

**TOWN OF WILLISTON
SELECTBOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
November 19, 2019**

Approved 12-3-2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Macaig (Chair); Joy Limoge, Ted Kenney, Gordon St. Hilaire, Jeff Fehrs.
ADMINISTRATION: Rick McGuire, Town Manager; Erik Wells, Assistant to the Town Manager; Bruce Hoar, Public Works Director; Christine Dougherty, Stormwater Coordinator.
OTHERS PRESENT: Juliana Dixon, Shayla Livingston, Amy Brewer, Oliver Barkley, Glenn Bombardier, Bob Otty, Dave Yandell, Mike Weaver, Stuart Meyer, Diana Stewart, Art Greenbaum, Steve Hackett, Randy Bean, Darryl Montague, Pete Watson, Don Jarvis, Julia Nesbit, Sherry Simmons, Jason Starr (Williston Observer), Aiden White (Channel 17).

[Note: Minutes reflect the order of the published agenda.]

1. Call to Order

Chair Terry Macaig called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

2. Minutes

November 5, 2019

MOTION by Joy Limoge, **SECOND** by Gordon St. Hilaire, to approve the minutes of November 5, 2019 with the following correction(s)/clarification(s):

- Globally correct the spelling of “Melinda Scott”.
- Item #12, Town Manager Report, bullet re: the town’s financial status – insert “Vermont” between “30” and “communities”.

VOTING: 3 ayes, 2 abstentions (Ted Kenney, Joy Limoge); motion carried.

November 12, 2019

MOTION by Joy Limoge, **SECOND** by Ted Kenney, to approve the minutes of November 12, 2019 with the global correction of the spelling of “Melinda Scott”.

VOTING: 4 ayes, one abstention (Gordon St. Hilaire); motion carried.

3. Public Comment – General Issues

There were no comments at this time from the public.

4. Board Interview(s)

The Selectboard interviewed Oliver Barkley, Amy Brewer, and Shayla Livingston for a position on the Planning Commission.

5. Blue Pilot Storm Water Program

Stormwater Coordinator, Christine Dougherty, and Juliana Dixon with Salix Solutions discussed rewards/rebates through the Blue Pilot Storm Water Program for storm water mitigation measures installed by homeowners.

MOTION by Ted Kenney, SECOND by Jeff Fehrs, to establish a Blue Pilot Storm Water Program as presented. VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

6. Public Hearing: Noise Control Ordinance Amendment

The public hearing on the Noise Control Ordinance amendment was opened at 8 PM and the warning was read. Erik Wells noted the amendment is to Article 6.13 to allow times for shooting, special events, and hunter safety courses at the North Country Sportsmen Club (NCSC).

COMMENTS

Concern was expressed by residents living near the gun club about allowing events at the range on every weekend and the negative impact on quality of life for people and animals. Finding a balance between the needs of the club and the residents was encouraged. Suggestion was made to have the gun club specify the weekends when events will be held so residents can plan outdoor activities.

There were residents who spoke in support of the ordinance amendment.

There was mention that the amendments to the Noise Control Ordinance were guided by the 2017 Vermont Supreme Court ruling on the operation of the club as occurred in 2006.

There were no further comments.

MOTION by Joy Limoge, SECOND by Ted Kenney, to close the public hearing on the amendments to the Noise Control Ordinance. VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

The public hearing was closed at 8:38 PM.

7. Noise Control Ordinance Amendments

Ted Kenney reviewed the Supreme Court ruling on the historical operation of the gun range and the town's authority, noting the ruling did not give the town much discretion. It was noted the amendments allow special events on weekdays which could free up the weekends. The Selectboard agreed more notice should be given to area residents of events on weekends and at least one Saturday a month should be event free so residents can plan outdoor activities.

MOTION by Joy Limoge, SECOND by Ted Kenney, to table action on the Noise Control Ordinance amendments pending further discussion with the gun club on a compromise on Saturday events. VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

8. Trader Lane Project Update

Erik Wells gave an update on the Trader Lane project (public/private partnership). Funding for the \$2 million road project is mostly in place, but there remains a gap. The current proposal is to shift the intersection with Route 2 to the west to better align with Helena Drive. A Memorandum of Understanding with the private partners will be drafted for review by the Selectboard, and work will continue to address the funding gap. Construction could possibly begin in 2021.

The consensus of the Selectboard is to continue to move forward with the project.

9. Cannabis Legalization Resolution

Rick McGuire said the resolution on municipal authority attempts to amplify the town's voice before the state legislature on the legalization of cannabis. The Selectboard discussed the town having authority over commercial sale of cannabis.

MOTION by Joy Limoge, SECOND by Ted Kenney, to adopt the resolution supporting municipal authority in a commercial cannabis system as presented. VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

10. Appointment(s)

Planning Commission

MOTION by Ted Kenney, SECOND by Terry Macaig, to appoint Amy Brewer to the Planning Commission for an unexpired four-year term through June 30, 2020.

DISCUSSION:

- There was positive comment on each candidate which makes the decision to choose one individual very difficult.

VOTING: 2 ayes, 3 nays (Joy Limoge, Jeff Fehrs, Gordon St. Hilaire); motion did not carry.

MOTION by Jeff Fehrs, SECOND by Gordon St. Hilaire, to appoint Shayla Livingston to the Planning Commission for an unexpired four-year term through June 30, 2020. VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

11. Town Manager's Report

In addition to the written Manager's Report, Rick McGuire noted:

- Kudos to town staff for the support provided to town boards.
- The town is working to have the temporary bridge on Marshall Ave. opened as soon as possible. An engineering firm has been hired to find a temporary fix while work continues on a permanent fix.
- The finance report shows the local options tax revenue to be very high. Rooms & meals tax is holding well.
- A meeting was held with the library trustees to discuss the draft agreement relative to the charter change on library operations. A draft Memorandum of Understanding will be shared with the Selectboard at their next meeting.

12. Other Business

There was mention of not losing momentum on the items discussed at the recent Selectboard retreat.

13. Adjournment

With no further business and without objection the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 PM.

RScty by tape: MERiordan