

**TOWN OF WILLISTON
SELECTBOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
October 20, 2020**

DRAFT

***Meeting held by teleconference.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Macaig (Chair); Gordon St. Hilaire, Jeff Fehrs. (Joy Limoge and Ted Kenney absent.)

ADMINISTRATION: Erik Wells, Town Manager; Matt Boulanger, Planning Director; Melinda Scott, Conservation Planner.

OTHERS PRESENT: Participants in the meeting included Scott Whitaker, Caroline Aubrey, Alex Daley, Neira Valentic Rueben Escorpizo, Michael Monte, Brian Pine, Jason Starr (Williston Observer)

1. Call to Order

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

2. Minutes

October 6, 2020

MOTION by Gordon St. Hilaire, SECOND by Jeff Fehrs, to approve the minutes of 10/6/20 as presented. VOTING by roll call: unanimous (3-0); motion carried.

3. Public Comment – General Issues

Scott Whitaker, resident, asked if there will be any suggestions from the Selectboard on trick-or-treating safely during the pandemic including limiting the time period of the activity. Terry Macaig said the Selectboard will discuss the matter under ‘Other Business’.

Caroline Aubrey, Oakhill Road, urged mirroring movements taking place in other cities in the country and focusing on priorities for residents with the budget by funding programs, such as parks and rec programs, rather than level funding the police. Terry Macaig said the budget meetings will be starting soon and input/comments on the budget from the public is welcome.

4. Interviews/Appointments

Planning Commission

The Selectboard interviewed three individuals for the open position on the Planning Commission. Alex Daley, Neira Valentic, and Reuben Escorpizo each explained their interest in serving on the Planning Commission and their background experience.

5. Townwide Trail Assessment Update

Conservation Planner, Melinda Scott, gave a presentation on the cost to maintain the extensive network of trails in Williston. Trail usage is up considerably. A database of information on the trails including cost of maintenance can be accessed online. Presently

\$12,000 per year is in the operating budget for trail maintenance. The assessment provided cost considerations for capital and maintenance needs for the trail network for future planning and budgeting. Presently, there is one capital improvement project (Allen Brook bridge at a cost of nearly \$85,000). Staff recommends more information be gathered on the usage numbers to better target improvements and funding, and large maintenance projects be treated as capital improvements projects.

6. Housing Trust Fund

Michael Monte, Champlain Housing Trust, and Brian Pine, who helps administer the Burlington Housing Trust, briefed the Selectboard on establishing a housing trust fund based on their experiences and expertise. Planning Director, Matt Boulanger, said Williston has regulatory relief in zoning and fees for affordable units, but an ongoing area to address is perpetual affordability covenants. The Selectboard will continue discussion on establishing a housing trust at future meetings.

7. Retail Cannabis Marketplace Legalization

Matt Boulanger reported in order to have retail cannabis sales in Williston a vote by Australian ballot at a town meeting is required. The Town would receive the local option sales tax for cannabis sales like any other retail good. Boulanger stated the Selectboard should consider any changes to zoning regulations for the location of retail cannabis now, in preparation of any future allowed sales in Williston.

The Selectboard will further discuss the matter when all members are present.

8. VCDP Grant Close Out: Old North End Community Center

MOTION by Gordon St. Hilaire, SECOND by Jeff Fehrs, to schedule a public hearing for the Vermont Community Development Program grant close out for the Old North End Community Center Project. VOTING by roll call: unanimous (3-0); motion carried.

9. Planning Commission Appointment

MOTION by Jeff Fehrs, SECOND by Gordon St. Hilaire, to appoint Alex Daley to the Planning Commission for an unexpired four year term through June 30, 2023. VOTING by roll call: unanimous (3-0); motion carried.

10. Town Manager's Report

In addition to the written Manager's Report, Erik Wells noted:

- Selectboard retreat is 10/26/20. Form based code will be discussed. The retreat precedes the public information hearing on the Lamplight water line replacement bond vote.
- Early voting in Williston is underway with nearly 50% of ballots returned already.
- The Chittenden County Public Safety Authority plans to use office space in South Burlington for a future dispatch facility. Capital funding is needed to upfit the space. Williston's share of the upfit cost is \$34,000. The Selectboard needs to decide whether the Town wishes to contribute these funds.

11. Other Business*Municipal Roads Grants Aid Program*

Erik Wells said approval is needed for a letter of intent to participate in the Municipal Roads Grants Aid Program offered through Regional Planning and VT DEC to implement best management practices for the municipal roads general permit. The \$21,000 grant has a 20% local match. Jeff Fehrs mentioned he works for DEC. Following discussion, the Selectboard agreed there is no conflict of interest in acting on approval of the letter of intent.

MOTION by Jeff Fehrs, SECOND by Gordon St. Hilaire, to approve the letter of intent to participate in the Municipal Roads Grants Aid Program. VOTING by roll call: unanimous (3-0); motion carried.

BCA Ballot Processing

Terry Macaig said members of the BCA have been processing thousands of ballots from early voting and will continue to do so.

Trick-or-Treating

Following discussion, the Selectboard agreed information should be provided to the public on how to safely participate in trick-or-treating activities during the pandemic. Common sense should be used.

12. Adjournment

With no further business and without objection the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

RScty by tape: MERiordan