

Town of Winhall Selectboard
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, May 6, 2020

PRESENT: Julie Isaacs, Stuart Coleman; Bill Schwartz; Lissa Stark, (Town Administrator); Lucia Wing, (Secretary); Chief Whitesell (Police); Trevor Dryden (Roads)

ALSO: Phil Stumpf

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Phil Stumpf, who owns property at #24 & #26 Snowflake Lane in Winhall, came before the Selectboard to discuss matters relative to winter snowplowing and the difficulty of plowing snow around vehicles occasionally parked in the road. Stumpf added most of the time vehicles were parked in his designated driveways; icy conditions sometimes prohibited this. Coleman reported he had reviewed the area; it was clear the Town plow was too large to adequately turn around at the end of the road. After discussion, the Selectboard agreed to investigate ways to upgrade the area for improved winter plowing. Dryden would also take a look to see if the area could be enlarged; a suggestion was to hire an engineer. The Selectboard would ask the Town Clerk if there was any documentation of the area under consideration.

POLICE/FIRE/RESCUE REPORT:

Whitesell and the Selectboard reviewed the monthly police report for April including traffic tickets and warnings, false alarms, animal control matters, property watch, medical assists, and law incidents in and around Winhall and the Stratton Mountain resort. Whitesell reported April was generally light as a result of Covid-19 concerns with little vehicle activity. Coleman added the Fire Department had also been quiet. Whitesell reported they had found a replacement for Officer Greg Gould who had retired in mid-April; discussion followed about getting the new officer into the Police Academy part-time for now, and later full-time. Whitesell reported the Police Department had scheduled a firearms practice at the end of Kendall Farm Road on 5/18/20.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 5:30 PM the Selectboard voted to go into executive session to discuss personnel and litigation matters; ***motion by Coleman; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*** At 6:00 PM the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session; ***motion by Coleman; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*** Out of executive session, no decision was rendered.

COMMUNITY HEALTH DISCUSSION:

Whitesell reported Winhall was carefully following CDC and Governor Scott's guidelines for Covid-19. Whitesell reported Tom Maneggia (Norse House) had hosted a bike tuning day and had donated the proceeds to the Community Food Shelf. The Grindstone Pub in conjunction with the Norse House had also hosted a fund raiser.

ROAD & HIGHWAY REPORT: (No report)

TRANSFER STATION & FACILITIES REPORT: (No report)

GREEN-UP DAY:

Isaacs reported that Vermont Green-Up day had been postponed until May 30th. She planned to hand out gloves, give out bagged lunches, and direct volunteers to various road in Winhall; discussion followed for organizational ideas, including having people pre-register and commit to a specific road.

ADMINISTRATIVE/CORRESPONDENCE:

The Selectboard discussed an unsigned letter sent to the Town Administrator on 4/28/20 regarding the April 15, 2020 Selectboard meeting via Zoom. The email had quoted provisions of the Vermont Open Meeting Law (1 V.S.A 312-314). At the 4/15/20 meeting, the Selectboard, for security breach purposes, had inadvertently removed an individual who had not identified themselves, had no audio, nor video. Subsequently, the Selectboard had rectified the situation by agreeing to conduct ongoing meetings “in-person” held at the regular meeting time of 5:00 PM at the Town Hall beginning with the meeting on 5/6/20. In addition, the Selectboard would amend the minutes of 4/15/20 to include the unidentified individual who had logged onto the Zoom meeting on April 15th; ***motion by Schwartz; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.*** The Selectboard recognizes that these actions, removing a member of the public from the meeting, and not noting that there was an unidentified person who was removed in the minutes of that meeting, may have been an inadvertent violation of the open meeting law and will rectify the minutes of that meeting to reflect what happened before approving the same.

APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTE(S):

After review, the Selectboard approved the minutes of April 15, 2020 as amended; ***motion by Schwartz; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.***

WARRANT:

After review, the Selectboard approved warrant #05/06/20 as presented; ***motion by Schwartz; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.***

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM; ***motion by Schwartz; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.***

Lucia Wing, Secretary,
Winhall Selectboard



Julie Isaacs, Chair



E. Stuart Coleman, Vice-Chair



William Schwartz, Member