

Wilmington Selectboard Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2021

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

Others Present: Scott Tucker, Jessica DeFrancesco, Amelia Nick, Kevin Rogers, Lorri Hall, Jon Massari, Jack Widness, Gretchen Havreluk, Ryan O'Neil, Meg Staloff, Cory Ross, Therese Lounsbury, Ian & Tiffany Sausville, Darlene Betit, Brian Holt, Dennis Heberlein, Chuck Clerici, Jessica Lee Smith, Sheila Osler, Ken & Barbara Lady, Dave Larsen, Meg Streeter, Charlotte Vemy

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to the Agenda
 - Dennis Heberlein commented on the upcoming vacant building ordinance
 - Adding tire price increases to action item #2, and elected officials' deadlines to other business.
2. Approve Minutes of November 16, 2021
 - Tribuno moved to approve the minutes of November 16, 2021, Rice second; all in favor.
3. Social Services
 - Kevin Rogers from the VT Bar Foundation, which is connected to the Association by fundraising and giving funds to social justice projects. They fund a fellowship; the current fellow has 24 clients. Twelve families have received aid from the foundation this year. This service helps those who need help in family court, are unemployed, and cannot navigate the system, and similar assistance. The Foundation helps fund legal aid.
4. Action Item(s):
 - Fisher moved to accept the resignation of Geri Kogut as the Senior Solutions representative, Rice second; all in favor.
 - Tribuno moved to approve Transfer Station pricing increases for disposal fees of \$45 for mattresses and box springs, and \$60 for sleep sofas; and tires (assorted pricing as listed); Rice second, all in favor.
 - Tribuno moved to approve the 2021 Errors & Omissions from the Listers, Fisher second; all in favor.
 - The Selectboard scheduled a budget meeting on Tuesday, December 14th at 7:30 a.m.
5. Greeter Program
 - Jack Widness and Cory Ross gave an update on the Harriman Reservoir Greeter Program. The state is trying to transition funding for the program. Harriman has 30-40 times the number of trailer boats than Lake Raponda. Fitzgerald commented that Harriman is private property, so it would have to be discussed amongst the Board.
6. 1% Local Option Tax Request
 - The Public Safety Committee is looking to plan an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony in June for the new building on June 25th with a rain date of July 9th. Band, food, advertising, and porta-potties are proposed at a "not to exceed" amount of \$8500. Police vs Fire softball and t-shirts are also being discussed. Gannon moved to approve the 1% request made by the Public Safety Facility Committee for an amount not to exceed \$8500, Rice second; all in favor.

7. Traffic Ordinance

- A new section was added to the traffic ordinance, Article VII. Special Use Roads, designating the use of Ray Hill Road for residents and traffic with business in the area only, essentially no thru traffic. Heberlein asked what the traffic is each year, and that traffic will be diverted to Chimney Hill instead. He thinks this change will be bad for the residents in Chimney Hill. Ken Lady thinks the average speed is very misleading. Larsen doesn't think the issue is volume. The Chief and Highway Dept. have been very responsive and helpful. He feels speed is the real issue. Hall feels speed and volume are both issues; police have been helpful, but they should be there first thing in the morning and at 4 p.m. (skiers heading to and from Mount Snow). Staloff asked about rerouting maps. Officer O'Neil commented that tickets won't be issued only for traveling in the area as it is a secondary offense; if a vehicle is stopped for speeding and is found in violation of this new article, then a second ticket could be issued. If this article is passed, it can then be taken off of GPS routes. Heberlein suggested alternatives like flashing lights, blind hill signs, etc. Fisher feels like other avenues need to be looked at because this will affect other areas. Tribuno moved to approve the proposed amendments to the traffic ordinance, Gannon second; 4-1 in favor.

8. North Main Sidewalks

- Gretchen Havreluk updated the Board on the North Main St Streetscape Project. Dufresne Group was hired; only two RFP's were received for the design. There will be a public meeting next Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. Light posts and a crosswalk are being proposed, though the state will probably deny the crosswalk by Lyle Hill Road.

9. Face Coverings in Town

- The resolution, Municipal Regulatory Authority; Temporary Authority to Adopt Rules Requiring Face Coverings, would be in effect for 45 days and would have to be re-address every thirty days thereafter. There are businesses taking steps to clean the air in their buildings, taking it into their own hands that way. By having a mandate, it puts some businesses in the position of having to confront patrons. Streeter is more concerned about outreach for those who feel a mask is not enough and how to treat when infected. The Deerfield Valley Health Center is so busy, they aren't taking new patients. Sheila Osler stated that the Red Mill requires masks for unvaccinated guests. Gannon moved to approve the resolution requiring masks be worn in all public buildings and town owned buildings, Fisher second; all in favor.

Fitzgerald moved to enter into liquor commission at 7:26 pm, Rice second; all in favor.

10. Liquor Commission

- Fitzgerald moved to approve a Request to Cater Permit for Jim's Bistro for an event at Memorial Hall on December 31, 2021, Tribuno second; all in favor.

Out of liquor commission at 7:26 pm.

11. Other Business

- The Town Clerk gave a rundown of the Elected Officials terms coming due this spring.

12. Selectboard Members Comments

- Rice would like to look at getting a flashing speed sign on the straight-a-way before the 25 mph zone on Ray Hill.

- Gannon is having a bill drafted that would require costs of fire services be paid by the unincorporated town.

13. Town Manager's Updates

- There is a petition for cannabis retail; Cindy Hayford of DVCP would like to meet with the Board to discuss the creation of a cannabis control commission.
- Downtown designation 4-year review is due March 2022.
- Vacant building ordinance should be on the next agenda.
- VSP response has been reduced for certain types of calls, increasing agency assists from other town agencies.
- The Fire Dept held their annual Ladies Night and awards issued to: Matt Somerville 5 years, Brian Wuoti 5 years, Mark Tiddes 5 years, DJ Pike 10 years, Dan Elliott 10 years, Johnny Hescoock 15 years, Donnie Wilson and Jeremy White 20 years, John Lazelle 25 years, Scott Moore and Leigh Thomson 30 years, Marc Lipson and Jeff Silverman 35 years, and Brian Johnson 50 years. Former Chief Brian Johnson received the Firefighter of the year for 2020, and Asst. Chief Bill Spirka received Firefighter of the Year 2021. A moment of silence was requested for the loss of two longtime firefighters this past year, former Fire Chief Jake White and Asst. Chief Richard Covey.

14. Executive Session

- Fitzgerald moved to find that premature general public knowledge of the janitorial contract would place the town at a substantial disadvantage, Rice second; all in favor.
- Fitzgerald moved to enter into executive session at 7:56 pm to include the Town Manager and Administrative Assistant, to discuss a janitorial contract, Rice second; all in favor.

Out of executive session at 8:19 pm

- Rice moved to authorize the Town Manager to sign an agreement with House to Home, Gannon second; all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 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