



TOWN OF TOWNSHEND

Selectboard
PO Box 121 Townshend, Vermont 05353

Selectboard Meeting Agenda

May 9, 2023 6:00 PM

Townshend Town Hall

Approved: 5/23/2023

Present: Sherwood Lake, Phoebe Connolly, Rob Wright, Katie Marrow, Rob Swiger

In Attendance: Galen Robinson - BCTV, Connie Holt - SB Assistant

1. **Meeting Call to Order:** Lake calls the meeting to order at 6:01pm.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Wright makes a motion to approve the April 25, 2023 Selectboard meeting minutes. Marrow seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.
3. **Additions and Deletions:** Lake runs through the additions to the agenda.
 - a. New Business (9b): Member of the Public requesting speed limit signs on State Forest Road
 - b. New Business (9c): Approval of the Windham County Human Society contract.
 - c. New Business (9d): Common Use Request: Candle Light Vigil in memory of Dylan Landers.
 - d. New Business (9e): Town Hall Use Request: Ellenka Wilson for a memorial service for Phil Moriarty.
4. **Members of the Public:** Laura Richardson addresses the Board on the Gazebo. She gives Connolly the Common Use Policy since she is a new Selectboard member. Richardson states that since money has been found, it is now that time of year to hire a contractor to repair the Gazebo. She asks what is the status of putting out bids. Lake responds that there is no status, because John Evans says that the Gazebo is ok. Richardson replies that she has had conversations with Evans and does not completely agree. While the underneath is solid, balusters are missing, and treads on steps need to be replaced. She states that the Town needs to be proactive on fixing the Gazebo. Lake responds that the Board will take your comments into consideration, but the policy is null and void.

Connolly states that she is new to this policy, but would not want to deny someone the use of the Common. She asks if the board can revisit the policy in a way that deals with the legal concerns and also provides flexibility in use. Richardson gives Connolly a copy of the petition showing support for maintaining the Gazebo. Richardson states

that she will put together a proposal for Town Meeting, because there currently is no money in the budget for the Gazebo. She adds that there is money in place so she should not have to Fundraise. Swiger states that it would be helpful if you get more specific on what needs to be done. Richardson states that the baluster need replacing, the perimeter of the floor needs redoing, and the threads on the stairs need to be replaced. Wright adds that the company that made these balusters no longer makes them. They would have to be custom made which is expensive. Richardson says to just put in straight ones, then at least no one will fall through. Lake concludes the discussion that Richardson should ignore this Common Use Policy, because he is almost done with the revisions and then will p[resent to the Board.

6. Correspondence:

a. George Dutton regarding the hole in Windham Hill Road: Lake reads the message from George Dutton stating how dangerous the hole on Windham Hill is. Marrow and Swiger add that they agree it is very dangerous. Lake states that he will talk with Steve about the situation.

b. John Evans' update on the town hall bathroom: Lake reads the note from John Evans stating that the renovations to the women's bathroom are pretty simple and cost effective to bring it closer to ADA standards.

7. Warrants: Marrow makes a motion to pay warrants 1 - 7;

1. Payroll:	\$10,871.18
2. P{payroll Taxes:	\$3,021.46
3. General Fund:	\$159.18
4. General Fund:	\$13,823.40
5. Highway:	\$6,048.96
6. Highway Equipment:	\$2,224.96
7. ARPA:	\$10,308.30
TOTAL:	\$44,457.44

Wright seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.

9. Reports:

1. Highway: Lake reads Steve Frisk's Highway report;

a. Spring maintenance continues with grading and culvert and ditch cleaning.

b. Mowing has started.

c. The fountain will be painted this week.

d. The fence along the Phoenix property is going up soon.

e. Steve will be working with ANR and the Army Corp of Engineers for the permitting of the stone arch bridge.

f. At the 5/23 meeting there will be open bids for the gravel crushing.

2. Treasurer: Lake gives the Treasurer Report. The General Fund True Balance is \$397,336.00. The is no M&P report this evening

3. Town Clerk: Lake gives the Clerk's report: The Clerk took in \$1,121.10 in fees and services.

4. Chair:

a. Lake distributes information on Vermont Emergency Preparedness and the VT Alert System. He says that these two resources help residents prepare ahead of a weather event. The information is available in the Clerks office. Connolly adds that while it is not always as simple as that, she agrees that preparedness is a priority. It is about trying to address the limitations of your situation.

Richardson states that the last storm was about heat. Lake responds that the Town Hall could have served as a warming station, but no one could get into the building. Richardson replies that, by Wednesday after the storm, Town Hall had electricity when a lot of residents did not. Marrow concludes the conversation saying that she always calls Green Mountain Power in advance to inform them that she has an infant and that there is vulnerability in the household. She states that she is glad Sherwood handed out this information, because it answers a lot of questions.

b. PACIF Quarterly Loss Report:

8. Old Business: None

9. New Business:

a. Liquor License application from Big Picture Farm: Lake reads the application and asks if any Board member has an issue with it. No Board member says they do. Swiger makes a motion to approve a First Class Commercial Caterer Liquor License to Big Picture Farm. Wright seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.

b. Member of the Public requesting speed limit signs on State Forest Road: There is a discussion amongst the Board about where the appropriate place would be for speed limit signs. Lake suggests that we inform Steve of the issue and see what he says. Marrow states that she thinks we should post the signs if there is an issue. Swiger makes a motion to post speed limit signs on the straight away of State Forest Road. Marrow seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-1-0.

c. Approval of the Windham County Human Society contract: Lake makes a motion to enter into a contract with Windham County Humane Society (WCHS) for 2023 in the amount of \$385.00. Wright raises his concern that the town pays \$385.00 and then the resident gets charged \$30.00. A discussion ensues about this concern of double charging. Lake raises that if there is no contract with WCHS then the constable does not have a place to put the animals. Lake suggests that this issue be tabled until the next Selectboard meeting. The Board members agree.

d. Common Use Request: Candle Light Vigil in memory of Dylan Landers. Wright makes a motion to allow the candle light vigil for Dylan Sanders on 5/15/23 from 7 - 8:30pm, and to waive the fee. Connolly seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.

e. Town Hall Use Request: Ellenka Wilson's requests the use of Town Hall for a memorial service for Phil Moriarty. . Wright makes a motion to allow Kathy and Ellenka to use Town Hall for Phil Moriarty's Memorial and to waive the fee. Marrow seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.

10. **Executive Session:** Personnel Issue 313 VSA(B). Meeting adjourned to executive sessional 7:06pm.

11. **Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 6:00pm