

**Wolcott Selectboard Meeting  
Minutes  
September 20, 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, Allen Carpenter, Kurt Billings, Richard Lee  
Public: Kurt Klein, Michael Paradee, Robert Tenny, Jr., Dolan Patrick, Deb Klein  
Presenters: Kate Wanner, The Trust for Public Land; Gordon Young

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Martin called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**Adjustments to the Agenda:** None.

**Approve Minutes of August 16, September 6, September 11, 2023:** The Minutes of the August 16 meeting had been tabled due to the lack of a quorum on September 6. Motion by Lee to approve the Minutes of August 16, 2023. Seconded by Carpenter. Discussion: None. Voting: Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Martin to approve the Minutes of September 6, 2023. Seconded by Carpenter. Discussion: None. Motion carried with Lee and Billings abstaining. Motion by Billings to approve the Minutes of the September 11, 2023 Special Selectboard meeting. Seconded by Carpenter. Discussion: None. Motion carried with Lee abstaining.

**Selectboard Vacancy:** The Selectboard accepted the resignation of Kurt Klein proffered at the August 16, 2023 meeting. The vacancy was posted on the Town's website, Front Porch Forum, and in public places in Town. The only letter of interest submitted was by Michael Paradee. Paradee addressed the board. Paradee requested that should he be appointed to the Selectboard, that he be able to maintain his positions on the Wolcott Planning Commission and the Development Review Board. Martin was advised that no statutory conflict exists, and that Paradee could recuse himself when appropriate should an issue come before the Selectboard. Motion by Lee to approve the appointment of Michael Paradee to the Selectboard to fill the remaining term that expires on Town Meeting Day 2024. Seconded by Carpenter. No further discussion. Voting: All 4 in favor. Paradee was given the oath of office and was seated on the board.

**Correspondence:** The board received a Healthy Lamoille Valley brochure on Preventing Youth Substance Misuse.

**Annual Meeting to Set Water Rate – School Street Users:** Martin explained that at Town Meeting quite a few years ago, School Street water users requested an annual meeting to know the status of the account. The account had been in the red, but currently is at \$490. The six households on the system have been charged \$25 per month. The board discussed. Motion by Lee to set the monthly rate at \$25 for School Street water users for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Seconded by Carpenter. No further discussion. Voting: All 5 in favor.

### **Review Town Forest Stewardship Plan**

Gordon Young, Town Forest Committee Chair, stated Selectboard approval is required for two documents: a conservation easement; and Stewardship Plan. Young gave a presentation summarizing key points for the board's review before their October 4 meeting. Kate Wanner, The Trust for Public Land, will provide the board with updated maps. Martin thanked Young and the Forest Committee for their thoughtful work on the Stewardship Plan, and thanked Wanner for making acquisition of the land for the Town Forest possible.

### **Project Manager Report**

- Lamoille FiberNet has partnered with Fidium Fiber in a deal that will bring fiber broadband internet services to portions of Wolcott. According to the Town's representative on the Lamoille FiberNet CUD, this will move up anticipated service to late 2024.
- Lamoille Kennels & NCAL have informed all towns in Lamoille County that they will no longer board dogs brought to them by Animal Control Officers (ACO). It is not profitable for them. Wolcott's ACO intends to get together with other local ACO's to seek a solution.
- Work is progressing on gathering information for FEMA damage reports. The Town carries insurance through Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT). An insurance adjuster walked through Town buildings. VLCT has informed the Town there is a State-wide \$5,000,000 cap on flood related claims from Town buildings located in a FEMA flood zone. Wolcott's Town Hall building is in a FEMA flood zone. The Town will move forward with insurance claims on other damage.
- ServPro was back to address the mold issue in the Town Garage building. The concern is whether the building is safe to work in. The board agreed to move forward to get a mold specialist to inspect the Town Garage and Fire Department as soon as possible.
- Klein is working on a new configuration for the hybrid meeting system to make it as close to turn-key as possible. Martin emphasized the need for written instructions on how to use the system.
- The Town is still awaiting results of the Brownfield study on the VT Rte 15 parcel.
- Wolcott's land surveys have been digitized and are now being indexed. The goal is to then get them integrated into the new website.

### **Selectboard review/action**

**Local Control Commission:** The Selectboard, which serves as the Local Cannabis Control Commission reviewed for renewal application S-04687. Motion by Lee to approve for renewal application S-04687. Seconded by Carpenter. Voting: All 5 in favor.

**Heating System for Town Hall:** Martin stated that at the September 11 Special Selectboard meeting the board approved the bid from Bourne's for a hot water heater. A deposit has been sent. It will also require some electrical work. Bourne's had also submitted a bid for a heating system. Fred's refused to submit a bid. The board asked that Lloyd's Plumbing in Cabot be asked to submit a bid. Lloyd's did a walk through and will submit a bid. Lloyd's indicates they could install a heating system on December 1. Bourne's would be able to install heaters mid-November. A special Selectboard meeting will be scheduled to review the heating bids.

**Review engineering plan – LVRT snowmobile parking:** Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) secured funding for an engineering firm to view the area by the recreation field to determine the feasibility of creating parking spaces for vehicles with snowmobile trailers. Given the area's proximity to the Lamoille River, the Department of Environmental Conservation will conduct a review. Martin noted that land along Railroad Street could be leased from the State, but it would need to be cleared and drained in order to be used for parking.

**Town-wide E911 sign project:** E-911 address signs are starting to be installed for all dwellings and structures in Wolcott in accordance with the Town's Ordinance. The green reflective signs will aid emergency vehicles, and others, in quickly locating properties.

**BBQ & Information Sharing Event:** The board reviewed this year's event. Although there was no official count taken, the event was well attended. The hamburgers, hotdogs, and corn on the cob were thoroughly enjoyed, along with ice cream cones and cookies. Martin thanked this year's sponsors, and thanked those who participated in sharing information with residents, and the many volunteers who made the event run so smoothly. It was a relief that the storm did not pass through until later in the evening.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein

*The next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting – October 4, 2023*