

**Town of Woodstock
Select Board Meeting
January 18, 2022
6:00 pm
Town Hall & Zoom
Minutes**

Draft minutes are subject to approval.

Present: Chair Mary Riley, Ray Bourgeois, John Doten, Keri Cole, Joe Swanson, William Kerbin, Nikki Nourse, Marion Abrams, Ernesto Fernandez, Susie Stulz, Jill Davies, Karim Houry, Tom Meyerhoff, Roger Logan, Michael Caduto, Bill Corson, Tess Hunter, Jon Spector, Susan Ford, Chrissie Heining, Susan Fuller

A. Call to order

1. Chair Riley called the Select Board Meeting of January 18, 2022, to order at 6:00 pm.

B. Meeting protocols

1. Chair Riley discussed the meeting protocols.

C. EDC Interview – Marion Abrams

1. Ms. Abrams stated that she lived in Pittsfield, Vermont for about 28 years. Just before things shut down for covid, her family moved to Woodstock. She was very involved in the Pittsfield community. She is a great believer in power of local government. The EDC seemed like a great way to have a positive impact. She attended one of their meetings so far. She had a few conversations with members of the EDC and the Chair of the EDC.

D. Additions to & deletions from the posted agenda

1. Addition – Consider putting special article on Town Warning for EEI

E. Citizens comments

1. Mr. Corson stated that he was wondering about the decision regarding the Park Manager.
 - a. Chair Riley stated that the Select Board will be having a budget meeting early next week. They will be finalizing their budget at that time.

F. Manager's report

1. General report

- a. Mr. Kerbin stated that they received the final rules in the ARPA funding from the Department of Treasury. They have given a lot more flexibility now to funding some different items including downtown projects and also expanding lost revenue. Union negotiations are underway for renewal of the dispatcher's contract as well as forming the contract for Town employees. The advertisement has gone out to recruit members for the Town Hall Rejuvenation Committee. Mr. Kerbin and Chair Riley met with the Listers last night to discuss town wide reappraisal. They discussed possibly filing an appeal to see if they could have that delayed or reexamined but based on some research by the Listers it would not be beneficial to do so. It would cost more money and other issues could be involved there. They decided not to do an appeal. This reappraisal would not start until 2024 and would be completed by 2026.

2. Financial report

- a. Mr. Kerbin stated that the tax revenue includes all that has been billed. That is not what has been collected. The fees and permits are way down. The interest income is low because interest rates are down. They do not have as much in their savings account. Bridges and storm drains are way down. They will be doing that this spring.

G. Overweight truck permits

1. Able Waste Management Inc

2. Newport Sand & Gravel Co Inc – Carroll Concrete Co VT Inc

Motion: by Mr. Doten to approve the overweight truck permits for Able Waste Management Inc and Newport Sand & Gravel Co Inc as submitted.

Seconded: by Mr. Bourgeois.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

H. Old business

1. South Woodstock Wastewater Plant bond discussion

- a. Chair Riley stated that in 2020 the bond was approved to rehabilitate the South Woodstock Wastewater Treatment Plant. They discussed whether the sewer users should pay for the entirety of the bond or if the whole Town should pay.

2. Michael Caduto read a letter (included in the minutes).

3. Town Report cover

- a. The cover will be the Lincoln Covered Bridge.

4. Appointment for Planning Commission

- a. Chair Riley stated that they have interviewed two people who are waiting to hear if they were appointed or not.

Motion: by Ms. Cole to appoint Frank Horneck to the Planning Commission.

Seconded: by Mr. Bourgeois.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

I. New business

1. Budget discussion

- a. Chair Riley stated that they have not finished budget planning yet. They will be having another meeting next Tuesday.
- b. Mr. Kerbin stated that he has talked to the Department Heads to look at their budgets and find some additional savings. He will look at items that do not fall into specific departments to look for some savings there as well.

2. Investment Advisory Committee Report

- a. Ms. Davies shared a report. (Included in the minutes).

3. Town Mask Mandate

- a. Chair Riley stated that the Village has adopted a requirement for mask wearing in all Village buildings.
- b. Mr. Bourgeois stated that every place he has been to that is in the Town has requirements to wear masks.

- c. Ms. Davies stated that one of the Trustees delivered signs to all businesses. She has seen a couple of those signs in the windows of Town businesses as well.
- d. Mr. Bourgeois stated that if the Select Board makes it a requirement, they should not make it a mandate, because they cannot enforce it.
- e. Ms. Cole stated that they should align themselves with the Village.

Motion: by Mr. Bourgeois to follow the Village Trustees requirements regarding mask wearing to require masks to be worn inside public places in the Town and it will expire when the Trustees end their requirement.

Seconded: by Mr. Swanson.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

4. Language for 1% Local Option Sales & Use Tax article

- a. Chair Riley stated that the Select Board voted at their last meeting that they would put this on the ballot.
- b. Mr. Swanson stated that he talked to the Department of Taxes and because the Village is part of the Town, there was nothing in their rules that would prevent the Town from having a town wide, including the Village, sales and use tax. It would come down to local politics and decisions. His opinion is that it is good to be uniform.
- c. Chair Riley stated that the Village has not agreed yet to put it on their ballot. The wording could be 'shall the Town of Woodstock vote to impose or levy a 1% local option sales and use tax to be added to capital budget funds.
- d. Mr. Houry stated that a couple of towns have recently adopted this. The Select Board could reach out to them about wording.

5. Schedule Special Meeting to sign Warning

- a. Chair Riley stated that the Warning has to be posted publicly by Sunday, January 30th. They are having a budget meeting on Tuesday. Any changes they make to the budget on Tuesday will be incorporated into the Warning.
- b. The Special Meeting will be January 28th at 9:00 am.

Motion: by Mr. Bourgeois to hold the informational meeting for Town Meeting on Saturday, February 26th at 10:00 am online and in person if the State allows.

Seconded: by Mr. Doten.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

J. Board of Sewer Commissioners

1. Set Sewer Rate

- a. Chair Riley stated that the proposed rate is 13.14. Last years rate was 11.93. The sewer bond that was discussed earlier is included in this rate. They cannot accept this rate until they make a decision on the bond. Sewer bills are about to be sent out for the year. Quarterly billing will start this summer.

Motion: by Mr. Swanson to enforce Article 9, Section 3, of the Town of Woodstock Sewer Ordinance as it relates to the South Woodstock Wastewater Treatment Bond.

Seconded: by Mr. Doten.

Discussion: none.

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

Motion: by Chair Riley to set the sewer rate for FY2022 as 13.14 per 100 cu ft.

Seconded: by Mr. Bourgeois.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

K. Other business – none.

L. Approval of minutes

1. **1/4/22 minutes**

2. **1/6/22 minutes**

3. **1/11/22 minutes**

Motion: by Mr. Swanson to approve the minutes as submitted.

Seconded: by Mr. Bourgeois.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

M. Adjournment

Motion: by Mr. Bourgeois to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 pm.

Seconded: by Mr. Swanson.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nikki Nourse*



**SUSTAINABLE
WOODSTOCK**

P.O. Box 611 • Woodstock, VT 05091 • 802.457.2911 • www.sustainablewoodstock.org

Inspiring, educating and empowering environmentally, economically and socially responsible lives.

January 18, 2022

To: Members of the Woodstock Select Board: Mary Riley, Chair; Ray Bourgeois, Vice Chair;
John D. Doten, Jr.; Keri Cole; Joe Swanson

Dear Select Board:

Woodstock has eight budget cycles to meet the net-zero-by-2030 goal set out in the Climate Emergency Declaration, which the Select Board passed in 2020. This means that **starting now** the town will need to reduce its emissions by 12.5% each year. The Woodstock Climate Action projects with EEI would reduce the town's emissions by close to 12%, keeping the town on track to meet its climate commitments. Failing to take action this year simply means that the town will need to double its effort the following year. The longer we wait to address our climate action goals, the more it will cost the citizens of Woodstock to do so over time.

We recognize that there are competing priorities in every municipal budget, and respect the Select Board's decision as to whether to fund these projects. However, in order to give the town the option to make progress towards the net-zero-by-2030 goal, and to save taxpayer dollars in the long-term, we ask that the Select Board consider putting the projects on the ballot. The voters should have the opportunity to prioritize the commitment to reducing the town's climate pollution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Caduto, Executive Director

Jenevra Wetmore, Program Coordinator

(Please see page 2 for summary of Commitments to Climate Action by Woodstock & Vermont.)

Commitments to Climate Action by Woodstock and Vermont

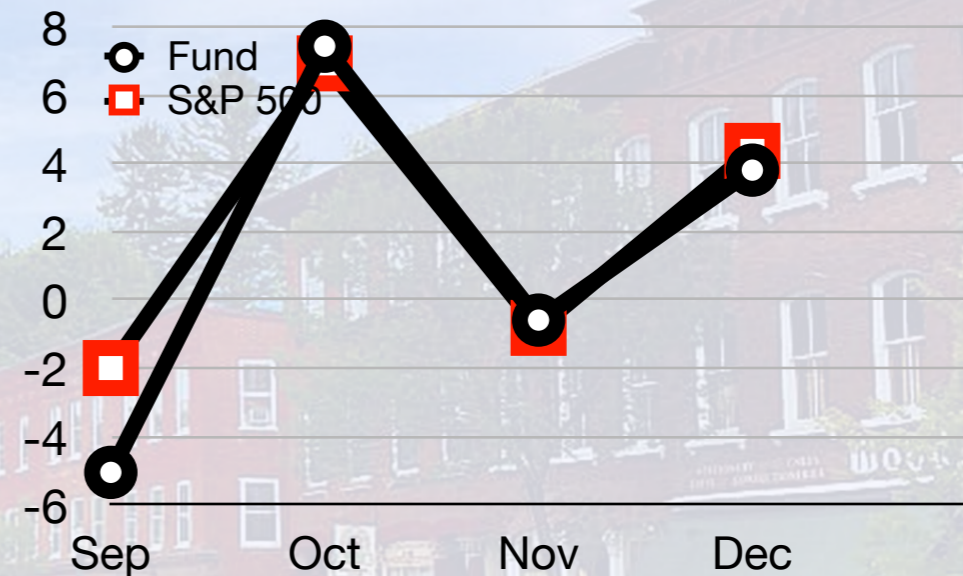
- **Town/Village of Woodstock: Comprehensive Plan Energy Chapter (2019)—Key Goals**
 - Reduce total energy consumption per capita by 15% by 2025, and by more than one third by 2050
 - Meet 25% of the remaining energy need from renewable sources by 2025, 40% by 2035, and 90% by 2050
- **Climate Emergency Resolution (2020)—Key Goals**
 - Commit to transition Woodstock to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030
 - Create a ten year Energy and Climate Plan by the end of 2020 that encompasses these commitments to climate mitigation and adaptation, and a just transition
- **Ready for 100 (2017)—Key Goals**
 - Community-wide Electricity Use: A full transition of the electricity sector to clean, renewable energy
 - This commitment will be achieved no later than 2035 for electricity and 2050 for all energy sectors
- **Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act of 2020 (H.688)—Goals**
 - Requires the state to reduce greenhouse gas pollution to 26% below 2005 levels by 2025
 - Reduce emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030; and 80% below by 2050

Woodstock Rockefeller Endowment Fund

Status Report Ending December 31st, 2021

- Fund total includes \$110,941 allocated to the VCLF
- Asset portion of the fund is allocated at 60% equities, and 40% bonds
- Asset allocations were rebalanced in July 2021
- Equities have outperformed S&P 500 for 2 of the past 4 months
- Bonds have outperformed Bloomberg Index for 2 of the past 4 months
- Fund total value as of December 31, 2021: \$2,176,964 (change of +2.9% since August 31, 2021)
- Fund continues to demonstrate stable growth in line with market trends

Equities % Change
08/2021-12/2022



Bond % Change 08/2021-12/2022

