

Walden Selectboard Meeting Minutes

August 28, 2023

Present: In person; Robert Hatch, Brenda Huntoon, Randolph Wilson, Jason Larrabee, William Half, Robyn Cook-Hubner, and Ryck Morales and Via Zoom; Debbie Messier, Marie Blodgett, Alvin Wakefield and Norman Cohen.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

The minutes of the August 14,2023 meeting were approved as written.

Alvin Wakefield and Norman Cohen presented the Vermont Declaration of Inclusion, which the Board signed. See attachment ; 116 Towns in Vermont have already signed the declaration.

Ryck Morales from the Small Business Administration outlined the available no and low interest loans that provide rapid financial help for those impacted by the flood of July 10,2023. See attachments

There were no public comments.

The Planning Commission was formed without consideration for a stipend to offset any out-of-pocket expenses and time. After discussion a stipend of \$500.00 per year was agreed upon by the board.

Road Report; the Town received two bids for the Watson Road 8 foot culvert. The Board accepted the lower bid presented by Ron Fenoff Excavating for \$78,575.00. The bid from J.P. Sicard Inc. of \$123,532.00 was not accepted. The work is scheduled for late September 2023. Bill Half, resident of Watson Road, inquired about the traffic plans during construction. The State grant is predicated on an alternative road plan. Our road crew will improve any problems on the class 4 road that goes to class 3 Greaves Road and Rte 15. This will allow cars, trucks, and potential fire and rescue access. There was extensive discussion concerning the proposed L.V.R.T. parking lot on the old side rail site, which the town owns. The Board is considering hiring Ruggles Engineering for a plan that can be submitted for a 20/80 construction grant. There were no decisions made.

The Town Clerk Report; Debbie reported a compliance inspection by our VLCT Insurance company. Due to their recommendations Debbie has installed Exit Signs above doors and continues working on Energy Efficiency Grant for new doors. The office has developed a standard dog complaint form to best help our residents, office and constable resolve dog issues. There was an expansion of the office parking lot. Debbie would like to thank the following volunteers, Alec Larrabee and Owen Kittredge that installed the fence to protect the septic tank and leach field, and Caleb Messier who volunteered his time and skidsteer to shape the lot and spread the gravel. Debbie stated the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan continues to be reviewed.

Other Business; Brenda attended a meeting of the Calex service towns. She reported on a possible merger of Calex and St. Johnsbury Fire and Rescue to better serve the area towns, including Walden. A Calex representative will schedule a visit to a Select Board meeting with additional details and costs.

Bills were signed

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Submitted by R. Wilson