

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 13, 2023

Present in Person: Matt Kantola, Brett Myers, Chris Dolan, Mike Spackman, Anne Valentine, Al Iuppa, Cathy Boedtke, Deb Shearer, Win Johnson, Chris Nesbitt, Nancy Nesbitt.

Present via Zoom: Amy Rusiecki, Tess Hunter, Jill Crowley, Mark Harley, Bruce Boedtke, Glenn and Shelley Seward, Mary-Anne Boyd, Rob Mather, C.C. Pelletier, Ken Parrot, Erik Boedtke, Chief Jen Frank (WPD).

1. Call to Order

Matt called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

2. Changes or Additions to Agenda

Brett made a motion to authorize Matt to sign the final Better Connections Grant application form. The motion carried.

3. VT100 Permit Application

Amy Rusiecki spoke to the logistics of the Vermont 100 event and the status of the event application. She mentioned that the organizers have taken steps to mitigate sound and light pollution to mitigate the impact on neighbors.

Erik Boedtke urged the town's event application process to include relevant course, road, and site maps supplied to the fire department prior to any request for approval. He suggested supplying organizers with some standardized templates that they could simply complete and return. He also suggested reaching out to Chief Frank.

Matt made a motion to approve the Vermont100 application under the condition that the town receive the Certificate of Insurance by mid-March. Brett seconded and the motion passed.

4. Ragnar Permit Application

C.C. Pelletier, race director for the Ragnar event, spoke to the logistics of the multi-day race. She expects approximately 1,100 people to attend this year, which is an increase of 300 attendees from last year. The Certificate of Insurance will be sent to the town as soon as it renews, which should be within the next few weeks. Shelley Seward mentioned that Ragnar is a very well-organized event. C.C. noted that the current Certificate of Insurance (COI) expires today, and that she will send the updated COI when it becomes available.

Matt motioned to approve the Ragnar event. Brett seconded. The motion passed.

5. AO Private Event Application

Chris D. presented an application for a private event at Ascutney Outdoors on August 19 and noted that the application was complete and in order.

Matt made a motion to approve the application; Brett seconded, and the motion passed.

6. Historical Society Facility Use Application

Mary-Anne Boyd of the West Windsor Historical Society presented an application for facility use for a 1970's-themed dance party to take place at the Town Hall on the evening of March 25. The event will comply with the town noise ordinance and no alcohol will be allowed.

Matt asked about insurance and suggested that if it were a town-sponsored event it would fall under the town's coverage. He said that he would like to do some further research on the insurance issues before proceeding with the application.

7. ARPA Committee Interim Report

ARPA-committee chair Anne Valentine presented an interim report on the committee's progress. Beginning with the formation of the committee and the evaluation criteria that guided its process, she noted that the committee recommended that one hundred percent of the funds be dedicated to emergency services. In particular, the committee recommended that \$200,000 be allocated to the West Windsor Volunteer Fire Department to help relocate its station out of the Mill Brook flood plain. The remaining funds are recommended to be allocated for town emergency preparedness.

Matt asked Erik if there was an update on the fire department relocation. Erik said that the department was narrowing down where the feasibility study and efforts should be directed.

8. Sustainability Committee Appointments

Sustainability Committee Chair Al Iuppa asked the Selectboard to remove two members and add two different members so that the committee will be able to achieve quorums.

Matt made a motion to remove Fred Kolling and Victoria Hurd and add as members Susan Yost and Chris Dolan. Brett seconded and the motion passed.

9. Rockwood Utility Mapping Study Analysis (Mark Harley)

The Town recently commissioned surveyor Tim Rockwood to create a map of the sewer and water infrastructure on the mountain, primarily so that components such as valves, shut-offs, and manholes can be accessed for repair. Matt noted that this study was funded through the utility budget, so that taxpayers who are not on the mountain utility system were not impacted by the cost, as it did not come from the town budget.

Mark Harley applied his GIS expertise to an analysis of the Rockwood report. He began by providing the purpose and background of the project, and then demonstrated the ways that GIS software allowed the user to manipulate and interact with the data. He showed how elements on the utility map (sewer lines, water lines, e.g.) could be isolated to avoid clutter. He also explained the Vermont State Plane Coordinate System and how to interpret the directional information on the utility maps. The information will allow the Town to use and analyze the maps and accompanying data provided by Rockwood Surveying more effectively.

10. Highway Foreman's Report

Mike reported that the highway department is hauling gravel this week unless the roads get soft. Miller Construction will start work next Monday on the salt shed, and it should be done in about a month. He then addressed the issue of posting roads. Although West Windsor has never posted roads, Mike said that it's something it should look into. Mike has been against it in the past because he felt that it wasn't worth the paperwork and effort, but he said that we should look at it eventually, because we have no legal right to kick people off roads unless we have the signage.

Matt said that it should be discussed at the next Selectboard meeting.

Mike mentioned that at the next meeting, he'd like to discuss the purchase of a power washer.

Emergency Preparedness Discussion

Matt mentioned connecting the ARPA committee with the Local Hazard Mitigation Committee (LHMP). Mike said that LHMP is an emergency management committee, and Cathy B. said that she was unaware of that committee and that it makes the ARPA Committee's recommendation for an emergency preparedness committee superfluous. She suggested having the LHMP committee come to an ARPA committee meeting.

Mike said that all of the emergency planning information has been done for twenty years and is in the Green Book, which about a dozen town officials and community members have. Cathy asked about shelters and how equipped they were to handle residents in the case of an emergency. Mike said that that's all in the Green Book.

11. Other Business

None.

12. Approve Minutes of February 6

Matt moved to approve the February 6 minutes. Brett seconded and the motion passed.

13. Adjourn

Matt moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 pm. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Dolan