

## WALDEN SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 12,2024

Present: Robert Hatch, Brenda Huntoon, Randolph Wilson, Debbie Messier, and Martha Bissell with Marie Blodgett via zoom

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm

The minutes of the July 29,2024 meeting were approved.

Public comment: Martha reported that there is an open Library Trustee seat. The position will be advertised and the Selectboard will make an appointment at our next meeting on August 19,2024. Martha also reported that the library needs storage for the outdoor activities tent and furniture. The trustees are in discussion with the Cemetery Commission to take overuse of a storage shed located at the garage site. The Selectboard supports the exchange. Marie asked about the independent audit which has not been scheduled.

Road Report: Fergason Hill Road does not have a spot to turn around due to house construction. The owners and residents will be notified to open a spot. Gravel Construction will remove the Orton Road bridge from the brook. The state does not have any temporary bridges available. Replacement will be expedited but it is unlikely to be completed this year. Stanley is back to work and increasing hours over the summer to full time. The International 10-wheeler is back in service. The new 6-wheeler is still back ordered with an uncertain delivery date. Our Cobb Road Better Back Roads Grant needs work completed by September 30,2024 and has been put out to bid. The bids will be opened at our next meeting. A bid request will be put out for a four-foot replacement (upgrade) culvert on the Coles Pond Road. This is part of a Better Back Roads Grant due by September 30,2025. The net-metered solar array, located at the Town Garage, became operational August 7,2024.

Town Clerk's Report: The abandoned dog that Bob Hatch took to the animal control officer will be turned over to the humane society. The Town will be responsible for the expenses. The 250-year anniversary of Vermont will be celebrated in 2025. Gov. Scott has asked every town to have an event. Martha will ask the Library Trustees if they can incorporate the anniversary into their summer event programs. FEMA funds from the 2023 flood are still not received but have moved to the State level now. The FEMA paperwork for the 2024 flood is in early development. The FY24 general budget closed with a \$12,711.62 deficit. A 100-year flood, a weather event in June 2024 and the Calx increase were just too much to balance. This will start our FY26 budgets which will begin to be developed in September.

Bills were signed

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm

Submitted by R. Wilson