

**Town of Woodstock
Select Board
Meeting
May 18, 2021
6:00 pm
Zoom
Minutes**

Draft minutes are subject to approval.

Present: Chair Mary Riley, Ray Bourgeois, John Doten, Keri Cole, Joe Swanson, William Kerbin, Nikki Nourse, Fire Chief David Green, Jill Davies, Beth Finlayson, Geoff Martin, Jeffrey Kahn, Linda Smiddy, Peggy Fraser, Scott Johnston, Roger Logan, Karim Houry, Sally Miller, Jon Spector, Elizabeth Deignan, Bill Corson, Zoie Parent, Beth Fish

A. Call to order

1. Chair Riley called the Select Board meeting of May 18, 2021 to order at 6:00 pm.

B. Additions to and deletions from the posted agenda

1. Addition – Public Hearing – Education Chapter
 - a. Chair Riley stated that in order to readopt the Town Plan with the revised Education Chapter they had to hold two public hearings.
 - b. Ms. Miller stated that she has not received any further comments regarding the chapter.

Motion: by Ms. Cole to adopt the Town Plan with the revised education chapter.

Seconded: by Mr. Bourgeois.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

C. Citizen Comments – none

D. Manager's report

1. General report

- a. Mr. Kerbin stated that Pike Paving has completed the first level of paving. Next week they will be doing pipes and drainage.

2. Financial report

- a. Mr. Kerbin stated that the miscellaneous category of \$2.5 million is the Town Hall Rejuvenation Project.
- b. Mr. Bourgeois asked about the storm drains and bridges. Will they be spending the \$50,000 before the end of the fiscal year?
 1. Mr. Kerbin will look into this.

E. Permits

1. Overweight truck permits

- a. **United Natural Foods Inc**
- b. **Roni Johnson Landscaping**
- c. **TRK Trucking & Veilleux Logging**
- d. **Arborscape Inc**

Motion: by Mr. Doten to approve the overweight truck permits for United Natural Foods Inc, Roni Johnson Landscaping, TRK Trucking & Veilleux Logging and Arborscape Inc as submitted.

Seconded: by Ms. Cole.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

F. Old business – none

G. New business

1. Rockefeller Endowment Report

a. Ms. Davies stated that she is the Chair of the Investment Advisory Committee. The Rockefeller Endowment Fund was given to the Town many years ago. The intention of the fund was to be used to withdraw funds every year in lieu of taxes. Four times a year the Committee present a report to the Select Board. The money is invested well. It is at \$1.8 million. This is after the Town withdrew \$78,000 for taxes and \$200,000 for a one time purchase of a capital expense that has not been determined yet. The fund is doing well.

2. Solar concepts for ESB

a. Mr. Martin stated that he wants to present the idea of renewable energy credits or RECs. At the last Select Board meeting, it was approved they could go out to bid for the solar array. RECs are the accounting system for renewable energy. They can be bought and sold. The Town needs to decide whether to keep the RECs or turn them in to Green Mountain Power. If the Town keeps the RECs, there is less monetary savings. If they turn them in, the Town would not be using renewable energy, and therefore it would not further the Town's energy goals. GMP could claim they are using them for renewable energy. There would be more savings, however. No decision needs to be made tonight.

b. Mr. Martin shared a presentation (included in the minutes).

c. Mr. Martin stated that after September 1st the project rates change. They have to put their decision about the RECs in the application. Keeping the RECs is the only way to make progress towards the Town's renewable energy goals. The credits are worth a certain dollar amount. The array produces the credits.

3. Closing Town Office at 2:00 pm starting Memorial Day weekend

a. Chair Riley stated that it has been a practice since 1993 or 1994 to close the Town Hall on Fridays at 2:00 pm starting July 4th until Labor Day. Chair Riley petitioned the Select Board after she did a study one summer on how many people came in on a Friday afternoon in the summer. The Select Board approved. There were guidelines that were set up. They would stay later than 2:00 pm if there were special projects to do. Some weeks people had to stay. Town Hall employees are now petitioning the Select Board to start leaving early on Fridays on Memorial Day weekend. This would mean they would have 2 ½ hours unpaid. They can use vacation time but not sick time if they would like. Employees qualify for benefits after 30 hours of work. They would not receive overtime unless they worked over 40 hours.

b. Mr. Kerbin stated that he would decide whether an employee could or could not leave due to not having work done.

Motion: by Ms. Cole to approve the Town Hall employee's petition to close the Town Hall Offices at 2:00 pm on Fridays starting Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day.

Seconded: by Mr. Swanson.

Discussion: Mr. Bourgeois stated that there should be a post on the front door and online.

Vote: 4-0-1, passed. Chair Riley for, Mr. Bourgeois for, Ms. Cole for, Mr. Swanson for, Mr. Doten abstained.

4. Fireworks display discussion.

- a. Chair Riley stated that Woodstock usually does their fireworks display on July 4th. They did not have them last year due to Covid.
- b. Chief Green stated that he does not have an opinion whether they hold the fireworks event or not. The Fire Department will not be doing their Touch a Truck event.
- c. Mr. Houry stated that Vermont is currently at step 3 in reopening the State. If everything goes to plan there will be no more restrictions come July 4th. At the Governor's last press conference, Governor Scott stated that they may be able to move up the date depending on how many Vermonters get vaccinated.

Motion: by Mr. Swanson to approve of having a firework display on July 4th and allow any organizations that would like to participate.

Seconded: by Mr. Bourgeois.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

5. Benson Place discussion

- a. Chair Riley stated they have scheduled another site visit to Benson Place for June 2nd at 5:00 pm.

Motion: by Mr. Bourgeois to approve the notice of the site visit to Benson Place on June 2, 2021.

Seconded: by Mr. Doten.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

6. GMP poles on Church Hill Road

- a. Chair Riley stated that the Select Board made a site visit this morning with a representative from Green Mountain Power. It mainly follows the path that is already existing. The wire will be stronger. They went up and walked around. They saw the changes that will be made. GMP hopes to have the work started by this fall. It will make it much easier for GMP's trucks to do repairs. It is a little more than ½ mile of poles.

Motion: by Mr. Bourgeois to approve the pole location on Church Hill Road as submitted by Green Mountain Power.

Seconded: by Mr. Swanson.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 4-0-1, passed. Chair Riley for, Mr. Bourgeois for, Ms. Cole for, Mr. Swanson for, Mr. Doten abstained.

7. Cannabis Committee Report regarding survey results

- a. Mr. Houry presented a PowerPoint (included in minutes).

8. Joint meeting discussion

- a. Chair Riley stated that a joint meeting with the Trustees is overdue. They are waiting for more information from the American Relief Act and funding that is

going to come to Woodstock. Once they receive that information, they will establish a date. Hopefully in the next couple of weeks they will have a set date.

9. Care & maintenance of parks

- a. Chair Riley stated that they are hoping to maintain a good schedule to keep all the parks looking good.
- b. Mr. Kerbin stated that they will have summer help starting shortly that will help with the parks.
- c. Chair Riley stated that they will discuss more of this during the joint meeting.

10. Faulkner Park update

- a. Chair Riley stated that the Concerned Citizens for Faulkner Park have engaged an attorney concerning the validity of the offer of the park to the Town. She has spoken with the Attorney General, Jaime Renner. He would not give her any information and would only speak with Bill Dagger, the Town Agent. The offer came from the Trust to the Town back in November 2019. Anyone is welcome to come in and view any documents related to this.
- b. Ms. Smiddy stated that the Concerned Citizens for Faulkner Park believed it was important to have a private attorney to interpret Mrs. Faulkner's Will.
- c. Mr. Kahn stated that he has heard people requesting a Town wide vote on this. He has also heard that people would like a large Town Meeting before the decision.
- d. Chair Riley stated that the offer was made to the Select Board. They have been advised that the decision stay with the Select Board.

H. Other business – none

I. Board of Sewer Commissioners

1. Sewer adjustments

a. 6 Swain Street – Battilana

1. Chair Riley stated that Battilana has been charged a two person rate. His wife passed away in 2018. He is asking for his 2021 bill be adjusted to a one person rate.

Motion: by Ms. Cole to approve the sewer adjustment for Battilana's 2021 sewer bill to a single person rate reducing the billed amount by \$298.06.

Seconded: by Mr. Swanson.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

b. 4980 South Road – Anderson

1. Chair Riley stated that this property has been unoccupied for a while. They did not tell us until May 6th. The delinquent total is \$5,559.41. They typically do not go back further than one year.

Motion: by Ms. Cole to approve to change the principal amount for the fiscal year 2021 to a single person rate and to collect delinquent taxes from the years past at the rate charged.

Seconded: by Mr. Bourgeois.

Discussion: Ms. Fish stated that when they do not pay sewer taxes, there is automatically a lien on the property. The delinquent taxes have to be paid before closing.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

c. 100 Golf Ave – Munick

1. Chair Riley stated that Munick stated that the check was sent but lost in the mail.
2. Ms. Fish stated that Munick is looking to for the Select Board to remove their penalty and interest.
3. Chair Riley stated that if they do this it will set a bad precedent.

Motion: by Mr. Doten to not approve the adjustment for 100 Golf Ave that was requested by Munick.

Seconded: by Mr. Bourgeois.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

J. Executive session regarding personnel

Motion: by Mr. Doten to enter executive session to discuss personnel at 8:05 pm.

Seconded: by Mr. Bourgeois.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

Motion: by Mr. Doten to leave executive session at 8:23 pm.

Seconded: by Mr. Bourgeois.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

K. Adjournment

Motion: by Mr. Bourgeois to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm.

Seconded: by Mr. Swanson.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nikki Nourse*

Mary Y Riley

Mary Y Riley (Jun 1, 2021 11:24 EDT)

Raymond Bourgeois

Raymond Bourgeois (Jun 1, 2021 19:46 EDT)

Keri P Cole

Keri P Cole (Jun 2, 2021 15:21 EDT)

Joe Swanson

Joe Swanson (Jun 2, 2021 17:16 EDT)