

Wilmington Selectboard Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2020

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

Others Present: Scott Tucker, Jessica DeFrancesco, Matt Murano, Gretchen Havreluk, Tracy Bartels, Meg Staloff, Shawn Hammond, Tony Tribuno, Mike Eldred, John Lazelle, Howard Weiss-Tisman, Jessica Lee Smith, Luis Sanchez, Katie Knoll, David Larsen, Knowles Wentworth

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to the Agenda
 - Remove #8, will reschedule in near future.
2. Approve Minutes of July 21, 2020
 - Gannon moved to approve the minutes of July 21, 2020, Rice second; all in favor.

Rice moved to enter into liquor commission at 6:08 pm, Fisher second; all in favor.
3. Liquor Commission
 - Gannon moved to approve a Request to Cater Permit for Pipe Dream LLC dba Anchor Seafood Restaurant for a wedding at Spruce Lake Estate on September 19, 2020, Rice second; all in favor.

Out of liquor commission at 6:10 pm.
4. Action Items
 - Fitzgerald moved to appoint Scott Olmstead to the OHW Committee, Rice second; all in favor.
 - Fitzgerald moved to appoint the Town Manager as voting delegate at the 2020 VLCT Town Fair, Rice second; all in favor.
5. Mt Snow
 - Mt Snow Vice President and General Manager Tracy Bartels-childcare is being reviewed so it can reopen, employees' children will be priority, it will then be opened up to the community, with skier childcare still being thought out; details for opening the ski area are still underway; working on the contract for the school kids right now;
6. Police Dept
 - The Police Chief gave updates-had been using two portable speed signs, battery powered. There have been increased traffic complaints, which would need speed carts more permanently. Received award for two solar powered "permanently mounted" speed signs: one on East Main and one on West Main to help slow down traffic and for date collection. This would allow Police Dept. to place the portable signs in the school zones. Data collection hasn't seen an increase in speed, but the data collected is showing a larger volume of vehicles, which means the number of vehicles outside the average speed has increased. Chief Murano is in the process of applying for permits necessary to place the new signs. The town will own the signs and be responsible for maintenance; highway has offered to assist in installation.
 - Police Dept Social Worker-Knowles Wentworth works for HCRS, grew up in Brattleboro. Gannon is proud to see that Wilmington is using a social worker. He will be working three days a week; also working with Dover PD and WCSD. He envisions going on calls that involve domestic violence, hospice, drug abuse, suicide...he wants to acquaint himself with the community as the

coronavirus comes under control. He is new to this type of role, but has supervised similar roles. Fitzgerald feels this is a critical role that is needed.

7. Wilmington Economic Update Since Covid-19

- Havreluk gave an overview of the town. As of January 5 – June 4, real estate sales compared to last year are up with 46 closings, and 38 pending; there were no sales over \$1M last year, 3 sales over \$1M so far this year, and 3 more pending. Possible contributors– COVID (city families transferring to Wilmington, and Deerfield Valley), and the rejuvenation of the Hermitage Club. 63% of the 2019 grand list are second home owners. Will these new home owners become employees? Will they become business owners? Working on a “welcome page” on the website. Downtown shops are saying sales are up, but unpredictable. Most are working on an online presence. Workforce is a problem for restaurants and construction. Restaurants are feeling busy and are working on better “To-Go” service. Lodging booking is down, most bookings happening within 48-hours of their stay. Most on weekends, not weekdays. The Moover was having a record year before the pandemic, by the end of March they were down 80%. Dentist, hair and nail salons, and gyms are struggling. This is attributed to the cost and time of doing business.

8. Tax Rate

- Removed; will be added to another meeting.

9. Selectboard Open Seat

- **Tony Tribuno**: interested because he read that the process may be getting bogged down due to being short a member. Served on the Dover DRB for about 20 years, owns a restaurant and is a real estate broker. The \$5 coupons are being redeemed in his business. Has a fairly good sense of humor, a history in public service, and isn't necessarily looking to run for reelection in the spring. Will you have the time to sit through the possibly hundreds of appeals being a reappraisal year? Being a realtor, he makes his own schedule, and doesn't foresee an issue with that.
- **Meg Staloff**; currently on planning commission and the coordinator for Wilmington Works. Grew up here, raising a family here. Very involved, serves on the Lion's Club, helps with the Wings program, and has two kids in school. Intends to run in March if appointed now, and possibly even if not appointed now. Conflicts? Currently volunteering at the Chamber but not part of the Chamber. As a WW employee, have no vote/say; run by a board. Will have the flexibility for appeals; job is part-time and has both husband and mother to help with children.
- **Shawn Hammond**; always wanted to be involved. Was a town representative in Brattleboro, which is run very differently. Now that the PD is up to full-staff, he is able to take the time. Wants to help the community move forward. Conflicts? Town employee, votes for PD salaries. He does hear townspeople's concerns being out on the road. Feels he will definitely have time now that the dept is full staff. His Chief is in full support of this endeavor.

10. Other Business

11. Select Board Members Comments

- John Gannon attended Bob Grinold's service over the weekend, it was a nice service.

12. Town Manager's Updates

- State of Emergency extended to September 15th
- VT Census rate is low; Wilmington is at 26.7%
- Still working on WWD merger.
- Highway is in the process of replacing the box culvert on Ballou Hill.

- Met with LRA and discussed the dam, canoes and kayaks, and trespassers. Suggested they come to the SB and have a conversation.

13. Executive Session

- Fitzgerald moved to find that premature public knowledge of the appointment of a public official would place the town at a disadvantage, Rice second, all in favor.
- Fitzgerald moved to enter into executive session at 7:4 pm to discuss the appointment of a public official, Rice second; all in favor.

Out of executive session at 8:10 pm

- Gannon moved to appoint Tony Tribuno to the Selectboard for a term to expire at the next town meeting in March 2021, Rice second; all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica DeFrancesco, Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Wilmington Selectboard:

Thomas Fitzgerald, Chair

John Gannon, Vice Chair

Vince Rice, Clerk

Sarah Fisher
