

West Windsor Selectboard Minutes
Monday, July 24, 2023
6:30 pm Town Hall and Zoom

Present in Person: Matt Kantola, Mark Higgins, Mark Harley, Mike Spackman, Cathy Archibald, Deb Shearer, Peter Varkonyi, Ansel Dickey, Steve Carihfield, Shelley Seward

Present via Zoom: Amie Comeau

1. Call to order

Matt Kantola called meeting to order at 6:30pm

2. Changes or Additions to Agenda

None

3. Announcements / Public Comment

Matt Kantola attended the West Windsor Music Festival. It was a pleasant event and the new HVAC system made it much more comfortable. The Selectboard received feedback that it should seek to host more events.

4. Town Clerk's Orders

Remaining payment for HVAC payment was in the latest orders. Otherwise, nothing of comment was present.

5. Vermont Overland Event Permit

Ansel Dickey presented the Overland Event Permit to the Selectboard. The parties discussed different aspects of the event. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Selectboard unanimously approved the Vermont Overland event.

6. AO Event Permit

Shelley Seward presented the event permit application from Ascutney Outdoors for a pizza party served by Brownsville Butcher & Pantry. The last pizza party was attended by about 450 people. BB&P is implementing a registration system that must be used and moving the event to the Polo Field. Event will happen rain or shine. BB&P will coordinate with the State Department of Liquor Control on fencing and licensed area. BB&P will be offering gluten-free options.

7. DLL Permits

Peter Varkonyi presented the liquor applications. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Selectboard unanimously approved the Kantola-Schutte wedding event liquor permit on August 12. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Selectboard unanimously approved the August 5 AOC Pizza Party liquor permit. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Selectboard unanimously approved the Vermont Overland Event liquor permit for August 25 and August 26.

8. Highway Foreman's Report

Mike Spackman presented the Highway Foreman's Report. The July 11 storm only affected Churchill Road and Yale Heights Road. The Highway Department was able to help Weathersfield Highway Department with the other end of Churchill Road. Weathersfield returned the favor following the July 21 storm. Mike Spackman requested that a formal communication thanking the Town of Weathersfield for its help following the July 21 storm. The covered bridge on Churchill Road suffered siding and roof damage. Green Mountain Power said it got 6 inches of rain July 21 in Hartland, Mark Harley reported 5 inches in his rain gauge and Deb Shearer claimed 3.5 inches.

Reading, West Windsor and Hartland took the brunt of the flooding from the July 21 storm. Mike Spackman met Mark Harley at midnight at the top of Blood Hill. The Village briefly experienced some flooding Friday night. Every road in town was affected and it's easier to list Road that were not affected. Coon Club, Coaching Lane and Coaching Lane Extension were okay. Hard hit: Cross Road, Hammond Hill, Knob Hill, Silver Hill, Blood Hill, Wardner, Kimball Farm, Churchill Road and Brownsville-Harland Road. A car went off the road on Brownsville-Hartland by the plugged culvert between Blood Hill and Silver Hill. The Highway Department worked all day Saturday. The Highway Department spent additional funds repairing the damage. The Town will track the expenses to seek federal or state funds due to the emergency disaster declarations. One of the Town trucks did require emergency repairs on July 22.

The John Meyers MRGP project is almost complete. The Sheddsville MRGP project is approved and work will begin. Mike commented that most of the roads that had received the MRGP upgrades did well except Wardner. The Wardner ditching is about 7 years old and one of the private culverts plugged.

Deb Shearer noted that private landowners who have experienced flood damage should report the damage to 211.

The Selectboard thanked Mike Spackman and the rest of the Highway Department for its efforts in both storms.

9. Flood Review

Mike Spackman presented as the Town's emergency manager. He spoke about the efforts he took following the July 11 storm to ensure the further safety of the substation at the end of Churchill Road. Mike also met with FEMA and the National Guard at the Town Garage before the July 21 storm to discuss the local mitigation efforts. FEMA and the National Guard asked Mike to contact the people with known water damage. Mike asked those landowners to contact FEMA and the National Guard for assistance. Deb inquired about a landowner on Brook Road. Multiple trees have also fallen.

10. 1H'23 Financials Review

The Selectboard reviewed the Town's budget in light of actual income and expenses. Cathy, Mike and Deb joined in the discussion.

11. Municipal Energy Resilience Program

The Mount Ascutney Regional Planning Commission has suggested that the Town apply for the Municipal Energy Resilience Program for the Library, the Town Garage and Town Hall. The Selectboard authorized an application.

12. Other Business

Matt stated that he would be making a proposal for spending the ARPA funds in late August or September.

P2, the water system operator, has identified 10 high priority projects for the water system. The Utility Commission is emphasizing five projects to be completed by the end of summer.

Mike Spackman had an addendum to his highway foreman's report. He stated that some sewer work in front of the hotel had cut the blacktop and not yet replaced it.

Mark Harley raised that there were competing meetings at Town Hall on July 25. He and Deb Shearer worked on a solution. The Sustainability Committee should be meeting at the Library.

13. Executive Session

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Selectboard voted to enter into executive session at 8:06pm for the reasons stated in 1 V.S.A. § 313(3).

14. Adjourn

The Selectboard exited executive session at 8:40pm. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Selectboard unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:41pm.