

**Wolcott Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
October 4, 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, Michael Paradee, Allen Carpenter, Kurt Billings
Absent: Richard Lee
Guests: Arleace Green, SBA; Kate Wanner, The Trust for Public Land; Seth Jensen,
Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC)
Public: Kurt Klein, Karen McKee, Jim Holton, Steve Perkins, Chan Judd, Lucien Gravel,
Dean Mercier, Ally Judkins, Gordon Young, Dolan Patrick, Deb Klein

Martin called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Adjustments to the Agenda: None.

Approval of Minutes of September 20, 2023 and September 25, 2023: Motion by Billings to approve the Minutes of September 20. Seconded by Paradee. Discussion: None. Voting: All 4 in favor. Motion by Paradee to approve the Minutes of September 25. Seconded by Carpenter. Discussion: None. Voting: All 4 in favor.

Comments from the Community

Arleace Green, Public Affairs Specialist with US Small Business Administration, provided information for home owners, renters, and business owners who may be seeking government reimbursement or loans for physical damages or financial losses as a result of the July storm and flood. The deadline to apply for assistance is October 12, 2023. The USDA offers loans to farmers as well. Green will forward information on that program to the Town Clerk.

Jim Holton, Fire Chief, stated he is getting no information or responses to his inquiries from the insurance representatives through Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT). Klein noted there are two entities through which reimbursement may be obtained for damages and losses involving the Fire Department: VLCT and FEMA. The Town owns the building that houses the Fire Department and is responsible for insurance claims for physical damage to the building. VLCT is the carrier for what the Fire Department owns inside the building. Holton has submitted a claim sheet to VLCT, and now needs to open a portal account to submit information on damages and losses to FEMA prior to the October 12 deadline. The Town is awaiting a report from the mold specialist who collected samples from the building housing the Fire Department and Garage. The Town will be seeking bids for the work that needs to be done to the building as a result of the flood waters.

Correspondence: None.

Budget Hearings

Health Officer: Request for level funding.

Fire Warden: Request for a \$100 increase in funding due to an increase in the number of calls.

Animal Control Officer: Request for level funding.

Mercier, Wolcott's ACO, was joined by Ally Judkins, ACO with Hyde Park, who explained to the board the problem facing most towns in Lamoille County now that the kennel is no longer accepting animals from ACOs. Towns are statutorily required to provide a kennel to take in animals. Mercier is working with Justice for Dogs seeking a location to build an appropriate facility. Zoning requirements would need to be met. Ultimately, the property would need water, sewer, electricity, and heat. Judkins indicated that the Hyde Park Selectboard is interested in working with other Selectboards to find a solution.

Project Manager Report

Klein indicated his primary focus has been gathering information required to submit to FEMA for reimbursement before the October 12 deadline. Klein emphasized the need to make repairs to the Town Garage as soon as possible since the road crew will need to winterize the equipment inside the shop. The road crew continues to close out road segments for FEMA reimbursement. It was proposed that work to revitalize Elmore Pond Road be contracted out so that the work can be completed this year. Class 3 road funds would most likely be used. Discussion ensued. Motion by Martin to approve revitalization of Elmore Pond Road from about Courchaine Farm Road to the Cutler residence. Seconded by Paradee. Voting: All 4 in favor.

Selectboard review/action

Town Forest Stewardship Plan

Kate Wanner, Senior Project Manager with The Trust for Public Land, discussed with the board the Conservation Easement related to the purchase of land for the Town Forest. The Selectboard will review the draft prior to notice being given to citizens. Wanner and Young addressed questions regarding the Stewardship Plan. Motion by Martin to approve the Wolcott Stewardship Plan dated September 20, 2023, and the Grant of Developmental Rights and Public Access Easement. Seconded by Billings. No further discussion. Voting: All 4 in favor.

Elect Vice-Chair: Matter tabled.

Updates

Seth Jensen, LCPC Deputy Director, discussed with the board an engineering report noting damages to Flat Iron Road that occurred as a result of the July storm and flooding. The report lists five alternatives that would work to reduce flooding in the future. The Selectboard can review the options in the report, and the costs. There could be FEMA reimbursement for the work.

A need has been expressed for an air exchanger to improve air quality in the Town Garage. The board would like to see a quote for a commercial air exchanger that would be moveable. ARPA funds could be considered for this.

A new heating system from Lloyd's is scheduled to be installed in Town Hall the first week of December. Lloyd's will provide space heaters for use in the meantime at no charge. Bourne's will install a hot water heater at Town Hall next week. Electrical work will be done as well.

Consideration is still being given to creating a parking area by the ballfield for snowmobile trailers. Martin has asked for a report from a wetland specialist.

Adjourn: Motion by Paradee to adjourn. Seconded by Billings. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein

Next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting – October 18, 2023