

Town of Winhall Selectboard
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, May 15, 2019

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Travis Dobson, Derrick Tienken (Police)

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Travis Dobson came before the Selectboard asking whether or not they had looked into the possibility of serving alcohol at the Community Arts Center; Dobson felt it would add to hosting musical functions and other types of similar events. The Town Administrator would contact VLCT for protocol regarding having alcohol in municipal buildings. The Town of Winhall currently had a “no alcohol policy” in place regarding its public buildings. Dobson also questioned the Selectboard about the role of Act 250 as the Windham Regional Commission had weighed-in with a letter about a project in Winhall above 2,500 feet; discussion followed.

HIGHWAY REPORT:

1) Dryden reported he had submitted photos, removed several culverts and cleaned out others located on Read Road (classified as a trail); mud, water, rust, and snow had plugged up the culverts and created ruts; in addition, a portion of the road had eroded. Dryden determined damage to the road was not caused by the landowner just a difficult winter. Horses For Hire had communicated they found it hard to maneuver the road. Dryden recommended Hunter Excavating clean-up the road and spread gravel. After review, ***Isaacs made the motion to pre-approve hiring Hunter Excavating up to \$1,000; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.***

2) Dryden reported the Highway Department would replace the old culvert at the Fire Station; was working currently on culverts on Lower Taylor Hill Road; and would be hosting a class later in May at the Town garage regarding road issues including dealing with water, water run-off, and road erosion. Dryden reported there had been a water main burst on the Stratton end of the Access Road; Stratton Resort was responsible to fix it. Dryden would drive by and have a look.

3) A homeowner on Benson Fuller Road had complained that the Town was responsible for water run-off that caused mold in his house; Coleman and Dryden would respond to the homeowner and investigate.

4) After review, the Selectboard approved a right-of-way permit with an 18” culvert for Christopher Kolk, #2 Bromley Forest Road; ***motion by Coleman; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*** Dryden had previously reviewed the site and confirmed that work had already been completed.

TRANSFER STATION & FACILITIES REPORT:

Bushee reported LED lights had been installed where designated; a new air conditioning system had been installed in the Police Department; doors on the electronics shed had finally been fully installed; and spring clean-up at the Transfer Station was underway. Bushee explained that excess gravel on the Transfer Station roadway would be removed to the sand pile across the road for further use. Bushee reported the heat at the Town Hall was running continuously and had been an ongoing problem; he was in the process of getting it fixed. Bushee would change the flags at Town Hall before Memorial Day.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:00 PM the Selectboard voted to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters; ***motion by Isaacs; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.*** The Selectboard came out of executive session at 6:45 PM; ***motion by Coleman; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*** No decisions were rendered.

TOWN MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT: DISCUSSION:

The Selectboard and the Town Administrator discussed the Towns of Thetford and Stowe that had Town Managers. Further discussion included how a town manger would be implemented in Winhall and what were the differences between the duties of a Town Manager and a Town Administrator. The Town Administrator responded better collaboration with all departments. A Manager would also be authorized to hire and fire Town employees and oversee all departments and town finances. The Selectboard asked about a town manager's relationship with the townspeople. Schwartz liked the diversity of three Selectboard members, three minds. Coleman commented since the town manager job description would change, the Town may need to open up the position to other candidates. The Town Administrator would check with VLCT for guidance.

ADMINISTRATOR/CORRESPONDENCE:

Lease agreements were in process between the Town and Community Arts Center, Library and Fire Station; discussion followed. Moving forward, Isaacs recommended that Green-Up Day have its own line item in the budget report.

APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES:


After review, the Selectboard approved the minutes of May 1, 2019 as amended; *motion by Isaacs; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.*

WARRANTS:

After review, the Selectboard approved warrant 05/15/19 as presented; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

Lucia Wing, Secretary
Winhall Selectboard



William Schwartz, Chair

Stuart Coleman, Vice-Chair



Julie Isaacs, Member