

**Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board
April 19th, 2021
28 North Main Street**

Present: M. Bard, K. Martin, M. Frier, C. Viens and D. Kehlmann, Select Board; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; S. Lotspeich, Community Planner; B. Farr, Transportation Liaison; and C. Lawrence, Town Clerk. The meeting was held via videoconference.

Public: Lisa Scagliotti, Waterbury Roundabout; ORCA Media; Hadley Laskowski, Valley Reporter; Kelsey Applegate, Joseph Wurtzbacher, Alexia Venafrá, Amy Hoskins, Alyssa Johnson, Mike Loschiavo, Erin Lander, Dana Allen, Steve Karcher, Meg Baldor, Maroni Minter, Tom Scribner, and Anne Imhoff.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

APPROVE AGENDA

C. Lawrence asked to add approval of liquor licenses for Maxi's Restaurant and the Wine Vault. K. Martin asked to add a community input discussion under Select Board items. M. Bard made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

C. Viens made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 5th meeting, liquor licenses for Michael's on the Hill, the Wine Vault and Maxi's Restaurant, and the reappointments to the various boards and committees as listed on the agenda. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC

There was no public comment.

SELECT BOARD BUSINESS

Interviews

The Select Board interviewed several candidates interested in serving on the various boards/commissions/committees and appointed the following:

M. Bard made a motion to appoint A. Johnson to the Planning Commission for a 3 year term ending April 30, 2024 and to appoint S. Karcher to a 1 year unexpired term ending April 30, 2022. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

C. Viens made a motion to appoint J. Wurtzbacher as an Alternate to the Development Review Board for a 3 year term ending April 30, 2024. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

D. Kehlmann made a motion to appoint Tom Scribner to the Recreation Committee for a 1 year unexpired term ending April 30, 2022 and Meg Baldor to the Recreation Committee for a 2 year unexpired term to end April 30, 2023. The motion was seconded by M. Bard and passed unanimously.

C. Viens made a motion to appoint K. Applegate to the Conservation Commission for a 4 year term ending April 30, 2025. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

M. Bard made a motion to appoint M. Loschiavo to the Tree Committee for a 3 year term ending April 30, 2024. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

Amount of Property Tax Interest to be Charged on May 1st

W. Shepeluk explained that the Board needs to decide whether to charge 1% or 1.5% on May 1st. M. Bard made a motion to approve property tax interest on May 1st of 1%. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

Discussion of Draft Interim Bylaws ~ Public Hearing to be Held on April 26th at 7:00pm

This is the opportunity for the Board to ask questions or get clarification in advance of the Public Hearing. S. Lotspeich stated that he will do a thorough walk through of the draft Bylaws next week at the Public Hearing and described some of the topics of discussion for next week. S. Lotspeich reminded the Board that they can make substantive changes to the draft Bylaws after the meeting next week. M. Frier recused himself from the remaining discussion. Discussion continued about the footprint of certain buildings and issues with density, scale and size of the streetscape. S. Lotspeich stated that the Planning Commission is concerned about scale. The Bylaws, if adopted, are good for 2 years and then can be extended for an additional year. Some of the questions previously distributed by the Waterbury Area Development Committee were discussed. M. Bard publicly commended the Planning Commission and S. Lotspeich for their hard work in developing the draft Bylaws.

Update on Racial Equity Training

D. Kehlmann asked for this item to be on the agenda. She has done some research as to training opportunities and will pass some more information onto the Board. The goal is to try to get training for the Board and possibly Department Heads by early summer and report back with the plan at the first meeting in May.

Community Input

A. Hoskins expressed concerns about race related comments that C. Viens made last fall. C. Viens agreed then to step down as Chair of the Select Board. A. Hoskins was encouraged that C. Viens and the Select Board are taking an interest in getting training. C. Viens has since been appointed as Vice Chair and is back in a position of power. A. Venafrà stated that she hopes the Board continues to provide for residents to attend the meetings from home when things go back to normal.

K. Martin had asked to add the item to discuss training and the appointment of C. Viens as Vice Chair, after receiving some correspondence. A. Venafrà would like some time for continued discussion at the May 3rd meeting. A. Venafrà asked how C. Viens could be removed as Vice Chair and M. Frier explained the options. M. Minter thanked the Board for the work they have been doing. M. Minter stated that last couple of weeks have been very tough with shootings and the trial of George Floyd. He started the petition calling for C. Viens to resign from the Board last year. M. Maroni expressed concerns that C. Viens is the Vice Chair and expressed his disappointment. He stated that he is watching the Board in an effort to hold them accountable.

C. Viens defended himself against the original accusations and his poor choice of words. M. Minter welcomed a conversation with C. Viens privately. A. Venafrà stated that WAARC members have asked for private conversations with Board members. Discussion continued about the poor choice of words used in the past by C. Viens. M. Bard expressed disappointment that the community is not more respectful of one another and that training has not occurred. M. Frier would like to see training occur, and has tried to get it going. He will work to move it forward. W. Shepeluk explained that this is a Select Board meeting to conduct the business of the Town, and perhaps the constituents can talk with Select Board members directly. This is not a time for the public to interrogate the Board, however important the issue is.

Consider Local Emergency Management Plan – Barb Farr

B. Farr explained that the State requires an update of the Local Emergency Operations Management Plan. The plan outlines how everything would work in the case of an emergency. Gary Dillon has been listed in the Plan for consideration as the Emergency Management Director. Mike Bard has been listed in the Plan for consideration as Emergency Management Coordinator. C. Viens made a motion

to approve the plan with the appointments of G. Dillon and M. Bard. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S ITEMS

Discuss Perry Hill Partners Appeal – Mediation

Perry Hill Partners has appealed the denial of a DRB permit to Vermont Superior Court. All parties know that interim Bylaws are being considered on April 26th which, if approved, will resolve the issue. If Perry Hill Partners still decide to move forward with the appeal, the Select Board will need to appoint someone to be the Town's representative in mediation, if necessary. C. Viens made a motion to appoint W. Shepeluk the mediator for the Town of Waterbury in the case of Perry Hill Partners versus the Town. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

Update on 2021 Paving Plan

The hope was to pave Stowe Street this year. The Town has applied for a paving grant to help offset the cost but it will take time for notification to the Town. It may be best to move ahead and pave Blush Hill. If the grant is received, the Stowe Street work can be scheduled in 2022. Further discussion will take place at the May 3rd meeting.

Personnel & Staffing Issues

W. Shepeluk stated that there has been significant turnover in the staff over the past year. These include J. Chase, D. Jackson, M. Cleary and A. Landauer. A. Landauer has announced her plans to resign. The Library Commissioners are gearing up for a search for a replacement. W. Shepeluk asked the Board to appoint a designee to serve on the personnel committee to work on the personnel policy. M. Bard volunteered for that role. C. Viens made a motion to appoint M. Bard to the personnel policy committee. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

Discuss Reopening Plan for Municipality

W. Shepeluk stated that the State has put out new opening guidelines dated April 9, 2021. Based on the information, the Town can start back with in person meetings in June with limited capacity. The Town can most likely host about 25 people in the room safely. The Town will also continue with offering the meetings via Zoom or some other hybrid set up.

There being no further Select Board business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: May 3, 2021