

Wolcott Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
June 21, 2023

Wolcott Town Office/Zoom/Phone-in: 6:00 p.m.

All Minutes are draft until approved by the Selectboard
Please see future Minutes for approval of these Minutes

Present: Linda Martin, Kurt Klein, Allen Carpenter, Richard Lee, Kurt Billings
Employees: Belinda Harris Clegg, Deb Klein, Dean Mercier, Bernard Earle
Public: Chris Morwood, Lana Morwood, Diana Clark, James Clark, Jr., Tasha Wallis
Presenters: Seth Jensen, Meghan Rodier, Salvador Morales, Amy Macrellis

Martin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Amendments to the Agenda: Martin asked that discussions be heard on the potential buyout of flood property on North Wolcott, as well as an agreement to administer the Municipal Planning grant for the Town, without objection.

Approve Minutes of June 7, 2023: Motion by Lee to approve the Minutes of June 7. Seconded by Carpenter. Discussion: None. Voting: All in favor.

Comments from the Community: None.

Correspondence

- The Selectboard received a thank-you letter regarding installation of the guardrails on East Hill Road.
- The Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) will hold a celebration on Saturday, July 15. The Governor and Sen. Sanders will participate. There will be a celebration in Morrisville between 1:00 and 2:00. A water stop is scheduled for Wolcott at 2:45 p.m. The Town Garden Committee will host a Garden Party that afternoon with refreshments for participants and visitors.
- Notice was received that H161 was approved by the Governor relating to the issuance of burning permits. Copies of the law have been forwarded to the Town Fire Warden and Fire Chief.
- Notice was received from Vermont Green Energy Systems that Randy Buker, Walnut Lane, has applied for a small wind energy system. Anyone with questions can contact Linda Martin.

Town Hill Road issue: The Morwoods and the Clarks described for the Selectboard the issues they have been dealing with on their adjacent properties. Options for moving forward were discussed.

Green Mountain ATV Club: The Club President, Chad Letourneau, was not present for the meeting. The matter was tabled.

Presentation: Meghan Rodier: Rodier, Regional Planner with Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC), discussed a packet of information presented to the board on the Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP) grant application. The project involves the preliminary design for flood mitigation involving a section of the Wild Branch and the Gulf Road bridge. The applicant would be LCPC. LCPC is seeking a letter of support from the Town of Wolcott to attach to the application which is due July 7. The purpose of the project is to reduce the energy in the Wild Branch. There are no matching funds required for the CWSP application. Motion by Klein to approve a Letter of Support from the Wolcott Selectboard to be included with the CWSP grant application. Seconded by Lee. No further discussion. Voting: All in favor.

LCPC should know by the end of July if funding will be awarded. If not, Rodier indicated there are other funding opportunities that can be pursued in the fall. Martin signed the Letter of Support on behalf of the board.

Presentation: Seth Jensen: Jensen, Deputy Director, and Salvador Morales, Planner, with LCPC provided a follow-up to information presented at the June 7 meeting regarding the waste water project. Although Agency of Natural Resources funds have already been allocated for this fiscal year, there will be funds available for the next fiscal year starting July 1. Macrellis, Senior Water Quality Specialist with Stone Environmental, discussed sources for reimbursement funds, and addressed sections of the Agreement being reviewed by the board. Morales outlined LCPC's role. The board recognizes that the public engagement component is very important. LCPC will assist with outreach.

Jensen brought up with the board a property in North Wolcott that had previously been considered for a buyout because it is on the flood plain. Although the property was not eligible in the past, it is now considered eligible, and funds are available for buyout. No local match funds are required. Motion by Klein authorizing LCPC to prepare an application for the buyout of the particular North Wolcott property and present it to the board for signature. Seconded by Lee. No further discussion. Voting: All in favor.

Morales has been administering the Municipal Planning Grant for the Town regarding the old School House Revitalization project. LCPC proposed entering into a formal agreement to allow Morales to continue providing project manager services. Motion by Lee to authorize the Selectboard to enter into a formal agreement for Morales to provide project manager services as part of the Municipal Planning Grant. Seconded by Klein. No further discussion. Voting: All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Harris Clegg, Treasurer, reviewed with the Selectboard the end of fiscal year financial reports. The board agreed that the Transfer Station should continue with monthly payments to repay the loan from the Selectboard. The board agreed to purchase a file cabinet to provide additional storage space for zoning documents.

There remains \$19,881.25 in the budget in the Selectboard Manager category. Motion by Martin to transfer \$19,000 from the end balance of the Selectboard Department 2022-2023 budget to the Equipment account. Seconded by Lee. No further discussion. Voting: All in favor.

Project Manager Report

-A notice was posted on the Town's website to remind folks of invasive plant species found along the roadsides in Wolcott. Residents are advised not to use roadside soil in an effort to avoid the spreading of these plants. Roadside mowing dates have been set.

-LCPC conducted a road study on sections of North Wolcott Road and Gulf Road between May 25 and June 12. The board reviewed the traffic count summaries. The board had previously discussed the possibility of adopting an ordinance that would prohibit tractor trailer traffic on North Wolcott Road in an effort to reduce maintenance costs. The board will contact the Craftsbury Selectboard to see if they are interested in having a road traffic study conducted on sections of the Wild Branch Road.

-The board continued discussion on how best to access land on either side of Railroad Street leading to the LVRT trailhead. Space is needed for snow removal, and for placement of a portable toilet. Discussion involved either an access permit or a lease from the State of Vermont.

-An application for a grant for roadside caution signs was submitted. The Town should find out in early July if the grant funds will be awarded.

- An issue developed that resulted in the Town's website being inaccessible for a short period of time. A meeting is scheduled with the website consultant.
- Sarah Lillibridge, Outreach Coordinator with the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District (LRSWMD), will be present at the Wolcott Transfer Station on Saturday, July 29 to help educate folks on proper recycling.
- A draft of a green burial policy will be presented for Selectboard review at the July 5 board meeting.
- Martin reported that materials are starting to arrive for the 911 Town-wide sign project.
- Rob Moore, LCPC, is working with the Road Foreman on identifying road segments to be worked on this year as part of the Road Erosion Inventory.
- The Highway Department continues to work on berm removal, culvert installations, and hauling winter sand.

Selectboard review/action

Appoint Health Officer, Dep. Health Officer: Bernard Earle expressed an interest in remaining Wolcott's Health Officer. Motion by Martin to submit the name of Bernard Earle as Health Officer, and Kurt Klein as Deputy Health Officer to the State of Vermont. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor.

Forest Committee – vacancy: Martin read aloud the letter received by the Selectboard from Sheila Halpin, Wells Road, expressing interest in filling the vacancy on the Forest Committee. Motion by Lee to name Sheila Halpin to fill the vacancy on the Forest Committee. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All in favor.

Town Representative – LVRT meetings: Mike Green, East Hill Road, expressed an interest in serving as the Wolcott representative at the LVRT meetings. Both Green and Martin have attended past meetings. The Selectboard agreed to appoint Mike Green as the Town's representative, and Linda Martin as Alternate #1, for a period of one year, at LVRT meetings.

LVRT parking – signage: The board discussed issues with folks parking along Corley Road and Elmore Pond Road in order to access the rail trail. The Town will order special no parking signs for these areas that will direct traffic to the parking area by the Gazebo on Railroad Street.

Adjourn: Motion by Billings to adjourn. Seconded by Lee. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein

The next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting – July 5, 2023