

Town of Winhall Selectboard
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, March 22, 2023

PRESENT: Stuart Coleman; Bill Schwartz; Julie Isaacs; Lissa Stark (Town Administrator); Trevor Dryden (Highway); Scott Bushee (Facilities/Transfer Station).

ALSO: Deb Avison (Town Treasurer); Kathryn Coleman (Delinquent Tax Collector); Jeff Cavagnino (Stratton Corp).

CALL TO ORDER: Coleman opened the meeting at 5:30 PM at the Town Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There was brief discussion about cannabis sales and zoning in Winhall.

ELECTION/MEETINGS:

Isaacs motioned and Schwartz seconded to keep the slate of Board members the same: E. Stuart Coleman as Chair, Bill Schwartz as Vice Chair, and Julie Isaacs as Member; unanimous. Isaacs motioned and Schwartz seconded to keep the meeting days and times the same: first and third Wednesdays at 5:30 PM; unanimous.

Isaacs motioned and Schwartz seconded to approve the Media of Record, the Vermont News Guide; there was discussion about adding the Commons as a second media (for further discussion at later date); unanimous.

Schwartz motioned and Isaacs seconded to approve the Media Areas of Posting as the Town Office, Winhall Website (winhall.org), Direct Email, and Bondville Post Office; unanimous.

*Isaacs motioned and Schwartz seconded to approve the Appointments (slate as presented): Pound Keeper – Patrick Salo, Animal Control Officer – Patrick Salo, Tree Warden – Stuart Coleman, Town Service Officer – Elizabeth Grant, Windham Regional Commission Representatives (2 seats vacant), Select Board Member to sign Checks/Payorders between meetings – Any Member, Town Health Officer – Mike Wilson, Museum Curator – Elizabeth Grant; unanimous. The ~~Tree Warden position~~ *Fire Warden* would soon be vacant; discussion tabled until next meeting.*

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Dryden gave an update on the last storm, truck repairs, and the status of vehicles that had been ordered (new backhoe, new truck). There was discussion about stockpiling certain supplies due to supply chain issues. Dryden and Coleman gave updates on an issue between homeowners relative to tree-cutting on Deepwoods Rd; it would be surveyed by one of the landowners involved. It is unknown who owns the road; question raised by the Planning Commission about road ownership, which should be answered during the survey process. Dryden reported an abundance of vehicles parked illegally on roads during the last storm, requiring towing and tying up Police resources. There was discussion about mailbox damage, USPS mailbox guidelines, and road signs. A Road Closed sign will be placed at the top of Lower Taylor Hill when the road is being plowed.

STRATTON ACCESS ROAD:

The Board and Cavagnino discussed the planned culvert upgrades and paving to be done on the Access Road. There are two sections of road needing upgrades: from Mountain View to the Stratton Town line and from Mountain View to Summit View. There are 14 culverts that require upgrading/upsizing, and some require State hydraulic studies; three studies have been received so far and are included in the RFPs. The project would be advertised and out for bids next week. There was discussion about guardrails (standard height, replacing damaged sections), road sign standards; additional information would be needed. Guardrails and road signs were the responsibility of Stratton Corp, per the Municipal Services Agreement.

FACILITIES & TRANSFER STATION REPORT:

Bushee reported that things were status quo at the transfer station. The Town-owned generators would need to be serviced soon; Bushee was looking for someone to provide the service. Bushee and the Board discussed upcoming projects that included windows at the Library and Community Center, a new ramp in front of the food pantry, new shelving that was installed in the Town Office basement, and elevator inspection/service. As E911 Coordinator, Bushee reported on an issue on Tollgate Rd also involving the Town of Manchester and the State.

ENGINEERING REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS - WASTEWATER:

Two engineering firms had submitted qualifications as of the deadline for consideration: Dubois & King and Otter Creek Engineering. The Federal/State funding process is being followed. Isaacs motioned and Schwartz seconded to pursue negotiations with Otter Creek Engineering; unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS:

Internet fiber and new telephones would be installed at the Town Office on 3/23/23. E-Enable may be able to provide website development; the Town Administrator would ask for a proposal. Isaacs would email those interested in serving on an affordable housing committee. The Planning Commission was working on short term rentals; status unknown.

NEW BUSINESS:

Deb Avison came before the Board to discuss a correction that needed to be made to a record regarding filing of a Homestead Declaration / non-homestead issue. *Isaacs motioned and Coleman seconded to authorize Avison to clear the penalty and interest on the filer's account; unanimous.* Avison said that she is looking into accepting tax payments via credit card. Kathryn Coleman and the Board discussed delinquent taxes and tax sales; Kevin O'Toole would be consulted about how to abate two parcels that have been delinquent for many years and did not sell at tax sale.

REPEATER FOR RADIOS: Coleman reported that the replacement radio repeater on Stratton would cost \$12,296.40. *Schwartz motioned and Coleman seconded to purchase the repeater from BearCom; unanimous.*

APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES: After review, the Select Board approved the meeting minutes of 3/1/23; *motion by Isaacs and seconded by Coleman; unanimous.*

WARRANTS: After review, the Select Board approved warrant 3/22/23 as presented; *motion by Isaacs and seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*


As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM; *motion by Coleman and seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

Lissa Stark, Town Administrator


Winhall Select Board



E. Stuart Coleman, Chair



William Schwartz, Vice Chair



Julie Isaacs, Member