

# Wilmington Selectboard Meeting Minutes

## December 1, 2020

**Present:** Tom Fitzgerald, John Gannon, Vince Rice, Sarah Fisher, Tony Tribuno (6:05)

**Others Present:** Scott Tucker, Jessica DeFrancesco, Debby Kingsley, Jerry Osler, Sheldon Brassor, Bill Bennehan, Therese Lounsbury, Meredith Kenyon, Cindy Hayford, Evon Mack, Joanne Bourbeau, Amber Thibodeau, Michael Garber, Mike Tuller, Shellie Rosan, Gretchen Havreduk, Mike Eldred, Randi Greenspan, Jeff Koslowsky, Jessica Lee Smith, Christine Richter, Pat Fay, Brian Harty, Charlie Sullivan, Steve Topper

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to the Agenda
2. Approve Minutes of November 17 and 24, 2020
  - Gannon moved to approve the minutes of November 17 and 24, 2020, Rice second; 4-0
3. Social Services
  - Deerfield Valley Food Pantry is distributing using “curbside” delivery, and are available for emergency deliveries if needed. They are only accepting monetary donations right now. 115 last year vs 127 this year. 10 more medium families, 4 more large families, 4 more extra-large families.
  - Deerfield Valley Community Partnership reducing drug and alcohol among youth. They have many youth and adult programs. Offering extra trainings. Mostly funded by federal and state grants, which limit the programs they can offer with those funds, so the town funds help implement additional programs.
  - Southern Vermont Therapeutic Riding founded in 2010 in Newfane and moved to the Deerfield Valley in 2016. Closed from mid-March until late May. There was zero income and restart was slow. By August they were back up to full operation.
  - Vermont Disaster Animal Recovery is an all-volunteer non-profit organization. The focus has been providing free pet food to those in need. There has been an increase of people stopping for pet food at each distribution.
4. Listers
  - The Selectboard and Listers discussed the possible change to a professional assessor’s office, and an article on the town meeting ballot. The reappraisal is unfinished and the listers feel it isn’t the right time to switch to a professional assessor right now. The Selectboard agrees that if the Listers want to stay on one more year, they should stay on.
5. Health Insurance Policy
  - Gannon moved to approve the group medical benefits and domestic partners policy, Fisher second; all in favor.
6. Stump Jumpers
  - Charlie Sullivan give an update on the trail off of Haynes Rd. The plan is to run up Haynes Rd to Brown Rd, about .4 miles, which isn’t unusual. The police chief and highway superintendent have ok’d this plan with a lot of signage for this year. Discussion occurred between parties about the direction of the trail along Haynes Rd, culverts, and ditches. No action taken.

7. Hermitage Members Club

- Jeff Koslowsky updated the Selectboard on the Hermitage status. Over 210 membership count as of now. The golf course has been sold off as well as the other inns. They are asking everyone for patience as they “restart”. They are endeavoring to do right by the community. Bill Benneyan discussed opening the mountain during COVID. Snow-making machines have been run and snowmaking begins next week. Lifts are up and running. December 12<sup>th</sup> is the targeted opening weekend with or without snow. Finding supply chains in the middle of COVID has been a challenge. Everything is in compliance and ready. Labor is the biggest challenge with inter-country travel off the table this year.

8. COVID Loans

- The town has been awarded \$173,898.14 through the LGER Grant. \$120,800 of is for the loans given to businesses. Gannon moved to give the Town Manager authority to change the loans granted to local businesses due to COVID-19 to grants if they meet the state’s criteria, Rice second; all in favor.

9. Action Items

10. Other Business

11. Select Board Members Comments

- Gannon discussed vacant and blighted buildings. Woodstock has a great ordinance.
- Gannon is discouraged with the Stump Jumpers. They continued to build the Meadowlark Lane trail after the last Selectboard meeting, and they haven’t applied for a single permit.

12. Town Manager’s Updates

- The water and wastewater arrearage program is still open
- March-now: town employees have had two positive tests, one sent home to quarantine due to extreme caution. Out-of-state travel guidelines have been and are still being followed
- There is a site visit December 4<sup>th</sup> for general contractor bidders on the Public Safety project. Bit opening is December 24<sup>th</sup> at 10 a m. Title work is complete.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jessica DeFrancesco, Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Wilmington Selectboard:

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Thomas Fitzgerald, Chair

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John Gannon, Vice Chair

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Vince Rice, Clerk

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Sarah Fisher

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Tony Tribuno