

Wilmington Selectboard Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2020

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

Others Present: Scott Tucker, Jessica DeFrancesco, Jake Roberts, Christine Richter, Karen Molina, Maria Stewart, Katies Boyd, Matt Murano, Elizabeth McEwen, Cheryl LaFlamme, Justin Will, John Neumann, Nicki Steel, Cindy Hayford, Mike Eldred, Meg Staloff, Lisa Sullivan, Mike Tuller, Gretchen Havreluk, Therese Lounsbury, Matt Cole

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to the Agenda
 - Add Outside Consumption Renewal for Village Roost under #9.
 - Masks for Retail establishments-8A
 - Ordinance for outdoor dining-8b
2. Approve Minutes of May 5, 2020
 - Gannon moved to approve the minutes of May 5, 2020, Rice second; all in favor.
3. Beaches
 - Boat launches will be opened by Great River Hydro, there will be no bathrooms The Sheriff has been instructed to break up groups trying to picnic when possible. Roping off picnic tables is being looked into. Users will not be screened. Reliance on people following rules and regulations is a large component, signage will be posted.
 - Lake Raponda has been barricaded and put signs up at Green Mt Beach. The buoys have not been put out and the picnic tables are tipped up and not set down. Unless we find somehow to clean things regularly, bathrooms and tables can't be put out right now. The new order allows beaches to open, but no groups larger than 10 and social distancing remains in effect. This is impossible to manage because Green Mt Beach is unattended. The Board agreed to keep Green Mt Beach closed for the time being.
 - John Neumann is grateful to hear Harriman will be open. Allowing people to self-police right now is a good step, though Harriman gets so crowded, maintaining distance will be difficult.
4. Summer and Fall Programs/Large Crowds
 - Old Home Week has postponed until next year. The fair has cancelled this year. Blueberry festival is expected to be cancelled; Wilmington Works is not planning any large events this summer. 4th of July is still in the air. Wings is planning to open summer camp. They had been working with the state and the task force to come up with a plan to move forward with in-person programming. The Association of Superintendents have expressed their opinion against in-person programming at this time, so Wings has stepped back and is re-evaluating their plan. The Summer Meal Program will continue this summer, being delivered by bus like they are currently. The Rec Committee was looking into running their program; however, they don't have a director and OSEC being open is in question. If they are open, hiring someone to clean throughout the day would have to happen. Due to all the regulations in place, they are leaning more towards just supporting the Wings Program this year.

- National Trails Day is coming up and is very popular. They won't be coordinating a gathering like they usually do, but they could advertise awareness of the day.

5. 1% Local Option Tax Fund Request

- Trails is requesting funds for mowing, lumber to fix bridges, and some miscellaneous costs. Fitzgerald moved to approve a 1% request from the Trails Committee in the amount of \$5,256.55, Rice second; all in favor.

6. Police Department Boat

- There is more activity on the lakes. They are involved in drowning incidents on the lakes on occasion. The nearest rescue boat is 2 hours away at Lake Bomoseen. The Game Warden is not typically available and the Fire Dept raft is not suitable for the type of use they would need. We would be responsible for winterizing and storing; approximately \$400, otherwise there would be no foreseen costs to the town. Rice moved to authorize the Police Chief to execute an MOU with the Department of Public Safety for use of Vermont State Police Marine Division Patrol/Rescue Vessel, Fisher second; all in favor.
- Fitzgerald moved to approve the Police Boat Policy, Rice second; all in favor.

7. Financial Review

- General Fund is at about 80% revenue and expenditure, which is on target. There is \$300,000 in tax revenue to collect which is better than anticipated. Highway looks like they may finish the year with a surplus. The salt, sand and overtime are under budget currently. Guardrails, crack sealing and resurfacing are on the list to try and get done this year. Wastewater is on target with revenues and expenditures. Sewer rent is on target as well. The second installment of the education fund was just paid. The town will be receiving a 1% payment this quarter.
- COVID-19 Related hardship requests; there are six taxpayers that have submitted requests for reduction in penalties and interest due to COVID 19. Last week S.344 was passed last week allowing Selectboards to establishing a grace period or decreasing/waiving penalties or interest imposed by late payments. Our taxes were due about two weeks before COVID affected Wilmington, Scott and Christine discussed that perhaps instead of a blanket decision, the requests should be heard on a case-by-case basis. And when the new bills go out later this year, revisit a grace period or something else. Fitzgerald would like to see the current 6 to go to the Board of Abatement, and going forward create a blanket procedure. Fisher agrees with Fitzgerald.

8. Policies

- The COVID-19 Policy was recommended by VLCT. It was created to protect employees and those who come into town buildings. It does follow OSHA requirements. Gannon moved to approve the Town of Wilmington's 2019 Safety and Health Workplan, Rice second; all in favor.
- Reviewed changes and updates to the personnel policy. Fitzgerald moved to approve the updated personnel policy, Gannon second; all in favor.
- Masks in retail establishments: employees are required to wear masks, but there are many going into shops and not using them. A town policy requiring all going into establishments to wear masks will help protect employees and help business owners. The board will meet at 8 am Thursday to approve a resolution.
- Outside dining; Planning would like the Selectboard to initiate the hearing process for outdoor dining because the current regulations don't allow the businesses to use their

parking areas in the historical/downtown districts. The administrative office felt that the ordinance lent the authority to the ZA to issue temporary permits in this case. Fisher would like a legal opinion on whether or not the ordinance gives the ZA the authority to issue these permits temporarily. A hearing will be warned for 15 days after it can be published in the paper (June 5th at 8 am or June 12th).

Fitzgerald moved to enter into liquor commission at 8:20 pm, Rice second; all in favor.

9. Liquor Licenses

- Fitzgerald moved to approve a First and Third class liquor license and Outside Consumption Permit for VT Gold Hospitality dba The Stack Restaurant at 70 Spyglass Drive and HMC Hospitality Inc dba Hermitage Club at 183 Gatehouse Trail; an Outside Consumption Permit for Jim's Bistro at the Roadhouse dba The Roadhouse at 4 Old Ark Rd; a First Class and Outside Consumption Renewal for The Village Roost LLC dba The Village Roost at 20 West Main St, Rice second; 3-0 Gannon recused.

Out of liquor commission at 8:29 pm

10. Other Business

11. Select Board Members Comments

- Sarah has been working with Therese at the town clerk's office, she is doing well but it seems trying because her and Pat are working opposite days.

12. Town Manager's Updates

- Our officer in training and teaching are accruing some over time but there may be some grant money for it.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica DeFrancesco, Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Wilmington Selectboard:

Thomas Fitzgerald, Chair

John Gannon, Vice Chair

Vince Rice, Clerk

Sarah Fisher
