

Town of Winhall Selectboard
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, November 18, 2020

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Martina Barnes & Stacy Stratton (Forest Service), John Kenny (Highway applicant)

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

After review the Selectboard added the Forest Service presentation to the agenda; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

FOREST SERVICE PRESENTATION:

Martina Barnes & Stacy Stratton (Green Mt. National Forest) came before the Selectboard to talk about timber projects in southern Vermont. The Forest Service submitted a map titled "Early Successional Habitat Creation Project." A goal of the current projects was to create young timber growth for wildlife habitat; there were no immediate timber projects proposed for Winhall. Discussion followed relative to parsnip issues and other invasive species in the area as well as forest recreational use. The Selectboard thanked the Forest Service for their presentation. The Forest Service responded that if the Selectboard or any Winhall personnel had any questions or requests to please contact them.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: HIGHWAY DEPT. INTERVIEW:

At 5:30 PM the Selectboard voted to go into executive session to interview a prospective highway crew candidate; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.* At 6:05 PM, the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session; *motion by Coleman; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.* Out of executive session the Selectboard unanimously agreed to hire John Kenny, highway applicant, for a six-month probationary period; *motion by Coleman; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT:

1) Dryden reported the backhoe was still in the process of getting fixed; discussion followed. Dryden and the Selectboard also discussed line striping on various Winhall town roads including the Access Road. Dryden reported he was keeping up with covid-19 supplies at the Town Garage.

2) The Selectboard and Town Administrator discussed the status of the culvert project on the Access Road.

ACCESS PERMIT:

After review, the Selectboard approved a permit for Bruce Mack, #124 French Hollow Road to replace an 18" culvert; *motion by Coleman; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION: SUPERVISOR EVALUATIONS:

At 6:15 PM the Selectboard voted to go into executive session for a Highway supervisor evaluation (Trevor Dryden) and a Transfer Station supervisor evaluation (Scott Bushee); *motion by Coleman; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.* At 6:50 PM the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session; *motion by Coleman; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

TRANSFER STATION & FACILITIES REPORT:

1) Bushee reported the Transfer Station was operating smoothly. Casella was regularly scheduled and working out well. Bushee stated he would consider keeping an additional dumpster handy for the busy times. He planned

to take the speed bumps out of the Transfer Station access the beginning of December as it interfered with winter snowplowing. Bushee reported he was sending out lots of batteries.

2) Bushee reported the main boiler at the Town Hall was working well; the mini splits were not working properly; M&M Plumbing would check them out. Coleman recommended refitting the boiler system to work better. Bushee reported the fire alarm on the police side needed looking into. He would call the phone company to fix it. Bushee reported the outside LED lights in the back of the Town Hall needed adjustment. The Community Center and Library boilers were all ok.

3) Bushee suggested reviewing the portion of the Winhall Procurement Policy relative to workmen's compensation; discussion followed. The Selectboard and Town Administrator would review that section and change it if warranted.

COMMUNITY HEALTH DISCUSSION:

The Selectboard talked about meeting via Zoom as cases of Covid-19 were spiking around Vermont. They agreed to delay making a decision until the next meeting in December.

TOWN MEETING: DISCUSSION:

The Selectboard discussed ways to run Town Meeting scheduled for March. New legislation (Act 162) permitted voting by Australian ballot. The Selectboard could also open the meeting as scheduled and recess it until a future time and place. They would discuss it further at the following meeting in December.

ADMINISTRATIVE/CORRESPONDENCE:

1) The Selectboard reviewed their letter to the auditors (Sullivan Powers & Co) acknowledging they had received the Town of Winhall audit for the period beginning 7/1/19 and ending 6/30/20. Further the Selectboard planned to remedy all deficiencies found by the auditors.

2) The Selectboard reviewed a letter from the Stratton Mountain School relative to signage on Town roads.

APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES:

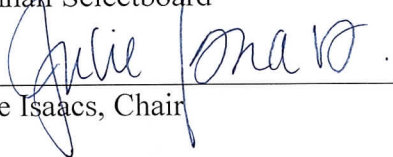
After review, the meeting minutes of November 4, 2020 were approved as corrected; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

WARRANTS:

After review, the Selectboard approved warrant dated 11/18/20 as presented; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM; *motion by Coleman; seconded by Isaacs; unanimous.*

Lucia Wing, Secretary
Winhall Selectboard



Julie Isaacs, Chair

Stuart Coleman, Vice-Chair

William Schwartz, Member

*approved
virtually*