

**Town of Wilmington Selectboard and Town of Dover Selectboard
Special Joint Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2014
6:00-7:30 pm**

Wilmington Selectboard Present: Diane Chapman, Jake White, Susan Haughwout, Tom Fitzgerald, Town Manager Scott Murphy

Dover Selectboard Present: Randy Turk, Joe Mahan, Tom Baltrus, Vicki Capitani, Town Administrator Carlo Pilgrim

Others Present: Fire Chief Ken March, Fire Chief Rich Werner, Bob Rubin, Tom Consolino, Richard Covey, Ken Black and wife, Chris Mays (Brattleboro Reformer), Bill Spirka, Adam Grinold, Randy Johnson, Heidi Taylor

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm.

This meeting was for the purpose of the Towns' Selectboards to discuss the possibility of joint use of fire equipment, including a ladder truck.

The following comments were made:

- 1) Question was asked about how mutual aid would work
- 2) There may be ways to save tax payers money
- 3) The ladder truck is 15 years old and used frequently. The life expectancy is 25 years.
- 4) The Hermitage Club is 3.2 miles from Dover, and 5 miles from the Wilmington Fire Dept.
- 5) There are life safety issues, and the height of the Hermitage building is unknown at this time
- 6) Discussion on how mutual aid and fire districts and how they work
- 7) Discussed the initial set-up that Dover went through
- 8) Dover's ladder truck was paid 1/3 by Mt Snow, and 2/3 by the Town
- 9) What about renting a truck?
- 10) Town Fire Assets and their uses
- 11) Is there any way to combine fire staffing, work as a team between the towns?
- 12) 28% decline in volunteers since 1988
- 13) 1997 report from Dover discussed and given to Wilmington Selectboard for distribution.
- 14) There is a lack of volunteer presence on calls
- 15) Ski area can't be forced to hire fire volunteers
- 16) Think of some incentives to get volunteers to join
 - No dock in pay
 - Deduction on taxes
 - Junior firefighter programs need to get out into the schools
- 17) Huge volunteers problem on rescue, sometimes they need to call in to other towns
- 18) 13 fire volunteers are over 50 years old in Wilmington
- 19) There is a decrease in fire calls, but not in demand for fire services/more routine calls and false alarms.
- 20) Rescue has over 800 calls each year

21) Consolidation of schools and dwindling resources is a similar comparison

22) Media needs to list fire calls or have a fire report.

23) The two towns have had success working together on Valley Trail.

24) We will continue to schedule meetings, work together, and help facilitate ongoing discussions.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica DeFrancesco
Administrative Assistant

James Burke, Chair

Diane Chapman, Vice Chair

Susan Joy Haughwout, Clerk

Jacob White

Thomas Fitzgerald