

## Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 28, 2022 at 6 pm, Town Hall and Zoom

**Present:** Denise Wheeler (Chair), Sharon Winn Fannon (Vice Chair), Rick Kehne (Member), Marc Mihaly (Member), ORCA Media, Clif Emmons\*, Alfred Larabee, Road Commissioner; Olivia Leclerc, Rural Community Organizer, Americorps VISTA and Eva Zaret, Public Health Specialist at CVMC; John Kaeding; Roger Strobridge  
**Absent:** John Brabant (Member)

\*Indicates attendance by Zoom video call

1. Call to Order: Denise Wheeler called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.
2. Executive Session for Personnel Matters: Denise Wheeler made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:05 pm per 1 V.S.A. subsection 313 (a) (3), personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Sharon Fannon, voted on and carried unanimously. The Board resumed Regular Session at 7:03 pm. The Board had nothing to report publicly.
3. Public Comment: None.
4. Review, Additions/Changes to Agenda: None.
5. Review and Approve Warrants: The Board reviewed and approved processing of invoices and orders.
6. Debrief on February 19, 2022 Town Meeting Public Informational Meeting:

On behalf of the entire Selectboard, Denise Wheeler thanked Clif Emmons for his efforts in coordinating and managing the online presentation of the meeting via Zoom. Clif thanked Jamie Moorby and John Brabant for their assistance as Zoom co-hosts at the Town Hall. Clif recommended that at any future hybrid town meetings there should always be a primary host logged in on Zoom as well as a secondary host who is logged in while in attendance at the physical location of the meeting. Clif also suggested that the Selectboard might want to consider recruiting a third host who would be responsible for presenting any documents shared during the meeting. He also suggested that at some point, the Selectboard might want to install another overhead monitor at the Hall.
7. Road Commissioner:

Status of Road Crew hiring: Alfred stated he has not received any new applications or letters of interest. Alfred requested an application he can give potential candidates. Denise will check to see what we have on file.

Status of truck inspections: Alfred will not have the “spare” that is being sold once we received our new (used) vehicle. He will have the other truck inspected next week (weather permitting). The Board learned that the road crew has been using the “spare”

truck, which is uninspected, and made clear that if a truck is going to be in use, it MUST be currently inspected. Using uninspected trucks could be a liability should there be an accident and could affect the crew's CDL license.

Alfred reported that a towns person expressed concern that the material used on town roads could puncture bicycle tires. The board discussed its awareness of ongoing concerns about speed of traffic on Lightning Ridge Road and had a brief discussion about portable speed carts. The board confirmed Alfred has authority to move the portable speed cart. Sharon Winn Fannon expressed desire to have a continuous presence for the cart on Lightning Ridge Road, or some other solution that is permanent. The board agreed the question of how many speed carts the town has, and where they are placed, and how to calm traffic on Lightning Ridge Road should be a future agenda topic.

The board also requested that Alfred consider in advance topics that require Selectboard discussion and ask in advance for an item to be on the board's agenda.

Approve Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) Annual Report 2022 form: Rick Kehne made a motion to approve, 2nd by Marc Mihaly and the board unanimously approved.

8. Drug and Alcohol community forum:

The Board welcomed Olivia Leclerc, Rural Community Organizer, Americorps VISTA and Eva Zaret, Public Health Specialist at CVMC. Oliva explained that Central Vermont Prevention Coalition (CVPC) is an interdisciplinary collaboration of professional organizations and agencies working in the fields of substance use prevention, harm reduction & disease prevention, treatment, recovery, and restorative justice. Central Vermont Medical Center serves as the foundational "backbone" member of the coalition.

a) CVPC's mission is to create a harmonized and stigma-free system of care in Central Vermont where there is no wrong door, no wrong time to get help and support for substance use disorders, and to prevent the initiation of substance use. The participation of people and families who have experienced the harms of substance use are vital to our work.

b) Olivia and Eva explained that they are working to organize a Drug and Alcohol community forum within your supervisory union (we are doing these throughout Washington County and just had our first one with Orange, Northfeild, Williamstown, and Washington last week, and have another scheduled for Montpelier & Roxbury next month).

c) CVPC is on the school board's agenda for March 16th to promote the forum for the supervisory union. The forum is scheduled for **April 5th via Zoom**. The group is trying to meet with all towns in the supervisory union before the April forum to promote the event and answer questions. The Board thanked Olivia and Eva for the great work they are doing and expressed support for their efforts.

9. Curtis Pond Dam congressionally directed spending request application:

Marc Mihaly, in his capacity as a member of the Curtis Pond Association (having recused himself from Selectboard deliberations and voting on this matter) explained that the Letter of Interest previously approved by the Board had been received by Senator Leahy's staff who encouraged the Town to submit a formal application. The Board reviewed the proposed

budget for the application (a \$400,000 request with an additional \$100,000 in donations), and authorized Denise Wheeler and John Brabant as liaisons to the Curtis Pond Association for this matter to serve as the named points of contact for the application and submit the same, requesting also that Marc Mihaly provide assistance as necessary.

Sharon Winn Fannon articulated her ongoing request that the board continue to improve its discipline around conflict of interest. Sharon noted that the board would be better positioned for an arms length discussion if Denise and/or John as liaisons to the project brought the request forward and Marc appeared independently and clearly as an advisor from the Curtis Pond Dam Association.

Motion by Sharon Winn Fanon to authorize the submittal of an application for a Congressionally Directed Funding Request for Curtis Pond Dam by and with Denise Wheeler and John Brabant as named points of contact, seconded by Denise Wheeler. Approved 3-0 with Marc Mihaly recusing himself.

10. Worcester Cell Tower update: No update.

11. Review and approve minutes

Sharon Fannon moved and Rich Kehne seconded to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2022 meeting, the motion passed unanimously.

12. Executive Session for Personnel Matters: None.

13. Other Business/Old Business/New Business: None.

Denise Wheeler stated that she and Sharon had agreed to take the lead on revisions to the Town's Personnel Policy. They each acknowledged that neither has had time to work on this project. Denise contacted Cindy Koenemann-Warren (the town's consultant during Union negotiations) to see what she would charge to make the updates. Cindy said she could do this for \$500-\$1000. Denise stated we should get this done soon as new staff are onboarding. Sharon and Denise will meet to make a list of issues the board wants to address in its updated personnel policy, for discussion with the full board before it goes to Cindy for drafting. Marc expressed his concern that the work on personnel policy not derail the work to develop a public works director job description.

Sharon noted that hybrid meetings, i.e. in person and Zoom contemporaneously, is unworkable for everyone. She requested a future agenda discussion on being 100 percent in person, or 100 percent on Zoom, but not hybrid.

ARPA - Denise explained that she has been following this matter, attending Zoom meetings and reading detailed information. She would like to schedule Grace Vinson, CVRPC to attend one of the Board's next meetings either March 14 or 28 to begin the discussion and process for disbursement of funds. CVRPC and VLCT staff have consistently advised towns that there is no rush and to be thoughtful on the best process for spending the funds received.

Denise noted upcoming meetings to conduct interviews for the treasure position.

14. Adjournment: Marc Mihaly made a motion to adjourn at 8:06 pm. Rick Kehne seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Date: 3/5/2022 Respectfully Submitted, Denise Wheeler

*Approved by the Selectboard at the April 11, 2022 meeting.*