

**Windham VT Selectboard Meeting Minutes
July 18, 2022 Regular Meeting**

Via Zoom

Kord Scott, selectboard chair
George Dutton, selectboard
Michael Pelton, selectboard
Mary McCoy (Mac), selectboard clerk
Richard Paré, road foreman

Others Attending (first part of meeting):

Maureen Bell	Abby Pelton
Gail Wyman	David Cherry
Kathy Scott	Tom Widger
Bill Casey	Tom Johnson
Wendy Harrison	Joyce Cumming
Phil McDuffie	Bill Dunkel

Call to Order

Kord announced the meeting, called it to order, and started the recording at 5:30 PM.

Additions or Changes to Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda. Kord explained that this meeting's agenda refers to the accompanying parking lot (list of issues that need to be addressed). Beginning tonight, agendas will include regular reports on the roads from Richard.

Announcements/Reminders

Michael stated appreciation for the Windham Community Organization's fantastic Chicken BBQ Dinner, held the previous Saturday. Abby Pelton commented on how nice it was to see so many Windham folks there.

Approval of Minutes

There were no changes to the minutes from the meeting held July 1, 2022.

Motion: To approve the minutes from that meeting. Kord moved, and all agreed.

Public Comment

- Phil suggested that all computers in the Town Office be backed up daily and have sufficient virus protection. He suggested that an IT person might be needed to handle this.
- Wendy Harrison introduced herself as a candidate for state senate who wanted to learn more about Windham.
- Michael read a personal statement for the record (see attached) regarding reports about the behavior of a lister, the conduct of town officials in general, and the importance of citizens' involvement.
- Bill Casey asked that the selectboard discuss Michael's statement at a future meeting.
- Joyce Cumming commented on a statement read at a previous selectboard meeting (about an exchange at the Post Office between her husband, Russell Cumming, and Wren Watts) in which Wren claimed Russell had "attacked" her. Joyce said that she was present at that exchange, and the only thing that was exchanged were comments.

Correspondence

Kord received an email from Russell in response to the selectboard's request to speak with him in executive session. Mac read the email (see attached) in which Russell declined to meet with the selectboard.

New Business

1. Wheeler Road House – The foundation for a new house on Wheeler Road has been poured closer to the road than our town regulations allow. The issue has been referred to the Zoning Board of Administration, which will conduct a hearing on the matter on August 2, as it must be warned at least 15 days in advance. There has been great concern about this issue, which falls under the purview of the zoning administrator and not the listers or the selectboard.
2. Ingalls/Old Farm Connection – Richard reported that the current “road” between Ingalls and Old Farm Roads is not passable. It is 5119 feet long. He asked what the selectboard wants for the connection. He estimated that it would cost at least \$20,000 to make it a Class 4 road, as culverts need to be installed, and it needs to be made 10 to 12 feet wide. Michael asked if the work could be done in stages, and Richard said it would be best to fix it all at once. Making it a Class 3 road that is two lanes wide would be prohibitive in terms of costs, rights of way, and legal processes.
Next Step: The selectboard will consider this situation further in terms of public need, especially the need of the folks living in West Windham.
3. Carlton’s Corner – Gary Weiss has reported cars spinning out of control at this sharp curve north of the meeting house (where JoJo used to live). Richard recommended using an S-curve sign that suggests 25 mph, which we have in stock. The town can install this without going through a state process.
Next Step: Install the S-curve sign.
4. Roadside Mower – Richard reported that he has spoken to a John Deere dealer who is coming to look at our loader to appraise it and see (1) if we can switch our loader with one that can use an attached hydraulic mower or (2) if we should buy a stand-alone mower.
5. Broadband Project – David Cherry reported on Deerfiled Valley Fiber Optics which will be providing 24 Vermont towns with service that is 100 megabits of upload and 100 megabits of download. This is the result of federal and state funds to provide broadband and the creation of DVFO. Installation is expected here next fall. The organization would like to meet with towns to encourage people to sign up for the service. This would serve everyone in Windham who doesn’t already have high speed from VTel.
Next Step: Set a meeting date to explain this project to residents and encourage residents’ attendance.
6. Public Hearing on Zoning – This issue was addressed later in the meeting, reported here under the heading Affordable Housing.

Old Business (Items from Parking Lot)

7. Reappraisal – Kord has unanswered questions about using NEMRC to conduct the reappraisal. He has asked representatives from NEMRC to speak directly to the selectboard and answer their questions. This is necessary before the selectboard approves the expenditure for the reappraisal.
Next Step: Set a date for this meeting that works for all selectboard members.

Executive Session

Moved: To adjourn the regular meeting at 6:32, and go into executive session. Kord moved and all agreed.

Next Step: Zoning administrator Alison Cummings will look for a training for her job and will attend selectboard meetings on a routine basis. Kord will ask Ellen to forward copies of all zoning permits to the selectboard.

Moved: To adjourn the executive session at 7:01 and return to the regular meeting.

Old Business (continued)

8. Community Bulletin Board – Michael reported on three possible ways to post community events, etc. – on the town website, on Facebook, and on Front Porch. He prefers using our website, but that would require updating our website policy. It would also require someone to review the postings to be sure there was nothing political or opinionated. Vance Bell, our volunteer website manager, is uninterested in that job. The selectboard could appoint a “moderator” for that role.
Next Step: Look at our social media policy and consider updating it.
9. Affordable Housing – Bill reported that he inspected the two houses the town has for sale. Current zoning regs would not allow for new building on these sites. He talked to folks with the Windham Windsor Housing Trust, and they are looking for folks to donate properties for affordable homes. They offered to do a presentation for the selectboard. Mountain Towns Housing is another group supporting affordable homes. They have a project in Londonderry. Kord reported that the Vermont Housing Improvement Project has posted new details for the support they provide landlords to bring rental units up to code. They provide up to \$30,000 for a single-family home. He reported that Bob Kehoe, Windham’s safety officer, said the power to the house on Woodburn needs to be disconnected. He will look at the property on Horsenail Hill and post safety signs, as the house’s foundation is collapsing, and the house may not be safe to enter.
10. Dog Complaints – The Clay’s have paid their recent fines, as well as installing fences. That ends this issue that has been on the selectboard’s agenda for months.
11. Parking Lot – At question is how much of the parking lot to include on the agenda.
Next Step: When the selectboard meets on Friday before a Monday meeting, they will decide how much to include on the agenda or whether to attach the full parking lot.
12. Logging Permits – The permits have been reviewed.
Next Step: The selectboard needs to determine who will follow up on violations.
13. Animal Officer Control Contract – Michael reported on his comparison between our previous contract and our new one. For 2022, we pay \$3500 for 832 hours of AOC’s time. The new contract for 2023 will cost us \$3000 for 1040 hours. AOC Ashley Pinger is now full-time and more towns are using her service.
Moved: To approve the contact. Kord moved, and all agreed.

14. Speed Study – A mechanical device has recorded the traffic on West Windham Road. (See attached report.) It found 638 cars on the road between June 21 and 29. There were 21 incidents of cars going over 45 mph. George was concerned the monitoring device was a camera which would have been intrusive, and he complained that the sheriff's department tickets folks on that road on weekdays and not on weekends when there is a significant increase in traffic with drivers going to Hamilton Falls. The selectboard did not agree on what the speed limit there should be. Michael suggested that other roads in town be monitored to determine an overall speed limit in Windham.
- Next Step:** Kord will contact the sheriff about monitoring the speed on other town roads, perhaps Wheeler, Abbott and Popple Dungeon.

Payroll/Bills

Michael questioned the town's paying for the uniforms of a member of the road crew and for the uniforms' cleaning. This costs the town \$2600 - \$3000 per year. He suggested that the funds for the uniform service could be used instead by the crew to buy their own work cloths, including boots.

Next Step: Kord will ask Treasurer Kathy Scott to talk to Michael about this.

Moved: To approve the pay orders received from the town treasurer. George moved, and all agreed.

Moved: To have Kord sign for the payments presented. George moved, and all agreed.

Adjournment

Moved: To adjourn the meeting at 7:47 PM. Kord moved and all agreed.

The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for August 1, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary McCoy, selectboard clerk
Approved with change made on August 1, 2022

Accompanying documents:

Michael Pelton's Statement for the Record

Russell Cumming Email 7-18-22

W. Windham Road – Speed Data Analysis