

Town of Winhall Selectboard
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, August 2, 2023

PRESENT: Stuart Coleman; Bill Schwartz; Julie Isaacs; Lissa Stark (Town Administrator); Lucia Wing (Secretary); Trevor Dryden (Highway); Chief Tienken (Police); Elizabeth Grant (Town Clerk)

ALSO: Margaret & Leonard Black, Ryan Clune, Rory Donald, Andres Escobar, Alesis Kulash (Old Farm Condo Owners); Kristen Comeau (SoVT Get On Board)

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: OLD FARM CONDOS ROAD WASHOUT: Old Farm Condo owners came before the Selectboard to discuss their road washout related to the severe flooding in Vermont. Margaret Black (Unit #2) presented a letter from all Unit owners in hope of support from the Town in helping with the road washout. Andres Escobar spoke on behalf of the owners about what caused the road washout; Access road safety; clogged culverts, poor drainage, and future maintenance of the Access Roads. Andres submitted photos showing the road washout and water on their parking lot and road. He was asking the Selectboard for help with the drainage issue, not fixing the road. Coleman replied the Town had a recent engineer study related to eventual replacement of culverts on the lower section of the Access Road, the next phase. He suggested Old Farm Condo owners hire an independent engineer to study ways to potentially redirect water away from their parking lot and road. He also suggested Escobar go on the Agency of Natural Resources website for further information. The Selectboard would stay in touch with Old Farm Condo owners and their plans moving forward.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: The Selectboard & Chief Tienken reviewed the monthly police report for July to include traffic tickets and warnings; false alarms; animal control issues; property watch matters; DUI's; motor vehicle accidents, and medical & pedestrian assists in and around Winhall and Stratton Resort; discussion followed. Chief reported there was increased traffic on Old Town, Upper & Lower Taylor Hill, Winhall Hollow, and River Road(s) along with others because of the Route 30 closure and other road washouts as a result of the recent flooding. The Police Department had issued many vehicle speeding tickets as a result; police would continue to monitor Town roads. Chief reported the new cruiser was detailed and operational; the job posting for a new police officer received six applicants; background checks and interviews would begin shortly. The Police Department was working on an updated Alarm Ordinance.

SOVT GET ON BOARD PRESENTATION: Kristin Comeau came before the Selectboard to talk about SoVT Get on Board. The program was developed to help civic minded members of a community get a start to learn about municipal government and positions on local Boards. A variety of courses were offered at \$150 per course; scholarships could be made available through the support of the Town. The Selectboard liked the idea of scholarships and would post the information on the Town website as well as in the Winhall Newsletter.

APPROVE MUNICIPAL PLANNING GRANT: After review, the Selectboard approved and signed the "FY24 Municipal Resolution for Municipal Planning Grant" to revise the Winhall Town Plan; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

APPROVE REAPPRAISAL ORDER: After review, *Schwartz made the motion authorizing Stuart Coleman to sign the "Winhall Response to Reappraisal Order;" seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

TOWN CLERK: OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR EMAILS: Pursuant to Vermont Public Records Act, 1 VSA 315-320, the Town Clerk officially requested emails and copies of all correspondence to the Winhall Selectboard except those that were confidential be sent to her and expected these to be emailed in a timely manner. Discussion followed.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: REPORT: Dryden reported on the progress to fix the road damaged from the recent flood on River Road; he expected the road to be open by Thursday or Friday. Discussion followed relative to FEMA reimbursement. Bids would go out to replace the culvert. Coleman asked the Highway Department to clean up the gravel on the Kendall Farm fields ASAP to stop the spread of weeds by farmers haying the fields. The box culvert on Winhall Hollow Road was ordered but slow. Dryden and the Selectboard discussed culvert replacements for Cranberry Hill and Stoney Hill both damaged by the flood.

ACCESS PERMITS: (None)

BENSON FULLER INTERSECTION UPDATE: FYI: No utility survey for the above intersection; there was a Pearl Buck survey in existence. It appeared there was 25' allowed on either side of a telephone pole which helped with the idea of eminent domain.

COMPUTER SYSTEM: WEBSITE UPDATE: FYI: website bids. One bidder had presented his proposal. The Selectboard agreed to schedule the other bidders for Thursday, August 10th at 5:30PM at the Town Hall. The Town Administrator would contact the other three bidders.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING/WASTEWATER: UPDATE: FYI

SHORT-TERM RENTALS: The Planning Commission was finalizing a Short-Term Rental Ordinance.

ADMINISTRATIVE & CORRESPONDENCE: FYI:


APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTE(S): After review, the Selectboard approved the meeting minutes of 7/17/23 and the special meeting minutes of 7/26/23 as presented; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

WARRANTS: After review, the Selectboard approved warrant 8/2/23 as presented; *motion by Isaacs; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*


EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 7:25 PM the Selectboard voted to into executive session to discuss personnel matters; *motion by Isaacs; seconded by Schwarts; unanimous.* At 7:45 PM, the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session; *motion by Isaacs; second by Schwartz; unanimous.* No decision was rendered.

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

Lucia Wing, Secretary,
Winhall Selectboard



E. Stuart Coleman, Chair



William Schwartz, Vice-Chair



Julie Isaacs, Member