

Town of Winhall Selectboard
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, October 6, 2021

PRESENT: Stuart Coleman; Julie Isaacs; Bill Schwartz; Lissa Stark, (Town Administrator); Lucia Wing (Secretary)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: None

CALL TO ORDER: Coleman opened the meeting at 5:00 PM at the Town Hall in Bondville.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (None)

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

The Selectboard discussed the monthly police report for September to include traffic tickets and warnings; traffic hazards; noise disturbances; alarm calls; animal control issues; property watch; criminal & disorderly conduct; medical & citizen assists in and around Winhall and the Stratton Mountain Resort. Per Chief Tienken, several Winhall police officers had completed their training.

STRATTON ACCESS ROAD: CULVERT PROJECT:

Coleman reported the Access Road had reopened on Friday. The culvert had been installed and work was mostly complete; discussion followed relative to guard rails. Coleman recommended extending the guard rails on the downhill side and eliminating them on the uphill side which was not needed with the new road configuration. It was noted that guard rails are the responsibility of the Stratton Corp, not the Town. Discussion followed relative to a new invoice from Fitzpatrick Excavating. From the total bid of \$259,000, \$140,000 had been paid to Fitzpatrick by the Town. The Selectboard continued discussion which included add-on costs including gravel and ledge removal. After further review, *Coleman made the motion to pay Fitzpatrick an additional \$55,320 and hold back 20% or \$51,800 until the Town received the required performance bond; seconded by Schwartz; passed (Isaacs opposed).* The Selectboard noted, to date, the contract with Fitzpatrick had not been fully executed, given that no performance bond had been received.

ACCESS PERMITS:

After review the Selectboard approved a final access permit for Lawrence & Beth Grant, #75 Sylvan Ridge Road; an access permit for Daniel Goldstein, #366 Winhall Hollow Road to widen his driveway and bring the entry up to code; and final approval for Adrian Owles, Stone House Road (High Meadow) for a conduit crossing under the road; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

TOWN HEALTH OFFICER UPDATE:

Two applicants had applied for the Town Health Officer position. Discussion followed relative to the importance and expanded duties of a Town Health Officer including hours, pay, benefits, and office space. The Selectboard discussed possibly changing the position to full-time and re-advertising it with an expanded scope of work. After further review, the Selectboard tabled discussion until the next meeting; in the meantime, they would reach out to the two applicants for an update. Isaacs stated she would contact the State for guidance.

FEMA GRANTS: The Town Administrator was keeping track of the recent rain damage to several Town roads relative to FEMA funding.

SHORT-TERM RENTALS: CONTINUED DISCUSSION:

Discussion followed relative to writing an Ordinance to address issues surrounding short-term rentals like noise, garbage, septic failure, parking, and compliance with State health, fire, tax, and environmental requirements.

Hiring a Town Health Officer would also help with the above. The Selectboard was well aware that short-term rentals required regulations with the ability to enforce.

COMMUNITY CENTER & HEALTH UPDATE:

FYI: Currently there was limited use of the facility, but the Community Arts Center had recently hosted a “Scarecrow” design event; lots of local kids participated making scarecrows and putting them all around Town.

COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT UPDATE: FYI: Status quo.

WINHALL NEWSLETTER UPDATE:

The Town Administrator and Selectboard talked about the Winhall Newsletter as bimonthly instead of monthly and thought November might be a good month to start it back up.

ADMINISTRATIVE & CORRESPONDENCE:

FYI financials: The Town Administrator reported that the current audit of last year’s financials was almost complete. She would reach out to Andy Gluss about non-profit status, as he had asked for a Town Appropriation of funding for the Bondville Concert Series.

FYI: Correspondence (none)

APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTE(S):

After review, the Selectboard approved the minutes of 9/15/21 and special meeting minutes of 9/22/21 as presented; *motion by Isaacs; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

WARRANTS:

After review, the Selectboard approved warrant #10/06/21; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

Lucia Wing, Secretary,
Winhall Selectboard

E. Stuart Coleman, Chair

Julie Isaacs, Vice-Chair

William Schwartz, Member