

## **Wilmington Selectboard Meeting Minutes November 19, 2024**

**Present:** Tom Fitzgerald, John Gannon, Vince Rice, Tony Tribuno, Charlie Foster (Zoom)

**Others Present:** Scott Tucker, Marshall Dix, Therese Lounsbury, Bonnie Lorimer, Bob Bois, Tim Dolan, Gretchen Havreluk, Randy Schoonmaker; Zoom: Anand Fedele, Samantha Kondracki, Beth Leclair, Mike Garber, Ivy Kirby (DVN) .

### **Meeting Called to Order at 6:00 p.m.**

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to the Agenda
2. Approve Minutes of October 15, October 22, and November 5, 2024
  - Gannon moved to approve the minutes of October 15, 2024, Rice second; all in favor; Tribuno and Foster abstain.
  - Tribuno moved to approve the minutes of October 22, 2024, Rice second; all in favor; Gannon and Foster abstain.
  - Fitzgerald moved to approve the minutes of November 5, 2024, Rice second; all in favor; Foster abstain.
3. Action Items
  - Gannon moved to approve the private road name of High Peak Way, off of Haystack Road, Rice second; all in favor.
  - Gannon moved to approve the annual road request from Deerfield Valley Stump Jumpers (Mike Garber), off of Haystack Road, Tribuno second; all in favor.
  - A discussion took place on the dissolution of the Town Hall Re-Location Committee, with some members in attendance who would like to stay on for 7-months longer. Gannon, chair of the committee, indicated a lack of consensus having narrowed the field to four potential parcels. Rice moved to approve the request for dissolution of the Town Hall Re-Location Committee, Gannon second; approved 4-1.
4. Bi-Town Marketing 1% Request
  - The Selectboard received a year-end review of the Bi-Town Marketing using digital marketing campaigns (Gretchen Havreluk & Tim Dolan). An overview of AirDNA showed 1000 STR listings showing a 36% increase in the area encompassing Wilmington and four nearby towns; 40% AirBNB, 19% VRBO. Most rentals are entire homes as rates are decreasing. ZA indicated issuance of 172 STR permits, 75 applications in process, & 125 violations under investigation. Dolan presented data related to digital Ads, increased "clicks" during fall foliage, Wine & Harvest, increasing so-called impressions, landing page clicks, reaching more of the "right people" who may convert to traveling to Wilmington; views are up year-over-year. The overall budget request

increase is 7%, with a request to both Dover and Wilmington of \$115,341 each, with a continuation of "Where Vermonting Begins" campaign.

- Tribuno moved to approve the Bi-Town Marketing 1% request in the amount of \$115,341, Gannon second; approved 4-1.

#### 5. Moover Funding Request

- The MOOver's CEO Randy Schoonmaker presented an overview of the transit business, servicing 29 towns along the Connecticut River, and 5 towns in Deerfield Valley; requesting funds from seven towns not asked before, with a total of 34 towns, while applying for grants to fill a funding gap as the result of shrinking or expected level funding from the state.
- Fitzgerald moved to approve the MOOver's 2025 funding request for an annual meeting article in the amount of \$4,000, Gannon second; all in favor; Rice abstained.

#### 6. MERP Grant

- The Selectboard received information from the Energy Committee with a breakdown of grant funding to be received: Town Hall \$133,386.10; Memorial Hall \$85,614.10; \$94,155.50 for a total MERP Grant of \$313,155.70.
- Gannon moved to approve the MERP Grant in the amount of \$313,155.70, Rice second; all in favor.

Entered into the Liquor Commission at 7:16

#### 7. Liquor Commission

- Gannon moved to approve a Third-Class License for Valley Craft Ales, LLC, Rice second; all in favor.

#### 8. Other Business/Correspondence

#### 9. Selectboard Members Comments

- Gannon & Rice while performing BCA property inspections wanted to know how to report when someone appears to be in need of social services. Place a report with Wilmington Police Dept.
- Foster requesting to replace Fisher (former Selectboard member) on the Bi-Town Economic Group; agreed, general consent.
- Fitzgerald said the tennis courts look fabulous.

#### 10. Town Manager's Updates

- Chamber's Wine & Soup Stroll - Vermont Wine & Harvest Festival awarded \$6747 was great success, with best attendance ever.
- Police Dept. hiring continues, with promotion of Officer Cadorette from PT to full-time; a police officer candidate is in background phase.
- East Main sidewalk and sewer line project is still in easement phase under legal review.

- Memorial Hall visited by State VEM and FEMA for inspection of flood proofing grant.
- Highway - bridge and culvert repairs/replacement priorities at Green Road, Castle Hill and Old Ark Road.
- Certification renewals for Transfer Station and Municipal Landfill are due in March and June 2024, working with KAS Engineering on an agreement.

Meeting adjourned 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Scott A. Tucker, Town Manager*

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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Tony Tribuno

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Charles Foster