requests for mutual aid to respond into ER service area:	79
Requests for ER to respond outside our service area:	46

**Town/City Specific Data**

	<u>2025 / Qtr 4</u>	<u>2026 / Qtr 1</u>
City of Essex Junction:	343	210
Town of Essex:	398	367
Town of Jericho:	79	56
Town of Underhill:	44	26
Town of Westford	8	10

## Finance

I have provided a current Budget vs. Actuals report. Please note that our accounting reconciliation won't be completed for March until the end of April. Also, a reminder that our budget is based on cash and not accrual. The detail of this report is subject to change based. I am working on putting our next FY budget together for our annual meeting the first week in June.

## **FYE26**

**Income-** Overall things are looking good with income. We were slightly ahead at the start of our budget year, but our insurance reimbursement has been slightly down the last few months. This could be partly because of the government shut down and not receiving government funded reimbursement and it also could be that our call volume is slightly lower. It's a little too early to tell quite yet but we are monitoring it. We did receive another \$50,000 donation from a resident without our service area, which we are very appreciative of. Subscriptions have slowed down and will continue to trickle in throughout the remainder of the year.

**Expenses -** Expenses are on target with nothing unusual. Most of our large expenses are paid at different times of the year making it a little more difficult to appreciate our exact position. The age of our trucks has pushed the maintenance section of our budget beyond what was planned for.

Payroll and benefits are slightly under because we again have open positions. As history has proven, retaining EMS professionals is hard - especially with how expensive it is here in Vermont. It makes it hard for people to do this kind of work with these hours and be forced to work multiple other jobs to make ends meet. This type of work requires people to have down time and emotionally heal. Many of our personnel also work supporting 2-3 other EMS agencies, which results in high burnout rates and PTSD.

**Capital Reserve-** In good position and remains unchanged. We received the new Essex 1 and it is finally on the road. We received the truck in the last week of February but before it could go into service taking calls, we found that the control module was fried and required replacement.

## General Operations

The last few months have been quite trying as we worked hard to keep our ambulances on the road. We have encountered numerous mechanical problems and some which were incredibly costly. We are extremely grateful to our mutual aid partners for allowing us to borrow trucks. We have a mutual understanding amongst other EMS agencies in the area (Saint Michaels Rescue, Colchester Rescue, Milton Rescue, and Richmond Rescue) which allows us to loan each other ambulances when needed and as long as we have a spare truck to loan. Saint Michaels and Richmond have been life

savers these last few weeks and I cannot thank them enough. Interestingly, our fire-based EMS partners were not as open or supportive to helping in the same way.

We are extremely grateful for your continued support! Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions about our operations.

Sincerely,  
Colleen Ballard - Executive Director

# Essex Rescue Inc.

## Budget vs. Actuals: Budget\_FY26\_P&L - FY26 P&L

July 2025 - June 2026

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
<b>Income</b>				
49900 Capital Campaign Income	700.00		700.00	
700 DONATIONS & SUBSIDIES	611,212.60	602,166.00	9,046.60	101.50 %
710 TRANSPORT REVENUE	1,206,717.33	1,681,666.00	-474,948.67	71.76 %
715 INTEREST INCOME	9,160.56	37,832.00	-28,671.44	24.21 %
725 OTHER REVENUE	3,100.00	8,000.00	-4,900.00	38.75 %
730 SUBSCRIPTION REVENUE	145,606.50	132,500.00	13,106.50	109.89 %
Unapplied Cash Payment Income	0.00		0.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,976,496.99</b>	<b>\$2,462,164.00</b>	<b>\$ -485,667.01</b>	<b>80.27 %</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$1,976,496.99</b>	<b>\$2,462,164.00</b>	<b>\$ -485,667.01</b>	<b>80.27 %</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
1000 PAYROLL	933,655.67	1,393,057.00	-459,401.33	67.02 %
1700 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	84,976.54	163,024.00	-78,047.46	52.13 %
2050 DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	8,121.66	14,825.00	-6,703.34	54.78 %
2060 UTILITIES	13,440.62	22,663.00	-9,222.38	59.31 %
2068 IT	14,725.16	26,700.00	-11,974.84	55.15 %
2070 GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	75,848.59	80,590.00	-4,741.41	94.12 %
2080 AMBULANCE & RADIO	31,674.33	31,300.00	374.33	101.20 %
2090 CONTRACTUAL / SERVICES	83,976.28	110,605.00	-26,628.72	75.92 %
2099 ORGANIZATIONAL INSURANCE	85,688.32	103,795.00	-18,106.68	82.56 %
2100 EMS TRAINING	5,380.64	21,700.00	-16,319.36	24.80 %
2110 PERSONNEL INCENTIVES / RECOGNITION	6,313.63	16,100.00	-9,786.37	39.22 %
3020 UNIFORMS	4,826.00	7,300.00	-2,474.00	66.11 %
3040 FUEL	14,290.95	25,000.00	-10,709.05	57.16 %
3090 MEDICAL EQUIPMENT / SUPPLIES	92,990.65	103,800.00	-10,809.35	89.59 %
4020 BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	28,821.28	64,000.00	-35,178.72	45.03 %
5000 MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	1,400.00		1,400.00	
6000 FUTURE BUILDING PROJECT	25,547.16	29,000.00	-3,452.84	88.09 %
7000 CAPITAL RESERVE CONTRIBUTION	345,919.00	216,000.00	129,919.00	160.15 %
Interest Expense	136.02		136.02	
Unapplied Cash Bill Payment Expense	0.00		0.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,857,732.50</b>	<b>\$2,429,459.00</b>	<b>\$ -571,726.50</b>	<b>76.47 %</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>\$118,764.49</b>	<b>\$32,705.00</b>	<b>\$86,059.49</b>	<b>363.14 %</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$118,764.49</b>	<b>\$32,705.00</b>	<b>\$86,059.49</b>	<b>363.14 %</b>

**Questions**

Question regarding bids may be directed to Tommy O'Connor , Town Administrator at (802)878-4587 or [townadmin@westfordvt.us](mailto:townadmin@westfordvt.us).

**Town of Westford, Vermont**

**Request for Bids for Mowing Services for 2026-2029 Seasons**

**Bid Response Form 1 of 2**

**Due: 4:30 p.m., \_\_\_\_\_**

Contractor Name:

RRL Properties

Contact Name:

RANDAL RICHARDS

Contact Phone #:

802-917-3422

Email Address:

RRPropertiescareLLC@gmail.com

Address:

Provide names and phone numbers of references for similar work performed by Contractor (attach separate sheet if necessary).

Ed Fal 802 3435541

NORM Poulson 802 777 0027

List equipment that will be used (type, make, year, model, etc.)

Zero turn mowers

trimmers

blowers

Equipment for spring clean up

**Continued on next page.**

**Town of Westford, Vermont**  
**Request for Bids for Mowing Services for 2026-2029 Seasons**  
**Bid Response Form 2 of 2**

<u>Map Number*</u>	<u>Property</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
1	Town Common	<del>XXXXXX</del> \$ 6000 year
2	Town Office & Library	Included above
3	Area surrounding statue	Included above
4	Lawn of 1705 VT Route 128	Included above
5	KP Lot	Included above
6	24' x 150' strip (in front of 4 Common Road)	Included above
7	Covered Bridge (both ends)	Included above
8	Town Garage	\$ <u>Excluded</u>

\*See attached map

The bid amount shall include mowing, spring clean-up, and care of the perennial garden as outlined in the Request for Bids.

(Note: No mobilization charges will be permitted.)

The undersigned, having familiarized himself/herself with the properties shown above, hereby proposes to furnish all labor, equipment and ancillary services required to perform the mowing work according to the Request for Bids.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Bidder

4-1-2026  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Date

RANON KROCHAK  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name

owner  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Title

## Tommy O'Connor

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**From:** issac spaulding <ikes1976@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2026 8:40 AM  
**To:** TownAdmin  
**Subject:** Town mowing bid

Mowing and Trimming bid

5000. Year 1

5250. Year 2

550p. Year 3

40 per hour per person for mulching plus cost of mulch. Cost of mulch many very from year to year

All equipment is 2024 and newer and all commercial grade .

All insurance documents will be provided upon awarded the contract.

Reference.

I have mowed

From 2019 town of Hyde Park all cemeteries and municipal buildings

From 2019 tonw of Morrisville all cemeteries, from 2021 all green belts and municipal facilities.

From 2022 town of Wolcott all municipal facilities.

Form 2025 Town of Craftsbury schools and common.

All are still under contracts.

This is only a small list.

Thanks

Spaulding Property Management llc

Issac Spaulding

802 595 3270

**Robert and Sons Lawn Care**

POB 267  
MORRISVILLE, VT 05661  
+18025217978  
robertandsonslawncafe@comcast.net



**Estimate**

ADDRESS  
town of westford  
Town of Westford

ESTIMATE 1200  
DATE 03/24/2026

DATE	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
	mowing	Mowing of Town Properties same as 2025 season For 2026  \$6800/ Year \$1360/Month (May-September) \$340 Per Week  Contingent On Cemetery Mowing Contract	1	6,800.00	6,800.00

please add 4% for credit card payments, Bank transfers are free, Thank you for your business

SUBTOTAL	6,800.00
TAX	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,800.00</b>

Accepted By

Accepted Date



Peter Z. Armata III, Owner  
 87 Deer Run Lane, Westford, VT 05494  
 802-288-0188 (Cell/Text)  
[ArmataPM@gmail.com](mailto:ArmataPM@gmail.com)  
[www.ArmataPropertyMaintenance.com](http://www.ArmataPropertyMaintenance.com)

Date: April 13th, 2026

Client: Westford Town

Address: 1713 VT-128, Westford, VT 05494

WORK	FREQUENCY	PRICE
<b>MOWING&amp;TRIMMING:</b> Town Common, Town Office, Library, 1705 VT Route 128 property, area surrounding Statue, Covered Bridge (both ends), Town Garage, 24' x 150' strip, KP lot.	May 1st- October 31st Mowing every week and trimming every 1-2 weeks, as needed.	\$6,000
<b>SPRING CLEANUP:</b> Town Common, Town Office, Library, 1705 VT Route 128 property	1 time. Spring clean up- remove residual gravel/sticks and trash.	\$1,000
<b>Mulch and Weed (front of Town Office):</b> Perennial Garden	Mulch bed, weed and maintain throughout the season.	\$125
<b>Additional services:</b> Small tree work, Junk Removal, Janitorial Services, etc.	Per Job	Request Quote.
		<b>Total Price: \$7,125</b> <b>(Monthly payment \$1,187.50)</b>

**Terms:**

1. Payment is due on the 5th of each month. Subject to a late fee if received after the 15th.
2. Spring cleanup, mulching, fall cleanup and additional service payments are due upon completion of work.
3. Mowing/Weedwhacking payments will be due monthly, starting May 1st and invoiced over six months.
4. Invoices will be sent electronically to the contact person provided.
5. Cash, check are accepted . Checks made payable to Armata Property Maintenance LLC.
6. By signing this quote, you are agreeing to the above terms and conditions and are hiring Armata Property Maintenance LLC for the duration of the contract. Early termination still requires contract payment to be paid in full.
7. Additional 3.5% will be added to next year's mowing total due to average inflation.

**AGREED AND ACCEPTED:**

NAME	SIGNATURE	TITLE
PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL	DATE

Fully insured 1,000,000 general liability and commercial auto. Certificate available upon request.



## Town Administrator Report

April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

The past two weeks have seen a few projects take major steps forward.

First on Tuesday, the 14<sup>th</sup>, Skip was in the area and installed the Beaver Deceiver on Old #11. The device will be monitored in the first few weeks to ensure the passage of water and review debris habits to conduct proper maintenance.

Second the first round of banners to recognize veterans has been sent to the printer. There was some communication sent to me about concern over an incident in Swanton where they were defrauded by a printer out of Waterbury, CT. Swanton was doing the same program as Westford, but thanks to Lenny Couture, who values supporting local and veteran owned organizations we did just that. Our printer is out of Highgate and is a veteran. Through our research the town of Swanton has also now moved to working with the same printer Westford is. Also, for note, no exchange of funds has happened currently. The town has collected funds during the application, and we are working with Seth, the printer, on proper sizing and imaging before we process the next step. Lenny had his banner made as an example and it now proudly hangs on the pole across from the 1705/Pigeon Property.

Tommy also attended a series of conversations around Act 181 and spoke with several groups on the issue. The conversations happened before the recent rulings in Tier 3 but still provided a lot of information that could be beneficial soon.

The office has had three public records requests since last meeting. One was a local resident and two were from outside firms. The information requested took a little extra time for formatting, but all items requested were filled. Another 7 excess weight permits were filed with the Town. All were new requests and all were signed and returned.

Looking forward, I have a few webinars and annual meetings in the next few weeks and we are hoping for more springtime weather!

## Tommy O'Connor

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**From:** Kirsten Tyler <kirstenbeat@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2026 6:01 AM  
**To:** Max Tyler  
**Cc:** selectboard; Tommy O'Connor; PlanningCommission  
**Subject:** Re: EWSD Updates

...Just a thought: we have two representatives for Westford on the school board. Could we ask them?

> On Apr 16, 2026, at 9:51 PM, Max Tyler <maxxxytyler@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> Personally, I am not smart enough to propose how, or by whom, these updates should happen. I would welcome your participation but would leave that selection to the Selectboard.

>

> I do think it important that a mechanism for information sharing and discourse between the EWSD School Board, the town and the residents be established and have some regular cadence. That is what prompted my suggestion. Westford may not have much influence over what is happening at the state and district levels but we certainly are, and will be, affected; perhaps viscerally.

>

>> On Apr 16, 2026, at 8:24 PM, Kirsten Tyler <kirstenbeat@gmail.com> wrote:

>>

>> Hey Max,

>>

>> I was providing updates to the SB regarding Act 73 and the Rural School Community Alliance. Some of the updates were about the school board and their actions.

>>

>> I love this idea and I would volunteer as a PC member to be the one to provide these updates. I've been very involved in the school / district happenings since the school board proposed removing our middle schoolers from WES.

>>

>> Let me know your thoughts on that (all of you).

>>

>> Kirsten

>>

>>> On Apr 16, 2026, at 7:41 PM, Max Tyler <maxxxytyler@gmail.com> wrote:

>>>

>>> Members of the Westford Selectboard,

>>>

>>> We have just had an EWSD election. This has prompted the following thought:

>>>

>>> Given the importance of the Westford Elementary School as a community anchor and the substantial impact EWSD spending has on our property tax rates, should the Selectboard receive and share regular updates on the operation and direction of the EWSD School Board? Our representatives to that body should be able to provide these. Given the recent changes to the disposition and use of the Westford Elementary School and ongoing speculation about its future, this seems appropriate.

>>>

>>> Perhaps this is happening today, and I am just not aware of it. If so, we may at least have a communication issue.

>>>

>>> Max Tyler

>>> Westford

>>>

>>>

2

## Tommy O'Connor

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**From:** Amy Saunders <amykravetz@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2026 6:50 AM  
**To:** TownAdmin  
**Subject:** Re: Speeding

Hi- just wanted to thank you for responding. Very disappointed in the select board- not one response from any of them. Not surprised. The last time I reached out I heard from Lee? He isn't on the board anymore. I spoke with a police officer from Essex who said he clocked someone doing 84 mph on the Essex part of Old Stage- so I am sure that this speeder did not slow down much more if they came into Westford. So I don't think I am imagining the problem.

Very disappointed. Also have not seen any Sheriff on Old Stage.

Amy

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 10, 2026, at 9:04 PM, TownAdmin <townadmin@westfordvt.us> wrote:

Hi Amy

I will pass this along to the Selectboard. I am also going to send a note to Chittenden County Sheriffs Office as they are the primary law enforcement agency we contract with. Please keep us informed so that we can log it and if you happen to know specific time frames that helps the sheriff. I understand if it is too varied but anything helps.

Thank you and have a nice weekend.

[Get Outlook for Android](#)

---

**From:** Amy Saunders <amykravetz@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2026 7:28:25 PM  
**To:** TownAdmin <townadmin@westfordvt.us> ✓  
**Subject:** Speeding

Dear Selectboard:

I have lived in Westford for almost 15 years. When I first moved here I used to be able to take a nice walk from my house down part of Old Stage Road. Today, I would never attempt to walk on Old Stage because of the speeding and amount of cars.

I work in Burlington 3 days a week. It used to be that maybe one or two cars a month would tailgate. Often I thought they were the ones coming from Fairfax, etc using Old Stage as a short cut. Now it is quite the opposite and maybe once or twice a month a car is actually driving the speed limit. One morning someone came down Mountain Rd, I waited to pull out and that driver took off, slowed down around Adam's Turkey Farm and then took off, probably going around 50 mph. On the nights I drive home, I am tailgated when I am driving between 35/40 mph and those cars turn off onto Birch

Ridge.

I have called the town clerk and Callie is always understanding about my concerns. I understand it costs money to have the sheriff or VSP here, but we do pay taxes and I would really like to not have to deal with these aggressive, speeding drivers. I have seen notices on the Forum about someone's dog being hit, and I hope that isn't happening too often. Last summer some cross country team was running down the middle of Manley Rd and going onto to Brookside and I was worried the whole pack would have been taken out by someone speeding around the corner. I don't want to hear about some poor runner being killed on our roads.

What can we do about this? I am not in favor of paving the roads because I can only imagine how much more traffic and speeding we would see. However, maybe paving Woods Hollow and hiring sheriff to sit on that road and pull over speeders would earn the town some money.

Please do something about the speeding on our lovely roads. It is so sad that people are in such a hurry.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,  
Amy Saunders  
Abbey Road

Sent from my iPad

## Tommy O'Connor

---

**From:** Carol Winfield <carol@vtwildlife.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 18, 2026 4:20 PM  
**To:** selectboard; TownAdmin  
**Subject:** Beaver Deceiver

Yay! All done and well done! Now we wait..... so very much hoping some might come this year, or if not then next year! If anyone sees any beavers there, please let me know right away! Skip says it's such great habitat with all the Willows and Alder's growing up there!

I think a thank you note to Protect our Wildlife for funding this project, and to Skip Lisle, would be nice. He worked all day through rain and rising waters to complete this!

Protect Our Wildlife · PO BOX 3024 · Stowe, VT 05672

**BEAVER DECEIVERS INTERNATIONAL 1187 Cabell Road, Grafton, VT 05146**













*No act of kindness is ever too small*

## Tommy O'Connor

---

**From:** Pat Haller  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2026 8:17 PM  
**To:** selectboard  
**Subject:** FW: Francois Ross/ Beaver Deceiver

Just so you're in the know...  
Pat

---

**From:** Pat Haller  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2026 8:16 PM  
**To:** 'Francois Ross' <[fross72@outlook.com](mailto:fross72@outlook.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Francois Ross/ Beaver Deceiver

Francois,

I could meet you anytime after 4:30 pm on Friday, or for Saturday or Sunday I'd prefer near 10am but could work around what you might be thinking.

Sincerely, Pat

---

**From:** Francois Ross <[fross72@outlook.com](mailto:fross72@outlook.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2026 5:14 PM  
**To:** Pat Haller <[Pat.Haller@westfordvt.us](mailto:Pat.Haller@westfordvt.us)>  
**Subject:** Francois Ross/ Beaver Deceiver

Pat,

I'd like it if you could find some time to come up here and meet at the newly installed beaver deceiver. This will save me time trying to explain and describe all of the serious structural issues it has. Westford paid what for this?

Francois

## Tommy O'Connor

---

**From:** Bill Hill <valhallabill@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2026 2:54 PM  
**To:** selectboard  
**Cc:** Cori Hill; Bill Hill  
**Subject:** Fwd: Beaver Deceiver on Number 11 Rd

Pat

I have dropped Calef.

Thank you for your prompt response today. Really do appreciate your passion and drive.

Like Calef, we are gracious for the towns efforts to find an alternative solution to the beaver challenge we face.

After seeing the install I remain concerned that we have underestimated the forces of nature. After 25 years on the hill I have fallen victim to the powers of wet glacial till freezing and thawing and running, silty water many times.

I hope this works as well.

At this point I do not see the value of a select board agenda item. If concerns manifest into reality we'll reach out.

Bill  
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Pat Haller <Pat.Haller@westfordvt.us>  
**Date:** April 15, 2026 at 12:31:34 PM EDT  
**To:** Bill Hill <valhallabill@gmail.com>, selectboard <selectboard@westfordvt.us>  
**Cc:** Bill Hill <valhallabill@gmail.com>, Cori Hill <cronie507@gmail.com>  
**Subject: RE: Beaver Deceiver on Number 11 Rd**

Bill, I didn't see the end regarding winter and icing until further scrolling down, sorry. Certainly something to watch for. The install is to be permanent, not removed/reinstalled each year. Our agreement with the grantee for the funds they provided for the Deceiver is that we will provide routine maintenance of the device, but if something other than lack of routine maintenance is cause of failure, we will not continue using the device.

I hope this is successful, but if it isn't; we will address it I'm sure. Is this a satisfactory answer for now? If not, do you want agenda time at an upcoming Selectboard meeting?

Sincerely, Pat Haller

-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Hill <valhallabill@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 9:58 AM

To: selectboard <selectboard@westfordvt.us>

Cc: Bill Hill <valhallabill@gmail.com>; Calef Letourney <calef@roversnorth.com>; Cori Hill <cronie507@gmail.com>

Subject: Beaver Deceiver on Number 11 Rd

Good afternoon

While I appreciate the town's effort to manage the road flooding we have dealt with for years I do have a few questions after actually seeing what was installed yesterday.

We have been told that the maintenance plan is "still being worked out" and explicitly that the road crew will not maintain the device. I do not know if any of the decision makers have ever lived near beavers but they clog a 2' culvert every night.

Even natural debris flow can be an issue. I am surprised we altered a natural waterway - did the state study possible adverse or unintended consequences ?

Next - this area ices completely in winter.

Will the device be removed and re installed annually like docks at the lake. Ice is a powerful force that will likely bust that up in a season.

I gave the town the benefit of the doubt and knew a device was coming ... but now I have seen it ( and the debris it had already caught in <24 hrs).

Do you have some information that I am missing to help calm these concerns ?

Bill Hill 507 Old #11

Sent from my iPhone

## Tommy O'Connor

---

**From:** Pat Haller  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2026 11:06 AM  
**To:** Bill Hill; selectboard  
**Cc:** Bill Hill; Calef Letourney; Cori Hill  
**Subject:** RE: Beaver Deceiver on Number 11 Rd

Hi all, The photos I sent were too large and this message seems to have been bounced back to me. So I'm responding again.

I'll condense the photos and get them out as I find breaks today to do so.

Sincerely, Pat Haller

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Pat Haller <Pat.Haller@westfordvt.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2026 10:14 AM  
**To:** Bill Hill <valhallabill@gmail.com>; selectboard <selectboard@westfordvt.us>  
**Cc:** Bill Hill <valhallabill@gmail.com>; Calef Letourney <calef@roversnorth.com>; Cori Hill <cronie507@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Beaver Deceiver on Number 11 Rd

Bill,

Thanks for speaking up. I stopped by the site yesterday before the install and then just saw the install this morning. I do hope it works to prevent us from having to trap/kill beavers.

Yes, we have to deal with the maintenance issue. Two residents have volunteered and I volunteered as well. I hope we can learn the frequency requirements to keep it clear. I will come to the site as I find time at least every few days to begin with to see what's going on and hopefully gage the frequency of when it needs to be cleaned out and I will do clearing and ask for help as needed. After a strong storm, I'll come up too. If you see a problem developing, please email us.

Attached are photos for all to see.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Bill Hill <valhallabill@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2026 9:58 AM  
**To:** selectboard <selectboard@westfordvt.us>  
**Cc:** Bill Hill <valhallabill@gmail.com>; Calef Letourney <calef@roversnorth.com>; Cori Hill <cronie507@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Beaver Deceiver on Number 11 Rd

Good afternoon

While I appreciate the town's effort to manage the road flooding we have dealt with for years I do have a few questions after actually seeing what was installed yesterday.

We have been told that the maintenance plan is “still being worked out” and explicitly that the road crew will not maintain the device. I do not know if any of the decision makers have ever lived near beavers but they clog a 2’ culvert every night.

Even natural debris flow can be an issue. I am surprised we altered a natural waterway - did the state study possible adverse or unintended consequences ?

Next - this area ices completely in winter.

Will the device be removed and re installed annually like docks at the lake. Ice is a powerful force that will likely bust that up in a season.

I gave the town the benefit of the doubt and knew a device was coming ... but now I have seen it ( and the debris it had already caught in <24 hrs).

Do you have some information that I am missing to help calm these concerns ?

Bill Hill 507 Old #11

Sent from my iPhone

**Tommy O'Connor**

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**From:** Vicky Ross <vicky.ross1@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2026 9:59 AM  
**To:** TownAdmin  
**Cc:** selectboard; TownAdmin  
**Subject:** Re: Filling the Town Treasurer Role

Thanks very much for the quick reply.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 10, 2026, at 8:14 AM, TownAdmin <townadmin@westfordvt.us> wrote:

Sorry for any confusion.

The Collector of Delinquent Tax role has not been opened yet. The office has been handling the current process of accepting payments. No action related to collecting delinquent taxes has been done as we will need to of course fill the role to complete those actions.

While the process to form the committee had begun we then found out about the planned departure of Greg. The only communication thus far was to gauge interest from the Justices of the Peace and we had overwhelming interest. The next step is to work with the SB chair to garner public member interest in joining the committee. We will be doing that posting soon. I will have more information next week for sure about the posting and possible meeting schedules for that committee.

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**From:** Vicky Ross <vicky.ross1@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2026 7:08 AM  
**To:** TownAdmin <townadmin@westfordvt.us>  
**Cc:** selectboard <selectboard@westfordvt.us>  
**Subject:** RE: Filling the Town Treasurer Role

That is great news! Happy to hear it.

Will there be a FPF message letting the Town know that the committee has been formed and asking for any residents willing to volunteer?

Was this process also followed when the Delinquent Tax Collector position was filled?  
I don't recall seeing any communications related to that.

Thanks again,  
Vicky

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**From:** TownAdmin <[townadmin@westfordvt.us](mailto:townadmin@westfordvt.us)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2026 6:05 AM  
**To:** Vicky Ross <[vicky.ross1@outlook.com](mailto:vicky.ross1@outlook.com)>; selectboard <[selectboard@westfordvt.us](mailto:selectboard@westfordvt.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Filling the Town Treasurer Role

Thanks Vicky.

The committee is being formed per the charter. They have not finalized the makeup yet but the process was started.

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**From:** Vicky Ross <[vicky.ross1@outlook.com](mailto:vicky.ross1@outlook.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2026 5:46:01 AM  
**To:** selectboard <[selectboard@westfordvt.us](mailto:selectboard@westfordvt.us)>  
**Subject:** Filling the Town Treasurer Role

Good Morning All,

I was sorry to hear that Greg Barrows will be leaving his post as Town Treasurer. He has served the town well for many years and I know turnover always presents challenges.

Please note that the Town Charter requires a very specific process for filling openings in the Town Treasurer or Delinquent Tax Collector roles.  
(Charter from the Town Website – attached here for convenience.)

When the time comes, I will offer to serve on the nominating committee.

Many thanks,  
Vicky Ross

## Tommy O'Connor

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**From:** Barb Bates Peck <bpeck9191@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2026 12:18 PM  
**To:** selectboard; PlanningCommission; TownAdmin  
**Subject:** Charleston VT Select Board Letter  
**Attachments:** Charleston VTSELECBOARD.jpg; CharVT SelectBoard.jpg

FYI

Planning Commission and Selectboard from  
Charleston VT

Page 1 and 2.

Some of your are not on Facebook - ( and who really wants to be ) but VT ACT 181 has a page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1542855450348397>

and a website: <https://www.ruralvermontrising.org/>

Where quite a few of the Towns SB and PC letters are being posted. Comments from the public can be biased - but I suspect the Boards are well enough informed to make their determinations on the VT agencies pushing these ACTs.

Barb

## Tommy O'Connor

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**From:** Kirsten Tyler <kirstenbeat@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2026 4:36 PM  
**To:** selectboard  
**Subject:** Fwd: [AVCC] Where Act 181 Stands Today

FYI, a good read from VNRC.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Tara Miller <tmiller@vnrc.org>  
**Subject:** [AVCC] Where Act 181 Stands Today  
**Date:** April 16, 2026 at 1:31:47 PM EDT  
**To:** vtconservation@googlegroups.com

Hi all,

Thank you for the thoughtful discussion, questions, and concerns folks have raised about Act 181 and the broader conversation about how we navigate conservation and stewardship.

I wanted to share a statement from the VNRC team responding to the developments with Act 181.

Vermont's forests, farms, wildlife, and waters are at the core of what so many of us value about our state, whether that's working a sugarbush, hiking in a town forest or spending time on the land in so many other ways. Vermonters care about our natural resources. Even with so much in common, how we protect critical resources and how we go about designing solutions matters.

Coming into this legislative session, VNRC called for a delay in implementation of key aspects of Act 181 to give more time for public engagement and to address important concerns that were being raised about early drafts of the regulations - including from our staff, who had envisioned these policies being implemented in more narrow and targeted ways. We've spent much of the past year engaging in the Act 181 stakeholder process and having conversations with a wide range of Vermonters about these issues. As a result, we have explored a variety of ways to proactively narrow the scope of the regulations, and address other important concerns.

However, over the past couple of weeks, it's become clear that the rollout of several Act 181 provisions (notably the road rule and Tier 3) has fundamentally broken trust with too many Vermonters. Lawmakers are taking this feedback seriously, as they should.

VNRC supports taking a new approach to address the protection of Vermont's most critical natural resources and ensure that healthy forests remain intact. We support starting statewide conversations about how to ensure a resilient and healthy future for Vermont's landscape and communities. We believe this requires setting aside the current iteration of Tier 3 and the road rule, so we can build solutions for a healthy environment and resilient communities from the ground up, ensuring those who are impacted the most are more deeply involved in the process.

Some landowners, rural communities, farmers, foresters, and conservation advocates have felt unheard at various moments throughout this process. Important concerns were raised that must be addressed, and many people felt they were not being adequately addressed through the Land Use Review Board's current process.

We do need to acknowledge that in addition to the many legitimate concerns people have been raising for many months, we've also seen a small number of people actively spreading disinformation, stoking fear, and resorting to vitriolic personal and organizational attacks. We cannot afford to let the divisiveness that is all too present in our national politics take hold in Vermont. We believe the path forward must be based on the ability of Vermonters to respectfully come to the table with constructive ideas so that we can find common ground around land management.

The work ahead of us is critical. Vermont's environmental challenges — including habitat and biodiversity loss, forest fragmentation, the loss of climate resilience, and the high costs of poorly planned growth — have not gone away. If anything, they are more urgent than ever.

Fortunately, we can build on our shared love of our land. We are committed to this next phase of work, grounded in robust public engagement. We are eager to ensure community voices, including rural landowners and working lands stakeholders, are actively helping shape solutions. We believe that conservation and a thriving rural economy go hand in hand. We believe that building the housing Vermont needs and protecting the landscapes that define us can both be done well. But getting there requires trust, and trust has to be built through listening, respect, and empowerment.

The hard problems of how we grow, how we steward our land, and how we ensure that solutions to protect critical resources are equitable and effective, require all of us at the table. That means conservation organizations, planners, farmers, foresters, housing advocates, landowners, and community members — including those who have been left out of these conversations — must come together. It means exploring regulatory tools, incentives, and other strategies. It means honest dialogue and an openness to thinking differently. It means honoring the science while also honoring the people who live and work on the land every day.

VNRC was founded more than 60 years ago by farmers and foresters to protect Vermont's natural resources and working lands. We remain steadfastly dedicated to this work, not because it is easy, but because it is necessary. The natural resources we protect today are the foundation every future Vermonter will rely upon. VNRC is committed to being a constructive partner in getting this right.

Thanks to everyone who has taken the time to reach out and engage in this important issue — it's been inspiring to see democracy in action. We are confident we can shape a healthy and resilient Vermont together. Please stay engaged!

-The VNRC Team

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**Tara Miller** (*they/them*) | Forest & Wildlife Program Director

**Office:** (802) 223-2328 x117

11 Baldwin Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05602



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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to [vtconservation+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:vtconservation+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com).

To view this discussion visit

<https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/vtconservation/CAARiEVNSXzBfMY6jbxZhznXHuaDj%3D%2Bzr9F0Lb%3D1zmeDnXQzQyg%40mail.gmail.com>.

## Tommy O'Connor

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**From:** Matt Bartholomew <mbartholomew9@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2026 6:33 AM  
**To:** Deborah Jorschick  
**Cc:** Pat Haller; selectboard; TownAdmin  
**Subject:** Re: Dog Warden Position

Good Morning,

I woke up to updates from last night's meeting sorry I was unable to attend I didn't get home from work until 7pm. Thank you for taking the time to try to resolve these issues for me.

However I would also like to express my concern, privately for now, that the town clerk can't separate her personal opinions of me from her job. She made it very clear that she's intentionally making my job more difficult based on her personal feelings. You all should know that I have not dropped my property tax issue and you will eventually be hearing from my lawyer. At this point every public record like last nights recording of the clerks attitude towards me is getting saved as evidence.

Thanks,  
Matt

On Wed, Apr 1, 2026, 11:26 AM Deborah Jorschick <[Deb.Jorschick@westfordvt.us](mailto:Deb.Jorschick@westfordvt.us)> wrote:

To all,

I am writing to give you my recollection of Matt's requests. I truly believe we had a meeting with Matt at one point and possibly another discussion with or without Matt. I feel that we granted a cell phone to him and that it was the responsibility of Holly at the time to go and retrieve the items of the previous dog warden. I have asked in subsequent follow up meetings if this had been completed ( the retrieving of the items) and it had not.

I would like to see this item on the agenda for our next meeting. Thank you.

DSJ

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**From:** Pat Haller <[Pat.Haller@westfordvt.us](mailto:Pat.Haller@westfordvt.us)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2026 10:14 AM

**To:** Matt Bartholomew <[mbartholomew9@gmail.com](mailto:mbartholomew9@gmail.com)>; selectboard <[selectboard@westfordvt.us](mailto:selectboard@westfordvt.us)>; TownAdmin <[townadmin@westfordvt.us](mailto:townadmin@westfordvt.us)>

**Subject:** RE: Dog Warden Position

Matt,

I'm responsible for setting the Agenda and we'll be able to discuss this as a Board, at our meeting on April 9.

I'll be working with Tommy this Friday to develop the agenda for April 9 and we'll forward it to you when it's set.

Sincerely, Pat Haller

Chair, Westford Selectboard

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**From:** Matt Bartholomew <[mbartholomewk9@gmail.com](mailto:mbartholomewk9@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2026 7:30 AM

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

**Subject:** Dog Warden Position

Good Morning All,

It's unfortunate that I need to continue to write to you all without resolution. This will be the final ask. Seems the selectboard only takes prompt action when dramatic things happen like the clerk closing the townhall to the public or the uncontrollable citizens removing trail markers (both incidents which should have been proactively dealt with by the selectboard prior to getting there).

So here we are I'm feeling dramatic. Spring is here you have had 6 months to take action to assist me and surprise surprise I've been politicianed told something nice and kicked along down the road. It ends today.

You need to provide me a phone, a place to hold dogs, and access to the registration records so I can be effective without the needing the town office. I have now set a deadline you have the month of April to figure it out or hire a new dog warden.

Might I remind you it took this new selectboard no time to get an "inclusive" certificate when the only inclusive thing in this town is the lack of a public restroom. To further get ahead of your other pending excuses back when Nanette had the public dog records accessible to the public on the town Google docs (novel concept) data shows Westford has always had 400-500 registered dogs. The state keeps \$7 of registration and the town keeps \$5. You can't honestly say the clerks salary is dependent on dog registration revenue so to claim towns cut goes to paperwork is silly and a clear red flag. Furthermore \$5 per dog estimated 400-500 registered dogs who knows cause that public information hasn't been made public or even accessible to the dog warden! But it's fair to say that the town is collecting somewhere between \$2000- \$2500 in dog registrations. Where's it going? I don't take the pay times 4? Years now?

So don't make me write a very blunt and open letter to town about how the lack of town support is the reason I am no longer willing to be the dog warden.

This is NOT an April's fools joke I need concrete solutions by the end of the month.

-Matt

## Tommy O'Connor

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**From:** LK Johnson <lkjohnson4625@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2026 8:00 AM  
**To:** selectboard; PlanningCommission; Westford Conservation Commission  
**Cc:** Kyle Buck  
**Subject:** Danger on Brown's River from 1705  
**Attachments:** Browns river 1705.mov

Hi,

This issue has been mentioned before, but perhaps not strongly enough. No one wants someone to drown on the Brown's River from 1705 by thinking it is a nice calm float!

River access sounds like a good thing, but encouraging access by kayak or canoe to a potentially dangerous stretch of river may not be in the Town's best interest. The American Whitewater organization rates the Brown's river from Westford to the Lamoille as a Class III whitewater river. Class III is defined by the International Scale of River Difficulty as "Moderate difficulty with large waves and features requiring *skilled maneuvering*. Recommended Craft: Suitable only for whitewater-specific craft and equipment." The equipment should include whitewater helmets and spray skirts and skills such as kayak rolls and bracing. <https://www.americanwhitewater.org/explore/safety/international-scale-of-river-difficulty/> <https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/view/river-detail/3985/main>.

If you want to read a report of a trip on that section, try this one, and note the reference to "rolls and braces", advanced kayaking techniques for rough water. <https://www.vtpaddlers.net/index.php?id=65&tripid=323>. For clarity, when kayakers refer to "swimming" they mean being dumped out of the kayak when it capsizes and generally ending up in rough and swirling water.

Perhaps the Town of Westford should reconsider promoting 1705 as a river access for kayaking or kids on inner tubes? Perhaps someone should check with the Town's insurance carrier for advice before going too far down this road?

Attached is a short video of the river just downstream from 1705. If you can't access it, let me know.

Lori Johnson