

**Town of Woodstock  
Select Board Meeting  
April 19, 2022  
6:00 pm  
Town Hall & Zoom  
Minutes**

**Draft minutes are subject to approval.**

**Present:** Chair Joe Swanson, Ray Bourgeois, Mary Riley, Keri Cole, Susan Ford, Fire Chief David Green, Nikki Nourse, Sally Miller, Allison Longfield, Angela Ulman, Annie Abbott, Bill Corson, Carol Moriarty, David Gayck, David Nixa, Ethan Weinstein, Jamie Ziobro, Jeffrey Kahn, Jenna Barker, Jill Davies, Mary Hawkins, Mary Margaret Sloan, Michael Stoner, Nancy Brink, Phil Brown, Robin Lombard, Tess Hunter, Todd Ulman, Wendy Murrinan, Wendy Jackson, Roger Logan, Jenevra Wetmore, Tom Meyerhoff, Cynthia Volk, Mallory Bennet

**A. Call to order**

1. Chair Swanson called the Select Board meeting of April 19, 2022, to order at 6:00 pm.

**B. Interview for Billings Park Commission – Wendy Jackson**

1. Ms. Jackson stated that this is her 2<sup>nd</sup> time applying. She is a member of the Ottawaquechee River Trail Committee. She is looking to deepen her commitment to their trail system here in Woodstock and further their hopes and plans to make the trails an even better marketing tool for the community.

**C. Public Hearing – On Farm Restaurant Amendment**

1. Chair Swanson stated that this is due to a change pursuant to title 24 which is municipal rules section 441 subsection B. The first amendment would be to add language; a restaurant located on site at a farm that sells meals featuring agriculture products produced on that farm and an on farm restaurant is not retail. Addition of following language to section 302 of residential Five Acre Section D farm restaurant section 536. The statement of purpose for the Town to recognize the benefits of local agriculture and to support innovative agricultural enterprises.
2. Ms. Ford stated that this language came to the Select Board from a petition.
3. Mr. Meyerhoff stated that he lives at 460 Pomfret Road. He believes Chair Swanson should recuse himself from this issue. He signed the petition which was part of the privately crafted agreement between the Town of Woodstock and the Hollands in favor of Peacefield Farm which was made public yesterday. The agreement was done secretly without the courtesy of notifying all interested parties and neighbors.
4. Ms. Bennett stated that Woodstock is dying. She just came from Dr. Coburn's. There were so many people trying to get into that restaurant

and there is no space for them. There is nowhere to go. There is nothing for anyone to do. There is nowhere for locals to eat.

5. Ms. Sloan stated that her background includes a number of years as executive director of Vital Communities which is an organization that supports both Vermont Farmers and Vermont local businesses. She is sympathetic but she believes there must be a balance. She feels strongly that this particular amendment should be rejected in full because it basically authorizes commercial activity in an area clearly zoned residential. They differentiate commercial retail and rural for a reason. The Town should not build in an exception which is what this amendment is. Farmers that want a restaurant can have an accessory on farm business. They can use that to build a restaurant.
6. Ms. Miller stated that they currently have a way for people to operate a business or commercial activity on their farm in Woodstock's zoning regulation. These are approved by the Town Development Review Board. This would be a conditional use permit.
7. Ms. Ulman stated that she does not think this amendment is going to open the floodgates for tons of restaurants and commercial uses on farms.
8. Chair Swanson stated that there are existing noise and lighting restrictions. Therefore, they do not need to be in the amendment. They will continue the public hearing on Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 am. The Interim Zoning Administrator, Steven Bauer will be present.

**D. Additions to & deletions from posted agenda**

1. Deletion – Signing of Dispatchers Union Contract

**E. Citizen comments**

1. Mr. Logan thanked Ms. Riley for her service as chair of the Select Board. There have been times that he has disagreed with her, but he always knew that she had the Town's best interest at heart. She approached things in an open and inclusive manner.

**F. Manager's report**

**1. General report**

- a. Chief Green stated that the sewer plant and the Lincoln Covered Bridge have both started work this weekend.

**2. Financial report**

- a. Discussed financial report.

**G. Permits**

**1. Overweight truck permits**

**a. Cota & Cota Inc**

**b. MT Johnson Inc**

**c. Hutch Crane & Pump Rental Corporation**

**d. Limlaw Chipping & Land Clearing Inc**

**e. TRK Trucking & Veilleux Logging Inc**

**Motion:** by Mr. Bourgeois to approve the overweight truck permits for Cota & Cota Inc, MT Johnson Inc, Hutch Crane & Pump Rental Corporation, Limlaw Chipping & Land Clearing Inc, and TRK Trucking & Veilleux Logging Inc as submitted.

**Seconded:** by Ms. Riley.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote:** 5-0-0, passed.

**Motion:** by Mr. Bourgeois to make approving overweight truck permits an administrative task and approved in house without Select Board approval with proper review of certificates of insurance and making sure fees are paid.

**Seconded:** by Ms. Cole.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote:** 5-0-0, passed.

## **2. Liquor License Renewal – Woodstock Pizza Chef Inc**

**Motion:** by Ms. Riley to approve the liquor license renewal for Woodstock Pizza Chef Inc as submitted.

**Seconded:** by Ms. Ford.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote:** 5-0-0, passed.

## **H. Old business**

### **1. Discussion of Financial Committee**

- a. Ms. Davies stated that they discussed this with the Trustees last week. They have talked about it before with the Select Board. The idea is to morph the Capital Budget Committee into the Finance Committee. The idea is that the Committee would report to the Select Board and the Trustees. The first phase would be to support and interim budget process for FY24. They would look at how the process is done, see if there are any amendments, sit in on meetings with the departments to see if they can help out. They would also continue with the capital budget plans for next year. The second phase is building a stronger platform. Jon Spector has done a lot of work with Zoie Parent to see how these could be improved.

**Motion:** by Ms. Ford to give the present Capital Budget Committee authority to now become the Finance Committee.

**Seconded:** by Mr. Bourgeois.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote:** 5-0-0, passed.

## **I. New business**

### **1. One time irrevocable decision to elect the “Standard Allowance” approach for our ARPA award - \$616,385.48**

**Motion:** by Ms. Ford to make a one-time irrevocable decision to elect the standard allowance approach for the ARPA award the amount of \$616,385.48 to spend on

the provision of government services throughout the period of performance of the grant.

**Seconded:** by Ms. Riley.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote:** 5-0-0, passed.

**2. IREC Steering Committee Rep**

- a. Ms. Wetmore stated that the position is currently vacant for the Town of Woodstock for our intermunicipal regional energy group. She is the program coordinator at Sustainable Woodstock. She works closely with Geoff Martin who is the coordinator of IREC. She would be very excited to take on this role for the Town.

~~**3. Signing of Dispatchers Union Contract – Deleted.**~~

**4. Member Town Ambulance Contracts**

- a. Discussed in executive session

**J. Other business – none.**

**K. Board of Sewer Commissioners**

**1. Sewer abatement requests**

**a. Lewis – 20 Heritage Condo Way Unit 31L**

**Motion:** by Mr. Bourgeois to refund \$59.12, the penalty and interest assessed to Ms. Lewis.

**Seconded:** by Ms. Riley.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote:** 5-0-0, passed.

**b. Seibold – 37½ South Street**

1. Chief Green stated that Ms. Seibold is currently paid in full including the penalty and she is just asking for the penalty back.

**Motion:** by Ms. Ford to deny the request for penalty abatement for 37½ South Street.

**Seconded:** by Ms. Riley.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote:** 5-0-0, passed.

**c. Chynoweth – 1104 West Woodstock Road**

1. Mr. Chynoweth stated that he recently purchased 1104 West Woodstock Road which is next to Station 2. The sewer bill is generated from water usage from the previous year. It is not in line with what is actually being used. As of April 2021, there has been nobody living at the property. Since July 1, 2021, to the end of the first quarter of 2022, a total of less than 2,100 cubic feet of water has been used. He is being billed for 9,200 cubic feet of water.

**Motion:** by Ms. Ford to approve Mr. Chynoweth's request to pay the minimum payment for 5,000 cubic feet in the amount of \$657 with the penalty and interest.

**Seconded:** by Ms. Riley.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote:** 5-0-0, passed.

**d. Gramling – 42 Heritage Condo Way Unit 17**

**Motion:** by Ms. Cole to deny Ms. Gramling's request for penalty and interest forgiveness.

**Seconded:** by Ms. Ford.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote:** 5-0-0, passed.

**L. Executive session**

**Motion:** by Ms. Riley to enter executive session at 7:39 pm.

**Seconded:** by Ms. Ford.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote:** 5-0-0, passed.

The Select Board exited executive session at 7:52 pm.

**Motion:** by Mr. Riley to appoint Wendy Jackson to the Billings Park Commission.

**Seconded:** by Ms. Ford.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote:** 5-0-0, passed.

**Motion:** by Ms. Riley to appoint Jenevra Wetmore as the IREC Steering Committee Rep.

**Seconded:** by Ms. Cole.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote:** 5-0-0, passed.

**Motion:** by Mr. Bourgeois to approve the ambulance contracts for Bridgewater, Hartland, Pomfret, Plymouth, and Reading.

**Seconded:** by Ms. Ford.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote:** 5-0-0, passed.

**M. Approval of minutes**

**1. 3/14/22 minutes**

**Motion:** by Ms. Cole to approve the minutes for 3/14/22 as submitted.

**Seconded:** by Mr. Bourgeois.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote:** 5-0-0, passed.

**N. Adjournment**

1. The Meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Nikki Nourse*