

WORCESTER SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

Tuesday, Sept 7, 2021, 6:30pm

Select Board members present: Ted Lamb, Roger Strobridge, John Kaeding

Guests present: Katie Winklejohn, Carl Powden, Allen Gilbert, Brian Powers, Jeff Salvador, Joe Audet Jr.

HOUSEKEEPING

- Ted called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.
- Ted moved to accept the minutes from August 16, seconded by Roger, and unanimously accepted.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Highway Department

Brian Powers reports via ZOOM that resurfacing Minister Brook Road is complete. Additionally, a small area of Calais Road was patched under previous funding. Brian notes plans to patch more of Calais Road later this fall.

Brian also notes new Highway Dept member. Ernie LaPlant has shown proficiency in running the grader and other large equipment, but his expertise with maintenance has been particularly valuable to the Town.

Town Clerk/Treasurer

- Katie reports an average of 50% full tax payments so Village finances are looking stable.
- Matt Morrisette requests place on next meeting's agenda re: water board issues.

PUBLIC INPUT

Jeff Salvador addressed the Select Board to clarify a misunderstanding. He is employed by Pike Industries as a consultant for external sales. As such, he is a salaried employee. It was recently suggested during bid gathering for Worcester's Minister Brook resurfacing, that Jeff might benefit from a commission if the work had been done by Pike rather than Green Mountain Paving. That is incorrect. As a salaried employee, he receives no commission for his work.

NEW BUSINESS

Eagle Ledge Traffic

Carl Powden from VT Land Trust has concerns regarding excessive off-road vehicular traffic on Eagle Ledge Trail causing extensive damage to road and water quality. DNR has noted water quality concerns on adjacent VT Land Trust properties. The Town of Worcester has limited ability to control use of this trail as it retains open right of way. The Town does have a permitting ordinance and adjacent properties can use no trespassing signage.

Action: Select Boards suggests that Carl explore Fish & Game as the appropriate resource to enforce road ordinance and no trespass restrictions.

More on Eagle Ledge

The Select Board notes report of harassment on Eagle Edge Trail near turn-off to Shepard Hill.

Action: No active intervention at this time but remains on our radar.

OLD BUSINESS

ARPA Funds

The Select Board is committed to use these funds in a manner that will be of greatest help to the largest number of Worcester residents. To that end, and after long discussion, we decided to assign this first tranche of funding (approximately \$53,000) to CVFiber to assist in delivering broadband to all Worcester locations. We have several other projects that need attention but whether ARPA funding may be used for these purposes remains unclear.

Overnight Parking

Residents of Worcester have expressed concern about overnight parking on Town property. The Select Board is considering an ordinance banning overnight parking on Town property. Our Town attorney has said this is legal and neighboring towns already have overnight parking bans in place. Roger moved to explore such an ordinance for Worcester, seconded by John, unanimously passed.

Action: Katie will find useful templates for us to review to determine relevance for Worcester.

Town Garage & Office Furnaces

Roger has arranged an assessment by the FW Webb Company. They will tell us if the Town needs to repair/replace these units

BILLS

Signed as presented.

ANOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled Select Board Meeting will be held in-person at Town Office on **Monday, September 20 at 6:30pm**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

ATTEST

John Kaeding

DRAFT