

Worcester Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes  
September 16, 2024 at 6:30 pm  
Worcester Town Office Complex

Selectboard members present: Roger Strobridge, Carter Stowell and John Kaeding  
Guests present: Jennifer LeStat, Katie Miller, Will Sutton, Mike Utton, Karen Wiseman and Linda Hults

Housekeeping

- John called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
- Roger moved to accept the draft minutes of September 3, 2024 as written, seconded by John and unanimously approved
- Additions/Deletions to the agenda - none

Public Input

- Karen Wiseman requested assistance with accessing a grant to support her business. Roger moved to amend the agenda to include an item for a letter of support for a Resilient Foods Infrastructure Program grant application, seconded by John and unanimously approved

Department Reviews

Town Clerk Report

- Elections preparations continue
- The job description for the custodian position will be finalized and released later this month

Town Treasurer Report

- Taxes continue to come in
- \$27,300 remain outstanding, that will generate delinquent fees until paid
- Katie noted a future topic will be to discuss the transition of listers office configuration after current reappraisal
- FEMA representatives have not yet been to Worcester

Fire Department Report

- Will reported that one of the new members is beginning training
- Will noted that the cascade system for pressurizing breathing apparatus is a helpful system for the Fire Department

Town Engineering Report

- Tyler submitted a written report
- 1. 2023 FEMA supported Calais Road repairs

Avery Construction has finished culverts, head walls, ditching and armoring. No more road closures are expected though there will still be delays, one lane traffic and flaggers until all work is completed. Pike Construction will be coming soon to do final grading and then paving. Thereafter, line striping, guardrails and shoulder work will occur.

- 2. 2024 Emergency Projects

All emergency contractors (Avery, Goodhue and Fenoff) have demobilized from sites - Downs, Norton, Minister Brook, Hancock, West Hill and Hampshire Hill roads. Some top-dressing and guardrails need completion before winter.

### 3. 2024 Permanent Repairs

Downs, Hampshire Hill and Norton roads need further repair before winter.

We had been waiting for FEMA assessment but they have not yet arrived. The Town may choose to proceed with repairs even without FEMA input as winter is rapidly approaching.

- We had a discussion about the additional needed work. It was clear the work had to be done before winter. The Road Commissioner was given the green light to utilize Avery Construction to assist the Town in completing these “emergency repairs” particularly on Downs Road, Norton Road and Hampshire Hill.

### New Business

Review of letter for Resilient Foods Infrastructure Program grant application

- Roger moved that we sign a letter in support of Peaceful Mushrooms LLC’s grant application to Resilient Foods Infrastructure Program, seconded by John and unanimously approved.

- The SB sadly accepted Caitlin Howansky’s resignation from the Recreation Committee. We thank her for her service.

Discuss problems with Worcester’s small truck

- The 2023 International (Navistar) truck continues to have serious mechanical problems. Mike and Roger provided updates regarding serviceability and alternatives in preparation for winter. Will noted the possibility of searching State auctions for used trucks. Mike and Roger are gathering more information including warranty clarification but replacement of the small truck may become necessary. Discuss problems with Fire Development’s cascade system

- The Town will be issuing an RFP for an electrical upgrade needed to make the donated system operable. This work could likely be financed with ARPA funds.

Accept the resolution of Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission

- Roger moved to table that discussion, seconded by John and unanimously approved

### Old Business

Review Livestock Running at Large Ordinance

- John moved to table that topic while we await proposed edits to the draft pending updates from Calais, seconded by Roger and unanimously approved

Discuss Parking Ordinance alterations

- John suggested clarifying language regarding parking ticket fees. Roger will draft those changes for review at a future SB meeting.

### Correspondence

- none

### Announcements

- The next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting will be held at the Office Complex on Monday, October 7, 2024 at 6:30 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

### Bills

- signed as presented

Attest- - John Kaeding

DRAFT