

Worcester Selectboard Regular Meeting
Minutes 11/21/22

These minutes were approved at the Selectboard meeting on 12/5/22.

Monday, November 21, 2022, 6:30pm

Selectboard members present: Roger Strobridge, John Kaeding, Carter Stowell
Guests present: Katie Miller, Jennifer LeStat, Toni Kaeding, Carl Witke, Collin O'Neil,
Peter Fitz, David Jablonski, Noah Weinstein

Housekeeping

- Roger called meeting to order at 6:38pm
- John moved to accept the minutes from the November 7th, 2022 Selectboard Meeting; seconded by Roger and unanimously accepted.
- Additions/Deletions –
 - o John moves that the selectboard hear from Toni tonight regarding the town plan; seconded by Roger and unanimously accepted.

Department Review

Town Clerk Report

- Jennifer reporting
- Cleaning up voter rolls
- Town clerk received inquiry from Times Argus asking about in-person town meeting in March, and if school board ballots would be mailed

Treasurer report

- Katie reporting
- Investment policy updated based on review with VLCT to address feedback from Edward Jones (“company”) that allows company to be passthrough
- Preliminary town budget has been created

Fire Department report

- Will reports – N/A
- Peter requests funding for six AEDs for use by Fast Squad from ARPA funds
 - o AEDs are placed with Fast Squad (Peter), Highway Dept (Mike), and on two fire trucks; having six would allow one at town office, one at town hall
 - o AEDs currently cost \$2300 apiece and come with a 7-year warranty
 - o Various ideas included getting all at once, or maybe 2-3 at a time on a schedule to spread out costs; Peter said it’s helpful to purchase in sets to have multiple units of the same model for familiarity to operators
 - o Action: Roger will include the AED request on a future agenda

Public Input

N/A

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New Business

Worcester Historical Society Funding Policy

- this should read 4th of July Committee Funding Policy
- Roger identified that adding a line to the town budget changes voter ability to impact spending since individual line items cannot be changed directly; instead, only the budget total can be changed by vote, and then it's up to the selectboard to decide how budget lines would be changed or reapportioned. Having a separate article for fireworks would put the decision directly to the voters.
- Roger moved to deny the request to add a town budget line item for 4th of July funding; seconded by John and unanimously accepted.

Wrightsville Beach District Cap Increase

- Collin presented a letter describing the cap increase, along with pricing plans and discounts for Worcester residents
- Roger moved to approve the request to increase the cap of per-capita assessment to \$4; seconded by John and unanimously accepted.

Town Plan discussion

- Toni presented amendments to the town plan in response to the public input received
- John moved to acknowledge the selectboard's receipt of the amended town plan on November 20th, 2022; seconded by Roger and unanimously accepted.
- John moved to hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2023 to review and accept the public input on the proposed town plan; seconded by Roger and unanimously accepted.

Town Budget discussion

- Katie walked through a preliminary first draft of town budget and the thinking behind specific line items with level funding, increases or decreases for 2023 as compared to 2022

Old Business

Noise Ordinance Discussion

- Noah shared examples of noise ordinances from other Vermont towns and noted that most of them included decibel tables and that Montpelier and Bennington noise ordinances were quite similar to each other
- Selectboard members discussed the importance of public input in the process, and began to consider the merits of specific features such as decibel levels, and brainstorming possible exceptions for activities in Worcester such as fireworks and VAST trail users
- The selectboard will be looking for more community input during the coming months, to be warned via future selectboard agendas accordingly

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Unauthorized Road Repairs Letter and Attorney Discussion

- Roger presented information received from the attorney and distinctions of town roads versus trails with respect to application of statutes
- David J. discussed challenges as a town resident living beyond town maintained roads to get to groceries, appointments and services, and interest in community-centered approaches such as notifications
- Jennifer read a letter from James Kline on ELR that described his recent experiences and challenges with unauthorized repairs
- Roger moved to hire the services of Stitzel Page & Fletcher PC for advice and services regarding unauthorized repairs pertaining to trails in Worcester, VT; seconded by John and unanimously accepted.

Listers Reappraisal Funding RFP Decision

- John moved to accept the listers reappraisal decision to contract with Ed Clodfelter of Calais for \$15,000 to cover 15 days of consulting; seconded by Roger and unanimously accepted.

Correspondence

None

Bills

Signed as presented

Announcements

The next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting will be held at the town office on Monday, December 5, 2022, at 6:30 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Attest,
Carter Stowell