

## Wolcott Planning Commission Minutes

Nov. 1, 2022

Members present: Jim Robert, Bruce Wheeler, Maxfield Englishl, Ryan Ewell

Others Present: Robert Harnish, Al Wakefield (see [Vt Declaration of Inclusion](#))

Robert and Al presented their initiative to encourage Vermont towns to declare and foster a “Declaration of Inclusion”.

From their website:

*Distressed by recent catastrophic events unfolding across the country relating to human rights, justice, and equality, Bob Harnish, a long-time resident of Pittsford, decided to do something. His concern led him to Al Wakefield, a former businessman in the Rutland area, who shared similar distress and felt a need to do something “hands-on.”*

*The intent of the Declaration of Inclusion is to indicate and reinforce the message to all visitors, residents, and those thinking about or planning to come and stay, that:*

- *Vermont is a welcoming community*
- *Vermont invites all to bring their families and friends, as well as their talents and skills*
- *Vermont is a community of people who will treat them fairly, provide encouragement and support for their interests*
- *Vermont will bring the full resources of the state, cities, and towns to ensure their well-being and security*

Discussion followed as to whether Wolcott should adopt such a declaration.

Subsequently the commission unanimously passed a motion to recommend that Selectboard to create a Declaration of Inclusion, including initiatives to be taken by the town to foster an inclusive local environment. It was suggested that this Declaration might be prominently posted on the town website.

Additionally, we discussed a question from the Town Forest committee, of where to initially create parking space for visitors to the town forest. It was decided to recommend that a parking lot be created off East Elmore Road ([roughly near center of this map](#)). This area provides good access to the town forest on the East and West sides of the E. Elmore Road.

Parking at the Elementary School will also be available when school is not in session.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.