

Wilmington Selectboard Meeting Minutes November 7, 2023

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

Others Present: Scott Tucker, Jessica DeFrancesco, Marshall Dix, Becky Arbella, Gretchen Havreluk, Matt Murano, Nicki Steel, John Redd, Andrea Silverman, Bob Bois, Therese Lounsbury, Ryck Morales, James Walker, Sam Kondracki, Bonnie Lorimer, Meg Streeter, Jessica Lee Smith

Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to the Agenda
 - Ryck Morales of FEMA informing the town that they are still here and there are still programs available.
 - John Redd wanted to comment on what he felt was abuse of process at the Planning Commission meeting. He is asked for the resignation of the Chair.
 - James Walker is asking for clarification on next steps for STR's.
2. Approve Minutes of October 17 and 24, 2023
 - Tribuno moved to approve the minutes of October 17, 2023, Rice second; 4-0, Gannon abstained.
 - Gannon moved to approve the minutes of October 24, 2023, Fisher second; 4-0, Fitzgerald abstained.
3. Social Services
 - SASH is requesting an additional \$5000. They are seeing more needs and overseeing more programs. Distributing 46 boxes of food a month; 20 in Wilmington. Dover is the only other town contributing. Dover currently contributes \$20,000.
4. Action Items
 - Fisher moved to approve the amended municipal resolution for the Arts & Cultural Regional Plan, Gannon second; all in favor.
 - Gannon moved to approve the amended zoning fee schedule listing the .10/ft change, Tribuno second; all in favor.
 - Fisher moved to approve the FY24 Grants-in-Aid Supportive Work Request, Rice second; all in favor.
 - Gannon moved to appoint Bob Bois as the Energy Coordinator for the remainder of a 1-year term, Fisher second; all in favor.
 - Gannon moved to approve the Wilmington Energy Committee Resolution, Tribuno second; all in favor.
5. Police Dept Drone
 - A drone will help to keep officers and emergency personnel from exposure/unsafe conditions like being on a frozen lake searching for a lost person. They have the FAA license to operate the drone. Search and rescue will be a primary use, and collision mapping as a secondary. Gannon moved to approve the purchase of a drone from Skydio in the amount of \$16,144.09, Rice second; all in favor.

6. Highway Road Re-Classification

- Highway is applying to the state for re-classification of Shearer Hill Rd. This will increase the amount of state aid the town receives; paving may be all the way through to the town line, and the state will paint the yellow lines. The Selectboard supports the possible re-classification of Shearer Hill Rd from a Class 3 to a Class 2 road.

7. Town Meeting Survey

- The Selectboard reviewed the results of the survey regarding town meeting. There were 192 respondents. PowerPoint available at <https://wilmingtonvermont.us/committees-minutes/selectboard/>. Streeter stated that maybe mailing ballots is an option, since the highest turnout year was during COVID. Hybrid or virtual meetings is a question for the legislature. Steel commented that some people don't attend if the skiing is good. Her wish is for the town to make a 3-year commitment to try different things, to try and increase participation.

8. 1% Local Option Tax Fund

- Town employees have been looking at different holiday lighting options at Town Hall and are leaning toward snowflakes. Lorimer would like the greenery that used to be put on the building to be considered. Wilmington Works is running a program to try and get business lighting the same color running through the downtown. Gannon moved to approve \$8000 for holiday lights on Town Hall from the 1% Fund, Rice second; all in favor.

Fitzgerald moved to enter into Liquor Commission at 6:45 pm, Rice second; all in favor.

9. Liquor Commission

- Tribuno moved to approve a 1st and 3rd Class renewal for Roberts Roadhouse, Fisher second; all in favor.

Out of Liquor Commission at 6:46 pm.

10. Other Business/Correspondence

- We have a request to support tomorrow's leaders; a request to sponsor a student's trip to the Galapagos Islands.

11. Select Board Members Comments

12. Town Manager's Updates

- 37 West Main and 12 S Main received Downtown and Village Center tax credits.
- A bridge repaired after Irene, on East Brook Crossing, has been inspected and found to be in poor condition due to the shifting of the wingwalls.
- Chris, Tom and Scott graduated from their AMP training.
- Hitt DRB appeal has been assigned to appeals.

13. Executive Session

- Fitzgerald moved to find that premature general public knowledge of a possible land purchase would place the town at a substantial disadvantage, Rice second; all in favor.
- Fitzgerald moved to enter into executive session at 7:29 pm, to include the town manager and highway superintendent, to discuss a possible land purchase, Rice second; all in favor.

Out of executive session at 8:10 pm; no action taken.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved by the Wilmington Selectboard:

Thomas Fitzgerald, Chair

John Gannon, Vice Chair

Vince Rice, Clerk

Sarah Fisher

Tony Tribuno