

Wilmington Selectboard Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2020

Present: Tm Fitzgerald, John Gannon, Vince Rice, Sarah Fisher, Tony Tribuno

Others Present: Scott Tucker, Jessica DeFrancesco, Christine Richter, Sue Spengler, Chris Walling, Steve Geller, Cheryl LaFlamme, Tracy Bartels, Joann Erenhouse, Chris Brown, Charlie Foster, Angela Yakovleff, Paul Fisher, Ann Manwaring, Brain Harty, Therese Lounsbury, Michael Garber, Mike Tuller, Mike Eldred, Tasha Tobey–Pike, Fran Cunningham, Jessica Lee Smith, Paul Jenson, Matt Murano, Alan Baker, Gretchen Havreluk, Randi Greenspan, Geri Kogut, Cheryl LaFlamme, Shellie Rosan, John Lazelle, Steve Topper

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to the Agenda
 - Under other business; town report dedication and set budget meeting
2. Approve Minutes of October 20 and 27, 2020
 - Gannon moved to approve the minutes of October 20 and 27, 2020, Rice second; all in favor.
3. Social Services
 - Deerfield Valley Community Cares; Sue Spengler–worried about getting through the winter due to an increase in usage. They are requesting an additional \$1,000. She is looking at a shortfall this winter, and has applied for numerous grants.
 - Twin Valley Youth Sports; Chris Walling– they offer baseball/softball, soccer, basketball.
 - SeVCA; Steve Geller– they are an anti–poverty agency. They offer emergency housing services and emergency home repair, income tax prep services, and a solar energy credit through their new project.
 - Senior Solutions; Joann Erenhouse and Geri Kogut– advocate and support seniors, 110 calls and office visits this year, 15 elder residents received in–home services.
4. Action Items
 - Gannon moved to appoint Alan Baker as an alternate to the DV Fiber, Fisher second; all in favor.
 - The Selectboard discussed the annual request of the stump jumpers. Shellie Rosan commented that there have been concerns from residents in this area regarding this request. DVSJ apologize for any issues that may have arisen to property owners. DVSJ meet on the first Saturday of each month and encourage land owners and residents to attend meetings. Randi Greenspan stated that the VAST trail is up off Brown Rd, and maybe DVSJ could use that if an agreement couldn't be reached on Meadowlark Lane. Steve Topper commented that a re–route is being looked at right now. Gannon moved to approve the annual request by the Deerfield Valley Stump Jumpers for use of town roads for snowmobile access with the addition of a crossing at Higley Hill to Haynes Rd with the contingency of a report on the trail re–route on Haynes Rd, Rice second; all in favor.
5. Zoning Ordinance
 - Gannon moved to accept the proposed zoning ordinance from the Planning Commission, Rice second; all in favor.

6. Mount Snow

- Tracy Bartels, of Mount Snow, gave the Selectboard an update on ski season operations. MT Snow will be opening November 25th. They are preparing for everything so that they aren't caught off guard once the season starts. They are working to get as much of the mountain open as quick as they can to accommodate all of their guests. Boot up in the lot, ski, remove boots in the parking lot is what will be encouraged this year. Reservations can only be made one week in advance. They will be making sure guests are aware of the cross-travel guidelines in effect.

7. Homestead Penalty Waiver

- Gannon moved to waive the homestead late filing penalty for Joan Starkman, Rice second; all in favor.
- Statute allows the Selectboard to waive interest on taxes due to COVID. Due to the Board of Civil Authority meeting later than usual, some may not want to pay the first half until they have their appeal hearing. Fitzgerald moved to approve the waiver of interest on the first installments of tax payments received after November 13, 2020. Gannon second; vote: 4 in favor, Fisher-no .

8. Health Insurance

- BCBS doesn't have any criteria on Domestic Partners. VLCT sent a declaration the town could use, should the Board decide to authorize this. Dover does allow for domestic partnerships, neither Brattleboro or Bennington allow it. Gannon and Fitzgerald are in favor. Not everyone gets married, and this is another tool that could help attract employees. The Selectboard agreed to move forward with creating a domestic partner policy for health insurance.
- The BCBS plan went up 4%, we had budgeted a 6% increase. The out of pocket and deductible sent up slightly. The process would be the same, the employee pays half of their portion, then the town HRA kicks in, and the employee then pays the remainder if they max that out. Fisher moved to approve the Platinum BCBS health insurance plan for 2021, Gannon second; all in favor.

Enter liquor commission at 7:56 pm

9. Liquor Licenses

- Fitzgerald moved to approve a Second-Class liquor license application for HMC Hospitality Inc dba Hermitage Club at 183 Gatehouse Trail for the Restaurant and private club, Rice second; all in favor.

Out of liquor commission at 8:02 pm

10. Other Business

- Town report dedication; discuss it at the budget meeting after some thought
- 11/24 at 8:30 for budget meeting

11. Select Board Members Comments

12. Town Manager's Updates

- Commercial and residential users who are in arrears with water/sewer due to COVID can register and apply for assistance through the CARES Act.
- Governor has issued new regulations this week; limiting contact and travel.
- Secretary of State has received our packet of the water merger documentation.
- The transfer station has put the barricades back up; though most users are following guidelines
- The Police Chief received a PACIF grant for body cameras. The Town match is 50%.
- Public Safety Facility had a site visit with DRB followed by their last hearing; just waiting on the DRB decision.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica DeFrancesco, Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Wilmington Selectboard:

Thomas Fitzgerald, Chair

John Gannon, Vice Chair

Vince Rice, Clerk

Sarah Fisher

Tony Tribuno