



**Town of Whitingham  
Office of the Selectboard**

**MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2021**

*These Minutes are considered a DRAFT until accepted into the public record (with any corrections noted) at a future meeting of the Whitingham Selectboard.*

The Whitingham Selectboard held a regular meeting at 6:30pm in the dining hall of the Whitingham Municipal Center on Wednesday, August 11, 2021.

Selectboard members present: Scott Reed, Chair (arrived late); Craig Hammer, Vice Chair; and Chris Walling.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Almira Aekus, Clerk/Treasurer; Stan Janovsky, Jr., Road Commissioner; Aysha Wahlstrom, Parks Committee; Robert Fisher, Town Attorney

**Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda**

Craig Hammer called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. There were minor changes to the agenda since it was posted.

**Hearing of visitors (for concerns not on the agenda)**

None

**Town Hill: discuss recent event and if changes in procedure are necessary**

There was recently an event at Town Hill that drew complaints and had the neighbors calling the police. The group using the park went out into the road and burned rubber along Town Hill Road. One complaint was received by walkers that they were almost hit by one of these vehicles and that they were not allowed to park at the public lot. Neighbors were forced to call the state police. The event went on for 5 hours. Selectboard and Parks Committee members inspected the park the following day and everything was cleaned up very nicely, no garbage or destruction of the park was found, only lots of rubber on the road. The Parks Committee met to discuss if changes in procedure need to be made as a result of this event. It was decided that this is a one-time occurrence. Having the park open to users on a first come first serve basis has worked well for many decades. The Committee does not recommend any changes in procedure or adding any signage at this time. The Selectboard agrees.

Both boards agreed that a letter should be written to the public to address the incident. Gig will craft a letter to the editor noting that no permits are required to use Town Hill, it was used in a way that was disruptive, but no damage was caused on the property. Use of Town Hill is free and open to the public on a first come first served basis but no event controls entire usage of the property. The two boards do not condone the recent activity, the road was blocked without town permission. A Veterans Memorial is on the property, and it should be respected. If you are going to use the facility please respect the property, the neighbors, and

the community use. The group that caused the incident were from Halifax - if you are from out of town please respect our community.

**Review and approve access permit**

Mr. Janovsky recommends the board approve an access permit for Lynn Mora on Tyanoga Drive. (Continued below)

**7:15pm Executive Session with Town Attorney**

**A motion was made by Chris Walling to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the town's litigation with Great River Hydro would clearly place the town at a substantial disadvantage if its negotiation strategy was made public, seconded by Scott Reed, all in favor.**

**A motion was made by Chris Walling to enter into executive session to discuss the town's lawsuit again Great River Hydro under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes to include Bob Fisher, Gig Zboray and Almira Aekus, seconded by Scott Reed, all in favor.**

With no decisions made, executive session was exited at 7:30pm.

**Changes to Deerfield Valley CUD appointees**

Phil Edelstein suggested that Chris Walling resign as Whitingham representative to the DV CUD because he has a difficult time attending all the daytime meetings while working full time. Mr. Edelstein also suggested that the Selectboard appoint Lauren Fitzpatrick, who is a new resident with experience in the IT field and in network systems administration. The Selectboard would like to meet with Ms. Fitzpatrick and/or get a copy of her resume before making any changes in appointments.

**Sewer: final review of budget and sewer rate increase letter**

Ms. Aekus has been working on the sewer department budget for the next 5 years to include increases to cover the cost of the future bond payment. The bond bank reviewed the proposed budget and thought it was very well planned. The Selectboard also reviewed and approved the proposed budget and the letter to notify sewer users of the rate increase. Setting the sewer rate for the current fiscal year will be on the agenda for August 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Access Permit:**

**A motion was made by Chris Walling to approve and sign the access permit for Lynn Mora at 340 Tyanoga Drive, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

**Approval of Payables Warrant – August 12, 2021**

**A motion was made by Chris Walling to approve Payables Warrant #W2208 dated August 12, 2021, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

**Approval of Payroll Warrant – August 12, 2021**

**A motion was made by Chris Walling to approve Payroll Warrant #W2207 dated August 12, 2021, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

**Approve Minutes of July 28, 2021**

**A motion was made by Chris Walling to accept the Minutes of July 28, 2021, as written, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

**Other Business**

A Heat Advisory has been issued for the area for tomorrow. Gig posted on Facebook that the Municipal Center will be open as a cooling center from 9-2, the library will be open 10-4.

**Adjourn**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Craig Hammer, seconded by Chris Walling, all in favor.**

Scott Reed adjourned the meeting at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

~Gig Zboray