

Wilmington Selectboard/Sewer Commission
December 20, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Present: Tom Fitzgerald, John Gannon, Sarah Fisher, Ann Manwaring **Absent:** Vince Rice

Others Present: Scott Tucker, Jessica DeFrancesco, Meredith Kenyon, Cindy Hayford, Tom Consolino, Nicki Steel, Diane & Lenny Chapman, Janet Boyd, Shelley Park, Joe Levy, Steve Goldfarb, Meg Streeter, Merrill Mundell, Meg Staloff, Alice & Alan Greenspan, Dario Lussardi, Lisa Sullivan, Andy Hauty, Lauren Sumner, Tucker Boyd, Amber Thibodeau

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to the Agenda
2. Approve Minutes of December 4, 5, 6, 8 and 15, 2017
Gannon moved to approve the minutes of December 4, 5, 6, 8, and 15, 2017, Fisher second; all in favor.
3. Social Services
 - Meredith Kenyon and Amber Thibodeau are requesting consideration for an appropriation of \$500 for the Southern Vermont Therapeutic Riding Center. They serve both children and adults with special needs. They are appealing to various towns for funding this year. A 30 minute session costs about \$60. Instructors have specialized training to serve those seeking their services. Approximately 88% of their clients can't afford the fees so they work on a sliding scale. Last year's budget was \$67,000 and they came in just under. The Selectboard agreed to consider it.
 - Gerda Silver has requested \$300 for Gerda's Equine Rescue in West Townshend Vt. - Tabled this discussion
4. OSEC Plowing
 - The Selectboard and OSEC discussed the possibility of the town highway department continuing plowing the parking lot at the OSEC building. The town attorney has some concerns like general liability and whether or not the town is plowing for any other non-profit organizations. Would the parking lot be included in the public parking system? Gannon asked if we plow it and it becomes part of the public parking system, does the town then need a lease agreement like they do on West Main St? Tucker believes the attorney would recommend one. Lussardi asked if anyone considered the liability of not plowing a space that has been perceived as a public space for so long? Fisher has mixed feelings about plowing the space and Steel commented that the parking lot is used casually by many people. Hayford commented that the difference between OSEC and other 501C3 organizations is that they are running a community center, serving the whole community. There was a consensus that the lot should continue to be plowed. Tucker will work with the town attorney on an agreement and contact OSEC.
5. Wings
 - Andy Hauty gave the Selectboard an update on their proposal for Memorial Hall renovations. Truss has been ordered. They are currently fundraising to raise \$34,782 for equipment and lighting. Lauren Sumner and Tucker Boyd spoke to how Wings brought performing arts (acrobats, trapeze, etc) all in one place and how much it has had a positive effect on them. Hauty discussed the portable flooring and mirrors he would like to install in the basement. They could be removed in about an hour, should the threat of another flood come. He is also asking the town to replace the double doors in the basement and to have the fire escape off the balcony looked at. Levy supports Wings and what it is trying to do but he wonders if there might be ramifications to the historic qualifications of the building based on the renovations proposed? Also, it's risky spending money

to renovate a space that has flooded several times. And are you creating a “permanent tenant” by letting one group make so many changes? The Steven’s and Associate report from 2012 was discussed. The report spoke to the basement and states that the more you solidify the basement, the more likely it is to collapse should another flood occur.

6. Windham Solid Waste Management District Budget

- Merrill Mundell gave the Board an update on the proposed WSWMD budget. Sky Solar may be up and running by June 2018.

7. Recycling Closure

- The Selectboard discussed the possible closure of the Beaver Street recycling location. There is a large amount of trash being dumped and we have someone pulling it out daily so we aren’t charged for contamination. Marlboro has re-opened theirs but they have moved it to the highway garage where it is less accessible. The Board will put an article on the town meeting warning to close MRF immediately.

8. Other Business

- Tucker and DeFrancesco met with Dale Doucette last week and looked at the lighting system at Memorial Hall. It is valued at around \$80,000 and he will sell it for \$8,000. The Board was in agreement that it should be purchased. It will come out of the Memorial Hall Capital account.

9. Select Board Members Comments and Other Action Items

- Gannon asked about Police Dept. enforcement of the truck “chain-up” motor vehicle law (T. 23 VSA 1006C) along the Route 9 corridor, between Bennington and Brattleboro. John pointed out that a truck without chains blocking the roadway during the winter months affects the Deerfield Valley economy by tying up traffic to the mountains.

10. Town Manager Updates

- Look Bridge is nearly complete with a check list of caulking and delineators/reflectors to complete.
- New Fire Chief begins work on January 1, 2017; press release will be issued.
- Town Sewer Main Extension Concept (Route 9 East) Meeting rescheduled for January 23rd, 2018, at 4:30 p.m., at Town Hall.
- Miller Road Solar Project (Green Lantern Group), Ralph Meima and Tucker testified at the DRB Hearing, on December 18, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., with a continuance to January 9th, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. DRB asked if the location of the solar site were challenged, what is the Selectboard’s legal authority to identify the Town Landfill area as a “preferred site” for this project, since the new Town Plan has yet to be adopted. Town Attorney, Ed Adrian, was consulted and following the Public Utility Commission’s Rule 5.103, this project does not need to also have a municipal plan in place, rather a joint letter of endorsement from the municipal legislative body and the municipal and regional planning commissions in the community where the net-metering system will be located stands in place of a municipal plan for purposes of the rule.
- Sugarhouse Row off Haystack Road. Deb from the Listers’ Office and Bob Fisher have done an exhaustive search of the tax sale lots which were sold by the Town over the 2005–2009 era. The end result is that a quit claim deed from Stratfield Associates will solve the issue for future development (i.e.: placement of storm water systems, etc.).
- Havreluk and Tucker met with Stevens and Associates at their offices to review a plan to complete Reardon Bridge with a cost effective solution for ADA compliant ramp. The last quote was \$72,000.
- Stevens and Associates discussed a Building Assessment & Flood Proof Review of Memorial Hall that was submitted in 2012, recommending a wet flood proofing strategy to prevent collapse.

- A letter was sent to Secretary of Education, Rebecca Holcombe, asking for her guidance on the use of 1% Local Option Tax to contribute to a pump track on school property as requested by the Hoot, Toot and Whistle Club. The issue is whether it would constitute an “education expense” under T.16VSA4020.
- Wastewater Treatment. Pump Station #3 by Nutmeg Inn sustained two pump failures. One pump was replaced and the second pump is on order. During the recent cold weather, John and Jeff manually pumped out #3 on a daily basis. There is an oil leak with a NORD RBC Drive at the Plant, awaiting a service group to repair the seal.
- Ed Adrian is monitoring a District Environmental Commission, Natural Resources Board, Jurisdiction Opinion #2-305 East Tract/Comtuck, LLC, as there may be some competing interests in Zoning and other entities. Comtuck has appealed to the E-Court since the opinion of the Commission is a full Act 250 permit application and review is required.
- The Hermitage and the Town are still in communication regarding tax liabilities and implications.
- Letter of Appreciation. Police Officer Patrick Brewer received a thank-you card for “coming to my rescue” and “A real life saver” saying that she was at the dealership now getting new tires...

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Jessica DeFrancesco

Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Wilmington Selectboard:

Thomas Fitzgerald, Chair

John Gannon, Vice Chair

Vince Rice, Clerk

Sarah Fisher

Ann Manwaring