

# Wilmington Selectboard Meeting Minutes

## November 16, 2021

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

**Others Present:** Scott Tucker, Jessica DeFrancesco, Ann Manwaring, Gretchen Havreluk, Anne Guion, Becky Arbella, Terrie Dumaine, Chief Murano, Officer Kirkman, Amelia Nick, Bret & Ann Brown, Lorri Hall, Allyson Erickson, Jessica Lee Smith, Therese Lounsbury, Barker Willard, Cliff Duncan, Barbara Trudeau, John Lazelle, Mike Barber, Jim Knabe, Andrea and Jack Burke, Shellie Rosan, James Walker, Gene Clark, Paul Fisher, Charlie Sullivan, George and Joanne Paras, Jon Massari, Annie Guion, Ken and Barbara Lady, Charlotte Verny, Ryan Todd

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to the Agenda
2. Approve Minutes of November 2, 2021
  - Gannon moved to approve the minutes of November 2, 2021, Fisher second; all in favor.
3. Social Services
  - Windham County Humane Society provides veterinary care as well as adoption. 21 cats and 5 dogs received spay/neuter services, diagnostic services were given as well as humane euthanasia; took in 6 animals and reunited 1.
  - Senior Meals; service 40 people twice a week between the meal site and meal pick-up. Seven-ten are Wilmington residence that come in-person. Whitingham is the only other town that contributes alongside Wilmington.
  - SASH; third year receiving funds from Wilmington. The Foodbank does about 38 deliveries. They have 10 iPads out on loan so they are able to offer telehealth.
  - VNH; works with 140 towns. Provided 717 homecare visits to Wilmington residents. Hospice services had 78 visits for 3 residents.
  - VT Bar; not present
4. Action Item(s):
  - Gannon moved to approve the Grants in Aid Equipment Purchase Letter of Intent for FY22, Rice second; all in favor.
5. Deerfield Valley Fiber
  - Deerfield Valley Fiber members Ann Manwaring and Gretchen Havreluk gave an update on their project. DV Fiber has been all-volunteer, with near 50 members. There are six phase one towns, which are the least served towns. The building process should be starting soon; pre-construction, make ready with the power company, and then design & engineering.
6. Ray Hill Rd
  - The Selectboard discussed the Ray Hill Rd traffic with the Police Chief. Traffic and increase in residents have been ongoing concerns throughout town. The police department has been working to address some of the traffic safety concerns on Ray Hill over the last couple of years; speed, increase in traffic, blind driveways. Enforcement has been increased and some signs have been put into place. There were about 141 cars/day going one-way last year. This year it is up to 321 on heavy traffic days. High speeds are not registered generally, but there is a large increase in traffic count. The road was not built for that kind

of activity. About 65 vehicles this year have been stopped for some sort of traffic violation. The Chief has contacted Garmin about Lake Raponda and Ray Hill as re-routes, and some adjustments have been made. Speed bumps and speed tables were mentioned during a meeting with Ray Hill residents. A local ordinance making it a non-thru traffic roadway was also discussed; from the intersection with Mann Rd to Rt 9. This would push traffic to other areas like Haystack Rd. Navigation units could be advised of this and it would be removed as a re-route. Lori Hall commented that she has seen many cars going by much faster than the speed limit. Barker Willard has had cars try to pass him on Ray Hill. The Board will look at a draft ordinance at their second December meeting.

#### 7. Stump Jumpers

- The Haynes Rd request is different than last year. The new proposal keeps them away from Meadowlark and off Brown Rd. They are still waiting for final landowner approval. There is concern about traffic at the Haynes Rd/Higley Hill crossing. Snowbanks will narrow the bridge. Once the Stump Jumpers gain permissions for the one parcel of land they need, and the police dept assesses the safety concerns, it will be revisited. Gannon moved to approve the annual request by the Deerfield Valley Stump Jumpers for use of town road for snowmobile access, with the exception of the crossing of Higley Hill Rd to Haynes Rd, Rice second; all in favor.

#### 8. American Rescue Plan Act

- The Board discussed the ARPA funding for the Town. (Document attached).

#### 9. Other Business

#### 10. Selectboard Members Comments

- The state is going into special session to discuss legislation on town mandated masks, that will need to be reviewed every 30 days. They will also be looking at allowing towns moving to Australian ballot by vote of the town's governing body without the need of a floor vote.
- Fitzgerald noticed kayaks are being removed from the stack on Lake Raponda.
- Fisher feels like there is a theme to meetings lately; and that is "growing pains". The small-town feel, but also the economics of the town should be kept in mind.

#### 11. Town Manager's Updates

- 9 South Main St project went very well and it is complete.
- Planning Commission has sent the vacant building ordinance to him for review.
- Lake Raponda dam has had trees cleared up to 15-ft from the dam.
- Met with Somerset regarding fire coverage and no changes have come from it yet.
- Mt Snow will be postponing their opening
- Town Manager, Police Chief and Rep Gannon have been interviewed by DCTV
- Chief Murano issued a letter of accommodation to Officer Kirkman.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 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