

Wilmington Selectboard Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2019
Joint Meeting with the Whitingham & Readsboro Selectboards

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

Others Present: Scott Tucker, Sen. White and Rep. Sibilias, Whitingham and Readsboro Selectboard members, and members of the public.

The Wilmington Selectboard opened their meeting at 6:55 p.m. by joining the Whitingham Selectboard at their regularly scheduled meeting in Whitingham Town Hall, which included the Readsboro Selectboard:

1. Discussion topics on the agenda included introductions, fiber optics and formation of a CUD, state highways, state representation, grant writing, policing and schools.
 - legislators hosted a presentation by Dept. of Public Service on broadband challenges in rural Vermont, communications union districts, public/private partnerships and grant opportunities last month in Wilmington.
 - Players include EC Fiber, Matrix, Consolidated Communications, First Light, and Duncan Communications.
 - Readsboro and Stamford have working broadband committees.
 - Manwaring promoted the idea of a working group and all agreed. Wilmington's group will be Manwaring, Fisher and Havreluk. Manwaring leads the group and plans to report out in January 2020.
 - redistricting will take place after the Census. The mantra is "everyone must be counted." A loss in population relates to a loss in representation.
 - Gannon related that AOT does not consider Route 100 South and Route 112 to be on the top 50 worst roads in Vermont. Wilmington hosted Secretary Flynn last year, which was helpful to the paving efforts on Route 100 North. Concerns were voiced about plowing and traffic counts on the weekends during ski season, especially Fridays.
 - Gannon is tasked with setting up a public meeting in the future with AOT officials and local officials.
 - Discussion about the challenges in securing grants, grant writing and grant management. One suggestion was to hire a grant writer to help towns win more grants.
 - Whitingham officials are interested in talking with Wilmington about police services and the discussion centered on pros and cons of Sheriffs and VSP. Chief Murano is available to talk further.
 - In regard to schools, Whitingham's lawsuit is in Superior Court and is ongoing. The discussion centered on this historic challenge to Act 60. Rep. Sibilias talked about she and Rep. Gannon's experience with the Vermont Department of Education and their difficulty in securing a study to call attention and spur potential change in local efforts to offer a high-quality education experience and the inordinate taxation burden on small towns.

Selectboard meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Tucker
Town Manager

Approved by the Wilmington Selectboard:

Thomas Fitzgerald, Chair

John Gannon, Vice Chair

Vince Rice, Clerk

Sarah Fisher

Ann Manwaring