

**Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board  
November 1, 2021  
28 North Main Street**

Present: M. Frier, M. Bard, C. Viens, and D. Kehlmann, Select Board; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; S. Lotspeich, Planning and Zoning Director; and C. Lawrence, Town Clerk. The meeting was held in person and by videoconference to allow for remote attendance and participation.

Public: Lisa Scagliotti, Waterbury Roundabout; ORCA Media; Barbara Walton, John Pitrowski, Flora Scott, Kathi Tarrant, Mallory Culbertson, Maroni Minter, Gena Callan, Maggie Kerrin, Steve Karcher, Lawrence Sayah, Duncan McDougall, Angela Wells, Elisabeth Walton, Greg Probst, Linda Gravell, Liz Schlegel-Stevens, Alyssa Backman, Joan DePaolis, Meg Baldor, Tom Scribner, David Goodman, and Sue Minter.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

C. Lawrence asked to add a liquor license for Maxi's Restaurant under Consent Agenda Items. M. Frier asked to add a discussion about parking issues on Stowe Street and Sweet Road and an update from a representative of CVFiber under Select Board business. D. Kehlmann made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by M. Bard and passed unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

D. Kehlmann made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting and a liquor license for Maxi's Restaurant. The motion was seconded by M. Bard and passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC**

There was no public comment.

**SELECT BOARD BUSINESS**

**Discuss Inclusion Banner**

There was a discussion at the previous meeting about creating an inclusion banner. 'Waterbury Condemns Racism and Welcomes All' is the proposed language for the banner. Maggie Kerrin questioned why the community is not involved in developing the statement and feels the statement is negative and condemning. Elisabeth Walton states that she believes the statement has a negative connotation. Maroni Minter stated he is concerned that people are offended by the word racism but supports the proposed signage. Angela Wells feels that the banner should be open and welcoming and that it will start more conversations. Gena Callan suggested a 'Waterbury Affirms Inclusion - All Are Welcome' sign. Flora Scott suggested not using negative words to make a statement. Duncan McDougall stated that there is racism in Waterbury and throughout the country and supported the proposed wording as it takes a hard stance. Sue Minter thanked the Select Board for advancing the wording of the banner and strongly supports it. David Goodman also supported the proposed banner as it speaks to everyone. W. Shepeluk expressed concerns about the residents that do not wish to include 'condemns racism' in the banner wording. He suggested that the Board make the decision in the best interest of Waterbury, as elected officials. S. Lotspeich stated that his bi-racial children experienced a lot of racism growing up. He stated that people need to be made uncomfortable when talking about racism. Mallory Culbertson reminded the Board that the intention of the banner is to make everyone feel safe. Barbara Walton expressed appreciation that the Town is determining its own path and not following other larger cities. The wording 'Waterbury Welcomes All and Condemns Racism' was suggested. D. Kehlmann made a motion to adopt the wording of the banner as proposed. The motion was seconded by M. Bard. C. Viens stated he preferred the alternative wording that he suggested earlier, but would vote to support the motion as made in order to allow a unanimous vote. The motion then passed unanimously.

### **Discuss Proposed Legislative Reapportionment**

W. Shepeluk explained that after each census, the Legislative Apportionment Board (LAB) redrafts the legislative districts. The goal is to develop single member districts and these districts are ultimately voted on by the legislature. C. Lawrence shared a map of the proposed redistricting. The map shows the CHI-WAS-1 district that separates 746 Waterbury residents to be included with Bolton and Huntington, with the remainder of the Waterbury residents in the WAS-1 district. The boundary line of division was discussed. The Board of Civil Authority will be meeting on Thursday this week and is tasked with sending back comments to the LAB. W. Shepeluk stated that single member districts are the fairest way of representation but the legislature has never been in favor of splitting off parts of Towns. Some Towns are better represented by 2 member districts. W. Shepeluk explained that if this proposal passes, Waterbury will take a hit in its influence in the Statehouse. Due to the proposed boundary line, both of the district's current representatives would be in the same district and one would not be elected.

M. Bard made a motion that the Select Board recommend to the Board of Civil Authority that they oppose the proposed plan objecting to the division of the community. The motion was seconded by D. Kehlmann and passed unanimously. The Town Clerk will pass along this information at the BCA meeting on Thursday.

### **Discuss Act 250 Jurisdiction**

S. Lotspeich explained that in 2013, the zoning regulations were amended so that ACT 250 review is required for any projects larger than 1 acre. S. Karcher stated that there is a variety of opinions on the Planning Commission as to whether it should be changed to a 10 acre district. There are very few plots of land that would fall between the 1 acre and 10 acre scenario. He stated that his personal view is to move back to a 10 acre district. Commercial and industrial projects over 1 acre must be reviewed by ACT 250 which can be very expensive. There is significant cost, time and risk for an ACT 250 review. If changed to 10 acres, projects under 10 acres will still go before the DRB. There is much more capacity and experience now for the DRB to review projects. There is a process to repeal the ordinance that W. Shepeluk explained. The next meeting agenda will contain this item with more clarification so that people are informed.

### **CVFiber Update**

L. Gravel was present to give the Board an update on the work of CVFiber. The Waterbury representatives were invited to join the Lamoille County group. L. Gravel feels this will be better for the Town of Waterbury and asked that the Waterbury representative join the Lamoille Fiber board. D. Kehlmann made a motion that the Town of Waterbury join the Lamoille Fiber Board and appoint Linda Gravell and Christopher Shenk to be representatives while remaining members of CVFiber. The motion was seconded by M. Bard and passed unanimously.

### **Parking Issues on Stowe Street and Sweet Road**

M. Frier spoke with a community member about parking issues at the Hunger Mountain Trailhead on Sweet Road. There are also parking concerns on Stowe Street in the vicinity of the school. Staff can talk with the State Police about the issue. Members of VSP may be at the next meeting. A civilian parking enforcement person can be hired. D. Kehlmann suggested that the school be part of the solution. W. Shepeluk suggested that the principal and a couple of the School Board members could be invited to a future meeting. L. Scagliotti stated that part of the reason for the backup is because of COVID. The level of children riding buses is very low. The Board asked W. Shepeluk to reach out to the school co-principals with concerns.

The issues on Sweet Road involves the Hunger Mountain Trailhead. One resident has placed no parking signs within the highway right of way. He was told to take them down. There is limited parking in that location. A solution is to designate parking on one side only. Another solution may be to put pressure on the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to develop more parking especially if they own frontage along the road.

There being no further Select Board business, the meeting adjourned at 9:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: November 15, 2021