TOWN OF WAITSFIELD, VERMONT

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 6, 2025

Final

Members Present: David Babbott-Klein, Chach Curtis, Fred Messer, Brian Shupe, Larissa Ursprung
Staff Present: None
Others Present: John Brodeur, Betty Ann Libby, Emily Shea

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

II. Regular Business

1. Review agenda for addition, removal, or adjustment of any items per 1 VSA 312(d)(3)(A).
Discussion of a fire hydrant installation was added to the agenda.

2. Public Forum.
Betty Ann Libby spoke of the benefits of public art, including the banners on Bridge Street.

2A. Hydrant at John Donaldson property.
It was outlined that when the permit was issued for Mr. Donaldson's pond, it had been agreed that there would be a fire hydrant installed at the property. Mr. Donaldson explained that a recent evaluation of that installation had determined that a culvert be placed in the roadside swale along Rolston Road in order to provide equipment access for the work to be completed. The Fire Department prefers a wet hydrant as more reliable, which means a more complex installation, leading to the need for the additional equipment. The culvert is needed temporarily, but it was indicated that it could also be left in place permanently.

It was discussed that the plans are finalized and that a bid had been received, but that it is unknown where in the budget funds are available for the work, and the bid received is higher than anticipated. Mr. Shupe noted that there is an applicable grant program, but there are no more application periods open in the current year. Mr. Haverkamp had reached out to other contractors, but only the one response had been received.

It was agreed to gather more details regarding the project, and noted that the first sections of pipe exiting the pond were installed at the time of pond construction. This matter will be on the Board's agenda for the October 27 meeting.

2B. Additional Public Forum
John Brodeur of Bridge Street reported that the new pavement striping on the eastern side of the Covered Bridge has led to there being no room for parking close to the bridge, and people are parking in an unsafe manner to get out of their cars for activities such as photographing the bridge. He suggested narrowing the new pedestrian striping in order to allow for some parking

spaces to be available. It was agreed to look into the situation, and to put the matter on the agenda for the October 27 meeting.

3. Consider proposal to replace the furnace in the General Wait House.

Mr. Messer reported that while the furnace in the Wait House was being serviced a CO (carbon monoxide) leak was discovered, which indicates that the furnace needs to be replaced. Pring Plumbing & Heating has provided an estimate of $10,039 for replacement with an updated version of the same model, including installation. Mr. Messer explained that this is a high efficiency unit, and that a new furnace needs to be installed immediately, as there is no heat in the building at this point. It was agreed that replacing the existing furnace now does not preclude future exploration of the use of heat pumps or other climate control solutions in the future, for which grants are more likely to be available. It was confirmed that the necessary funds are available in the Wait House Reserve.

MOTION: *Mr. Messer moved to purchase a new furnace as quoted by Pring Plumbing & Heating, for $10,039, using funds from the Wait House Reserve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Babbott-Klein, and passed unanimously.*

2. Consider application from Afterthoughts for a Class 2 Liquor License to allow the sale of alcohol for off-site consumption.

Emily Shea explained the need for and logistics of this new aspect of Afterthoughts' liquor licensing, which will allow Peaceburger to provide retail sales of alcohol for people picking up to-go orders. She explained that signage will be the biggest deterrent to onsite consumption.

MOTION: *Mr. Babbott-Klein moved to approve a Class 2 Liquor License for Afterthoughts. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ursprung, and passed unanimously.*

3. Consider recommendation from Town Treasurer Steve Lewis to invest certain reserve funds and a portion of the General Fund unrestricted fund balance in Certificates of Deposit

Mr. Lewis had provided a memo regarding the investment of funds in CDs, which has been a practice in the past.

MOTION: *Mr. Curtis moved to approve Mr. Lewis' recommendation to invest the outlined funds in CDs with Northfield Savings Bank for a term ending in May 2026. The motion was seconded by Mr. Babbott-Klein, and passed unanimously.*

4. Consider appointing Alice Peal as the representative of the Waitsfield Historical Society to the General Wait House Commission (GWHC).

It was noted that this appointment was recommended by the GWHC.

MOTION: *Mr. Messer moved to appoint Alice Peal to the GWHC as the Historical Society representative. The motion was seconded by Mr. Curtis, and passed unanimously.*

5. Wastewater project next steps/Follow-up discussion re: 9/24/2025 Finance Workshop.

Mr. Shupe summarized that the funding outlook has changed dramatically in the US, and there had been greater financing assistance anticipated. He indicated that the Wastewater Project Finance Committee had recommended consideration of a Local Options Tax (LOT) to help fund the project. Discussion followed, with there being some agreement that any funds raised should be designated for capital reserve purposes. It was also agreed to complete additional research into the possibility of initiating a LOT and determine best methods for providing associated public outreach, although Mr. Messer expressed that he continues to have reservations regarding the creation of an additional tax, particularly regarding affordability.

It was agreed that a committee should be formed to investigate creating a LOT, and Board members will suggest potential members at the October 27 meeting. Mr. Shupe offered to write an associated information piece for the Valley Reporter.

6. Consent Agenda.

APPROVAL: *A motion to approve the Consent Agenda passed unanimously.*

- Approve Afterthoughts Class III Liquor License
- Approve B. A. Libby's request for 2026 Banners on Bridge Street
- Approve Minutes of September 22, 2025
- Approve Bills Payable & Treasurer's Warrants

12. Selectboard Roundtable.

Dave offered a reminder that a Town Meeting Committee is forming, and asked that anybody interested in being part of the group reach out to him.

V. Other Business

1. Correspondence/reports received were reviewed.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Chamberlin, Recording Secretary