

Town of Winhall Selectboard
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, April 17, 2019

PRESENT: Bill Schwartz, Stuart Coleman; Julie Isaacs, Lucia Wing (Secretary); Lissa Stark (Town Administrator), Trevor Dryden (Roads), Scott Bushee (Facilities)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Laura Gianotti (Community Arts Center), Greg Gould & Jeff Whitesell (Winhall Police), Victoria Silsby & Maryanne Morris (Collaborative), Jim Sullivan (BCRC)

CALL TO ORDER: Schwartz called the meeting to order at 5:00PM at the Town Hall.

The Selectboard added review of the Local Emergency Operations Plan to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: COMMUNITY CENTER:

Gianotti commented about funding, insurance, and non-profit progress; scheduling remained through the Town Administrator until a lease was signed. Discussion followed regarding the Community Arts Center paying for the on-site storage unit. It was not included in the renovation contract, so it was an additional expense. After review, *Isaacs made the motion to utilize up to \$2,500 from the General Reserve Fund to pay for liability insurance for the Community Arts Center non-profit organization; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.*

COLLABORATIVE & BCRC PRESENTATION: PREVENTION PLANNING:

Jim Sullivan, Bennington County Regional Commission, gave an overview of the BCRC's role in supporting prevention planning, substance-free youth, as well as supporting overall health & wellness. Discussion included land use planning relative to prevention planning; opportunities to maintain safety measures; focused activity; public transportation options; housing options; and energy efficient opportunities. It was noted that the above was part of the Winhall Town Plan. Further discussion followed which included limited public smoking areas; vape shops and proximity to schools; commercialization and legalization of marijuana in Vermont- what's legal and what's not; recent marijuana legislation; revenue impacts from potential marijuana sales; opening shops or outlets in the community; local tax implications; sign options; and the notion that rules change over time. Coleman commented that Winhall was a small town. The most important point was- did the Town of Winhall eventually want retail marijuana in Town; how would it impact existing businesses; and how would it impact youth and vulnerable populations?

LOCAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN:

After review, the Selectboard authorized Bill Schwartz to sign the Local Emergency Operations Plan as written; *motion by Coleman; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

HIGHWAY REPORT:

1) Dryden reported several Town culverts had been crushed/flat (not round)- some as a result of the excessive rain- some just old; Dryden would begin to replace them. Discussion followed about the Cranberry Hill culvert which often washed out as a result of rain; Coleman commented it needed to be replaced with a box culvert at some point. In the meantime, it had been repaired so traffic could get through. Bromley Forest culverts were scheduled next, followed by the Fire Station culvert. Rocks at the Community Center would be graveled. Per Isaacs, discussion followed about repaving of Lower Taylor Hill Road. Discussion followed about Green Up Day and posting signs. Dryden reported that the excavator was still in Cranberry Hill Road; the Selectboard would contact the owner in writing; fines and abandonment issues were discussed. After review, the Selectboard authorized Stuart Coleman to contact the owner to move the excavator; *motion by Isaacs; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

2) Dryden asked to include additions to the April 3rd minutes. He would write the additions and give it to the Town Administrator for inclusion.

TRANSFER STATION & FACILITIES REPORT:

Bushee reported he was still waiting for Sparky to finish the electrical work on the electronics building door; May 18th was the first of four Hazardous Waste Days; Bushee reported he planned to replace the entire air conditioning system on the police side of the Town Hall; new cabinets were also planned to improve the interview room as well as flooring work. Sparky would install (6) new LED lights at the Community Center and 4-bay garage; Bushee reported the 4-bay was in disrepair and needed to be fixed at some point. Bushee reported the State had mandated the Transfer Station accept clean wood waste; discussion followed about moving the current location to across the road to a burn pile so it would not interfere with regular business at the Transfer Station. Bushee reported he would change all the bathroom signs to read "Gender Neutral" as required by law.

TOWN MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT: DISCUSSION:

The Selectboard discussed the above. Schwartz reported he had received comments from residents about why a Town Manager was needed in Winhall when departments ran smoothly. Bushee reported that he had received multiple comments from residents in favor of a Town Manager. Discussion followed about inviting a representative from VLCT to come and talk with the Selectboard about the pros and cons of hiring a Town Manager. Isaacs suggested an educational informational meeting as helpful. Coleman suggested mailing a town-wide fact sheet letter. Discussion followed about a special town-wide vote. The Town Administrator was tasked with gathering information from Towns (like Thetford) that have had recent town-wide votes.

PERSONNEL, DRUG & ALCOHOL POLICY: After review, the Selectboard agreed to sign the Personnel Policies (including Drug & Alcohol Policy) effective May 1, 2019; *motion by Isaacs; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

WINHALL COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER: REPORT: FYI: A lease agreement would be drafted between the Town and the Community Center once insurance has been obtained; discussion followed about a lease agreement between the Town and Library and the Town and Fire Station.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT: Isaacs reported on beautification projects in Winhall.

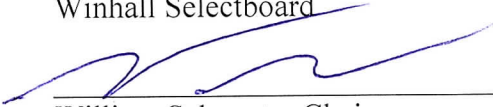
ADMINISTRATOR/CORRESPONDENCE REPORT: Isaacs reported that Travis Dobson may be interested in filling one of the two vacancies as a Winhall representative on the Windham Regional Commission. The Town Administrator would contact Dobson to provide details on the role.

APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES: After review, the Selectboard tabled the minutes of April 3, 2019 until amendments were added.

WARRANTS: After review, the Selectboard approved warrant 04/16/19 as presented; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

Lucia Wing, Secretary
Winhall Selectboard



William Schwartz, Chair

Stuart Coleman, Vice-Chair

Julie Isaacs, Member