

Worcester Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2025 at 6:30 pm

Worcester Town Office Complex

Selectboard members present: Roger Strobridge, Carter Stowell and John Kaeding

Town staff present: Jennifer LeStat, Katie Miller and Mike Utton

Guests present: Chris Pollard, Chani Waterhouse, Walt Bador Rodney Campbell and Joe Audet Jr.

Housekeeping

- Roger moved to accept the draft minutes of March 17, 2025 as written, seconded by John and unanimously approved

- Additions/deletions to the agenda - none

Public Input

- Carter shared information he had received about improved placement of port-o-lets during 4th of July festivities

Department Reviews

Town Clerk report

- Jennifer noted support presented for the BEAD letter (Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Grant)

- she is wrapping up election duties

Town Treasurer report

- 10 of 11 FEMA projects from July storms have been fully obligated and 9 have been signed for reimbursement from State of Vermont

- Katie gave extensive information regarding financing for the remaining bills concerning flood repairs as well as the required 5 major projects to be started this summer

- she is finishing quarterly reporting

- Katie is closing out ARPA fund reporting

Highway Department report

- trees have been cut for upcoming FEMA projects

- grading of roads has begun

New Business

Energy Task Force report

- Chani provided a status update focused on an upcoming draft of the energy plan, community engagement meetings and a currently circulating survey. A community presentation and input meeting will be held at Worcester's Town Hall on Monday, April 14 with pizza at 5:00 pm and presentation beginning at 5:30 pm.

Appointments

- Emergency Management Director - John moved to appoint Chris Pollard as Emergency Management Director for one year, seconded by Roger and unanimously approved

- Recreation Committee member - John moved to accept Greg Labarthe as Recreation Committee member for a three year term, seconded by Roger and unanimously approved

- Animal Control Officer - John moved to appoint Buffy Langlois as Animal Control Officer for one year, seconded by Roger and unanimously approved

Consider Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Grant

- Roger moved to allow John to sign the BEAD endorsement letter on behalf of the SB pending Carter's follow-up review to confirm the number of households included in the letter

Discussion of incorporation of Ladd Field/Haymeadow Committee into a subcommittee of the Recreation Committee

- John moved to make the Ladd Field/Haymeadow Committee a subcommittee of the Recreation Committee, seconded by Roger and unanimously approved

Discuss changing time/date of Town Meeting

- John recapped a suggestion made at Town Meeting that there be a discussion to explore a more inclusive Town Meeting time or date. The SB will consider options and revisit the topic in a month

Old Business

Revisit Calais Road flood damage repayment issue

- Katie summarized updates regarding the town's active cooperation with Federal and State entities working to resolve the repayment issue and recommended that no further action is required by the town at this time

Correspondence

- A letter of resignation from CV Fiber was received from Allen Gilbert, to be addressed at the next SB meeting

Announcements

- The next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting will be held at the Office Complex on Monday April 21, at 6:30 pm. Roger moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 pm, seconded by John and unanimously approved

Bills

- signed as presented

Attest

- John Kaeding