

**TOWN OF WHEELOCK
SELECTBOARD MEETING**

August 19, 2025 6 PM

MINUTES, Draft for Distribution

At Wheelock Town Hall upstairs and via Zoom

Present: Selectboard members Ann Lawless, Mike Richardson and Chuck Dill, residents Theresa Stimpson, Kathy Schmidt, Mark Roy, Kim Hathaway, Marty Thieret, recorder Meaghan Rinehart and Paul Hayes of the Caledonian Record via Zoom.

6:00pm Call to Order:

Any changes to agenda: New Business section tabled.

FEMA section 4 & 5 tabled.

Alice Simpson correspondence added to Roads.

Visitor comments moved up.

ADOPT MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Mike motions, seconded by Chuck to adopt minutes of 8\5\25 with letter from Kim Hathaway added. All in favor, so voted.

ROADS

FEMA

Mike motions to discuss closure of Fall Brook Rd Bridge. Discussion followed as to why the town needed to vote, as the State had dictated the closure. Mike motions, seconded by Chuck to close Fall Brook Rd Bridge pending further analysis. All in favor, so voted.

Funding – FEMA will not fund the Fall Brook Rd emergency workplan to repair Fall Brook Rd as an Alternate Project. Ann explained that it would not be funded because we started the work before we received the Alternate Project designation. However if we can straighten out our options we may be able to use funds allocated for the Fall Brook Rd Bridge after the July 11, 2024 disaster for a different purpose. FEMA will not fund any damage caused after the 2024 disaster #4810 because there is no federal declaration of a 2025 disaster.

Approve Fall Brook Rd emergency plan: Mike motions, seconded by Chuck to approve Fall Brook emergency work plan to improve half a mile of Class 4 section of Fall Brook Road to give residents motor vehicle access due to State closure of Fall Brook Bridge. All in favor, so voted. This expense will be borne by

the town.

South Wheelock Rd embankment: Vote to request change to Scope of Work.

Boulay Rd embankment: Vote to withdraw from A & E and proceed with construction. Both topics were tabled as new information and requirements were made available to Ann right before this meeting thanks to a work group with Thad Leugemors, Guidepost (assists towns with 2024 disasters); Patricia Moulton, Flood Recovery Officer, Central VT, Agency of Administration; Katie Buckley and Bonnie Wanninger, federal funding specialists, VLCT. Further discussion and decisions will need to be made. After the workgroup meeting Ann sent off various documents to them as requested. It was made clear professional assistance (engineering) is needed for our projects.

Ann motions, seconded by Chuck to proceed with new RFQ for projects. All in favor, so voted.

Road Report Chuck reported that Peak and South Wheelock roads were graded, and that dry conditions are becoming a problem. More chloride was purchased but dry conditions are making it hard to keep roads in good condition. Residents in attendance commented how good roads had been lately.

Alice Simpson had commented the culvert by her driveway is clogged. Chuck will follow up.

Mike reported on an abandoned car on Stannard Mountain Rd and State Police have been contacted.

Mike spoke with a landowner about a new driveway who will be applying for a permit.

OLD BUSINESS

Delinquent Taxes Delinquent tax collector Emily Purdy was not present. There was supposed to be a meeting with her and Erin but Selectboard was unsure at this time if it had occurred. A resident questioned whether any payments were made and the Selectboard responded they are waiting for a report.

A letter to Emily and the Selectboard from Carol Rossi was read requesting the Selectboard to have the delinquent tax collector send a letter to those who are behind in taxes with a deadline that their property will be referred for a tax sale. No action was taken because the board did not have advance time to review the

request and it was not on the agenda. Discussion ensued regarding the fact that the delinquent tax collector answers to the voters not the Selectboard. Ann will respond to Carol and to Emily.

NEW BUSINESS

Response to DPS Financial Monitoring Report rec'd 8/1 Adopt draft Code of Ethics and Enforcement Ordinance; Adopt amended Purchasing Policy
Adopt amended Contract. All tabled, because the drafts Ann prepared and sent have not yet been approved by the DPS representative.

CLERK/TREASURER'S REPORT

The clerk was not present to give report.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Theresa asked if Minister Hill Rd would be graded soon.

She noted that the Act 181 maps were missing from the town website notice; Ann will follow up.

Kathy inquired about Town Hall ADA projects. Ann reported there have been no decisions made to date, however some electrical upgrade plans have been discussed with St. Johnsbury Academy teacher for a student project and window repairs are under contract to be completed next year using the MERP Construction grant. 20% of the grant must be spent on ADA because our building does not meet this code. Ann invited Kathy to join the MERP task force but she declined.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Review & sign warrants Mike motions, seconded by Chuck to review and sign warrants. All in favor, so voted.

CORRESPONDENCE

Norma Twombly had submitted a comment requesting that any late fees for her tax payment be waived. The state lost her Homestead Declaration paperwork, although they cashed her check.

ADJOURNMENT

Ann motions, seconded by Chuck to adjourn. All in favor, so voted. Meeting

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adjourned 8:19pm.

Submitted by Meaghan Rinehart

Ann Lawless, chair

Mike Richardson

Chuck Dill
