

TOWN OF WAITSFIELD, VERMONT
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 13, 2024

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Christine Sullivan. The meeting was held in person at the Waitsfield Town Office and remotely via Zoom.

Members Present: Chach Curtis, Fred Messer, Brian Shupe, Christine Sullivan, Larissa Ursprung

Others Present: Daniel Beede (Fire Department), Misha Golfman (MRPA), AnnMarie Harmon (Planning Commission, Wait House Committee), Anthony Italiano (MRTV), Trip Johnson (Fire Chief), Curt Lindberg (Conservation Commission), Lisa Loomis (Valley Reporter), John Morris, Alice Peal (Planning Commission), Craig Snell (Fire Department), Jonathan Ursprung (Planning Commission)

II. Regular Business.

1. Review agenda for addition, removal, or adjustment of any items per 1 VSA 312(d)(3)(A).

The Consent Agenda was adjusted. Consideration of Selectboard communications was added to the Wastewater Project agenda item.

2. Public Forum.

Nobody present requested time to address the Board.

3. Liquor License Approval – Cousin’s Brewery – First Class and Outside Consumption.

Mr. Morris outlined that the indoor space will be the same as previously permitted, and the outdoor space is to be a beer garden that was recently approved by the DRB. He confirmed that all servers have recently been trained. It was agreed to require the customary three years of in-person renewal; Mr. Morris expressed no concerns regarding this requirement.

MOTION: *Mr. Curtis made a motion to approve the First Class and Outdoor Consumption Licenses for Cousin’s Brewery. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shupe. All voted in favor.*

4. Fire Department RFP response and next steps.

A bid for extractor installation had been received from Griffin and Sons, for a significantly less amount than that received in response to the earlier RFP for this work, and meeting the required specifications. Mr. Brittingham had provided an outline of available funds, and it was noted that Fayston will also be contributing to this installation. Fire Department representatives were present, and explained that this will get the extractor set up and running, and that an expense for annual inspection will need to be included in future operating budgets.

MOTION: *Mr. Shupe made a motion to accept the bid from Griffin and Sons for installation of the Fire Department extractor. The motion was seconded by Mr. Messer. All voted in favor.*

5. Planning Commission Consultant recommendation for Irasville Master Planning.

Ms. Harmon provided some background on the selection process undertaken by the Steering Committee and the Planning Commission decision to recommend that SE Group be selected as the consultant for the Irasville Master Planning work. This consultant offers expertise in planning, and has recently brought a wetlands specialist on board; this initial project phase will

49 focus primarily on the master planning aspect of the project. Ms. Harmon explained that some
50 wetland identification work had been completed by Arrowwood in 2021, and that the effort to
51 outline wetland enhancement opportunities will be the focus of a second planning phase. Ms.
52 Peal noted that the State Wetlands Program is also working in the Waitsfield area to update
53 wetlands delineations, and Mr. Ursprung noted that ACCD allows for a second Municipal
54 Planning Grant to be awarded for larger-scale projects such as this.

55

56 **MOTION:** *Mr. Curtis made a motion to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation and*
57 *approve contracting with SE Group for Irasville Master Planning work. The motion was*
58 *seconded by Ms. Ursprung. All voted in favor.*

59

60 **6. Wait House Committee Update/Spending Request.**

61 Ms. Harmon outlined that the Committee is requesting funds for providing a retainer for
62 painting services, for pest control, and for tree removal.

63

64 Mr. Messer pointed out that power washing may not be appropriate for that building, and will
65 look into whether additional lead remediation language is necessary in any painting contract.
66 Ms. Harmon confirmed that the connection between roofing work and painting is understood,
67 but that there needs to be some fundraising effort in place before the roof work can be
68 contracted. She indicated that the painting needs are critical, and should not be put off until
69 the roof is completed.

70

71 Board members requested that there be some announcement regarding the planned tree
72 removal, letting the public know why and when this will be taking place. It will be confirmed
73 that the crab apple being removed is the one which is too close to the building.

74

75 The pest control measures will include treatment for powder post beetles as well as rodents;
76 Ms. Harmon explained that the toxicity will not be in areas where people are present. Mr.
77 Golfman expressed some concerns regarding treatment for rodents.

78

79 Mr. Messer will inquire at the next Historical Society meeting if that group still intends to
80 contribute to tree removal expenses.

81

82 **MOTION:** *Mr. Messer made a motion to approve the expenditures as outlined for pest control, a*
83 *retainer for painting work, and tree removal at the Wait House, confirming that there will be*
84 *compliance with required lead paint removal practices in place before signing the related*
85 *contract. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shupe. All voted in favor.*

86

87 **7. Mad River Path: Update on the VT-100 Multi-Use Path Scoping Study, Update on 2024** 88 **MRP projects, Allocation for 2024 path mowing, Possible MRP trail development.**

89 Mr. Golfman reported that the Scoping Study grant had been awarded; he outlined the study
90 parameters and related work, and indicated that the selection of a contractor is in process.
91 Because this is a multi-jurisdictional project, Mr. Golfman proposed forming an oversight
92 committee, including a representative of the Selectboard in each town that is involved. Board
93 members advised Mr. Golfman that they will let him know who from Waitsfield will participate.

94

95 Regarding updates, Mr. Golfman reported that almost all damage due to the December 2023
96 flooding has been repaired; dog signage is being developed and installed; kiosks with

97 informational materials and maps are also in progress, all with positive messaging; the work on
98 the Path connector from the Recreation Hub to Irasville is nearing completion; the Triathlon
99 was a success and it is hoped to grow participation; Mad River Path Adventure Camps will be
100 held through the summer.

101

102 Mr. Golfman asked for the amount approved by the Town for Path mowing this summer; Board
103 members will look into this and provide him with the information.

104

105 Conceptual ideas were brought forward by Mr. Golfman regarding accessible trail development
106 which might run through the Fairgrounds parcel, coordination between work needed for the
107 Wastewater System installation and construction of the related section of the VT-100 Multi Use
108 Path, and potential camping at the Wait House site.

109

110 **8. Invasive Species Reserve Fund Deficit Recommendation – Conservation Commission.**

111 Mr. Lindberg explained that some of the paperwork for the Lake Champlain Basin Program
112 grant is awaiting signatures before funds may be disbursed; and also explained that the prior
113 year's initial work expense for the intern program had not been recorded, leading to a negative
114 balance in that account. The Commission is requesting that the \$2500 remaining in Reserve be
115 allocated in order to cover both the negative balance as well as any payments for the intern
116 program which may be necessary before the grant paperwork is complete.

117

118 **9. Conservation Commission request for fund for Trail Markers.**

119 The company providing the markers has requested a deposit and payment before the items are
120 shipped. Mr. Lindberg noted that these funds will come from the Operating Budget and Special
121 Projects budget.

122

123 **MOTION:** *Mr. Curtis made a motion to appropriate the remaining \$2500 of Conservation*
124 *Reserve Funds to cover the discovered deficit and to make any necessary intern payments that*
125 *are due before grant monies are received; and to approve payment of the invoice presented for*
126 *outdoor signs and trail markers. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shupe. All voted in favor.*

127

128 Mr. Lindberg requested some Road Crew support in moving knotweed out of park areas; Board
129 members explained that they will be discussing including park maintenance in the Road Crew
130 schedule, but cautioned that the crew has little to no extra time available.

131

132 **10. Wastewater Project – Selectboard Statement of Intent.**

133 The statement to be released by the Board was discussed and edited to read:

134

135 *The Board's intent is to fund the majority of the wastewater project cost with federal and state*
136 *grant funds, and to use monthly user fees for operating costs as well as the source for making*
137 *payments on any loan amount that is determined to be necessary and reasonable for success of*
138 *the system.*

139

140 Mr. Curtis explained that the project team believes it will be helpful to send a notice, either
141 included in the ballot mailing or as a separate postcard if that is not possible, providing
142 information for voters regarding the intent to cover most of the system's construction costs
143 through grant funds. The cost to cover the mailing will exceed the grant amount received for
144 this purpose, and therefore it is being requested to use ARPA funds to cover the balance.

145
146 **MOTION:** *Mr. Curtis made a motion to authorize the use of town ARPA funds to cover the cost*
147 *of a mailing accompanying the wastewater bond ballot to all registered voters. The motion was*
148 *seconded by Mr. Shupe. All voted in favor.*

149
150 **10A. Water System Approval – General Water Main Construction Permit VerdMont**
151 Ms. Sullivan outlined the water system request from Downstreet; they plan to upgrade the
152 water lines in the VerdMont Park, which is Downstreet property. She explained that the Town
153 needs to sign the permit because the lines are attaching to the Town’s Water System, and that
154 Robin Morris has requested that he be given the authority to sign for the Town.

155
156 **MOTION:** *Mr. Shupe made a motion to authorize the Chair of the Water Commission to sign the*
157 *application forms related to the upgrading of water lines in the VerdMont Park. The motion*
158 *was seconded by Mr. Messer. All voted in favor.*

159
160 **11. Consent Agenda.**

161 **APPROVAL:** *The Consent Agenda was approved with no objections or concerns raised.*

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163
 - Approve Minutes of 4/29/2024
 - Bills Payable and Treasurer’s Warrants
 - Reappoint Fred Messer to 3-year term beginning 7/1/2024 as Town Health Officer

166
167 **12. Selectboard Roundtable.**

168 Mr. Curtis reported that he had spoken with Josh Rogers regarding a request from Sebastian
169 Von Trapp to run a water line under the Common Road; details regarding the purpose and
170 seasonality of the water use were not known. It was explained that an application to work in
171 the Town ROW must be submitted to the Board for their review and approval.

172
173 The upcoming Board meeting schedule was discussed, and it was agreed to meet next on June
174 3, 2024.

175
176 **13. Executive Session.**

177
178 **MOTION:** *A motion to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a) (3) [Personnel]*
179 *passed unanimously.*

180 The meeting entered Executive Session at 8:38 pm and returned to open session at 9:00 pm.

181
182 **III. Other Business**

183 **1. Correspondence/reports received** were reviewed.

184 **IV. Adjourn**

185 The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

186 Respectfully submitted,
187 Carol Chamberlin, Recording Secretary