

WORCESTER SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING

Minutes Tuesday, July 6, 2021, 6:30pm

Select Board members present: Roger Strobridge, John Kaeding

Guests present: Katie Winklejohn, Toni Kaeding, Brian Powers, Kate Spring

HOUSEKEEPING

- Ted called the meeting to order at 6:39pm.
- Roger moved to accept the minutes from June 26, seconded by Ted, and unanimously accepted.
- Additions to agenda: Roger requests discussion of Social Media Town Policy in New Business

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Highway Department

Brian has received two bids for resurfacing Minister Brook Road. After lengthy discussion, we decided to accept the bid from Green Mountain Paving for \$199,000.00. They have done previous work for the Town of Worcester and have provided good responsible service. Motion to accept bid was made by Ted, seconded by Roger, passed unanimously.

The question of health care cost reimbursement for retired highway workers was raised. When retiring before year's end, the town has typically provided reimbursement commensurate with months worked for employees not taking full health benefits. John moved to provide such reimbursement for Brian Powers and Tyler Whalen, seconded by Ted, passed unanimously.

Flagman issue – no progress yet but is still in the works.

Town Clerk

Questions have arisen about flood plain oversight and regulation. We discussed how best to handle this issue. Kate Spring suggested individuals who may be qualified to clarify issues. ACTION: Kate will talk to prospective candidates.

Katie noted that property tax for school education decreased this year.

Worcester continues to seek ways to assist households unable to pay taxes.

PUBLIC INPUT

Kate Spring had questions about how private roads become qualified for Town maintenance. Private roads must first be brought up to strict Town standards at owners' expense, then subject to approval by Town.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Plan update – Toni Kaeding and Kate Spring presented proposed ACTION steps included in reworked Town Plan. This Plan represents a significant investment of time and effort by members of the Committee and numerous citizens, and the Select Board is grateful for their contribution. The reviewed portion of the Plan was well received and next goes to the Town for public review.

Social Media Town Policy – Roger notes need to consider Town Social Media Policy used by other Vermont towns and villages. The Select Board will review the State proposed policy to consider its appropriateness for Worcester.

OLD BUSINESS

American Rescue Plan – Katie has already applied for funds so we are well-positioned for release. We await more information from VLCT regarding amounts of payment and plans for release. At this point, we assume Worcester will receive \$50,000.00 this year.

Declaration of Inclusion – The Select Board reviewed the reworked Declaration of Inclusion. It was well received and signed by all three members of the Select Board. This policy offers evidence of Worcester's commitment to the spirit of diversity, equity and inclusion.

The Town of Worcester condemns racism and discrimination of any type and welcomes all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or disability and will protect these classes to the fullest extent of our authority.

As a Town, we formally condemn discrimination in all its forms and commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community

The Town of Worcester has and will continue to be a place where individuals can live freely and express their opinions.

Signed by the Worcester Select Board on July 6, 2021

BILLS

Reviewed and signed

ANOUNCMENTS

The next regularly scheduled Select Board Meeting will be held in-person at Town Office on
Monday, July 19, at 6:30pm

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm.

ATTEST

John Kaeding

DRAFT