

Minutes of the Select Board  
Monday August 19, 2024  
28 North Main Street and via zoom

**Attendance:** Kane Sweeney, Alyssa Johnson, Ian Shea, Tom Leitz, Karen Petrovic, Roger Clapp, Bill Woodruff

**Public Attendance:** Peter Sarabia, Laura Brueckner, Tom Nesbitt, Chris Viens, Sandy Sabin, Kelly Lake, Kenneth Kero, Stacey Currier, P. Howard Flanders, Billy Vigdor, Lisa Meyer, Darren Jones, Paul Arnot, Stacey Schwarcz, Cathy Jo & Luther Leake, Filomena Siner, Lisa Scagliotti – Waterbury Roundabout, Steve Martin, Evan Hoffman, Charles Kletecka, Katya D'Angelo, Joe Camaratta, James Myers

**ZOOM:** ORCA Media, Mike Bard – Select Board, Pete Moran, Debbie, Katherine & Mike Bodan, Harry Shepard, Rebecca Mead, DMPY8BSUJF8M, Jess Palmer-Gwaltney, Bradley Pecue, MFP, Evan Hoffman, Doreen, Cassandra Coakley, Thomas Howard, Alyssa & Rory Heilakka, Amy Marshall-Carney, Dani Kehlmann, Meg Baldor, Tessa Yip, Mal Culbertson, Lawrence Dennis, Melissa Jordan, Theresa Wood, Rebecca Chartrand, Blake Cote, iPad, Michael Paddock, Rick Boyle, 8025855442, Tracy, Joe Hayes, Dave, Sabrina's iPad, 16176804399, Keith Cubbon CVRPC, Melanie, Richard Cohen, Anne Imhoff, Carrie

R. Clapp called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

**Approve Agenda:** K. Sweeney moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by A. Johnson; a vote was held and passed unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:** K. Sweeney moved to approve the consent agenda as written. I. Shea seconded the motion. A vote was held and passed unanimously.

**Public:** no comment

**Appointment to the Natural Disaster Preparedness Committee:** S. Schwarcz introduced herself to the board and stated she was interested in getting more involved in the community. Applicant does have experience with technical writing which could be well utilized by the committee. K. Sweeney moved to appoint S. Schwarcz to the unexpired term to the Natural Disaster Preparedness Committee ending April 30, 2026. Ian Shea seconded the motion. A discussion followed regarding S. Schwarcz being a Duxbury resident. A vote was held and passed 4-1 with A. Johnson abstaining.

**Review of Statistics and Discussion of Traffic Enforcement and Calming Measures; Lieutenant Howard and PWD to join:** T. Lietz introduced the statistics on the Town of Waterbury website. There was a discussion about tracking time response time. Lt. Howard could not provide the number of calls that were specific to calling 911; this will need to be copulated with the assistance of Sally Dillon. Lt. Howard stated he came prepared to speak to the number of calls that were responded to by non-Waterbury assigned troopers. This is a result of staffing in Berlin being down 30%. There are 14 recruits in the academy right now, Lt. Howard is hoping to hear soon how many of those troopers will be assigned to Waterbury. The Berlin barracks seems to be down more staff than other barracks are. Lt. Howard stated he does not see anything atypical compared to other communities within his coverage area. There are properties in Waterbury under investigation at this time for narcotics but those investigations take time. M. Bard asked about police coverage and responses to unhoused individuals. Lt. Howard stated Officer Murdock has emailed Lt. Howard about meeting with T. Leitz to discuss unhoused individuals in Waterbury. Getting the appropriate resources to unhoused individuals is the key. There is now no mental health coordinator at the Berlin barracks. Every field station in VT has an imbedded mental health agent with a primary role to provide mental health services and resources to individuals. It was very much a triage role for individuals that do not have a crime to report but really need

services. There is a shortage of time for officers to perform traffic enforcement. The staff appreciates the calls when T. Leitz reports problem areas. Lt. Howard is pleading for patience as he hopes to receive more officers to have on staff.

C. Viens asked if it is the jurisdictional process that is making the process of dealing with drug use and drug dealing so difficult. Lt. Howard stated it is a hinderance but he doesn't like to point fingers. A lot of the criminals are repeat offenders and the criminal justice system is not perfect. He encourages individuals to reach out to their State Reps to request change. VTtips on the Department website is a useful resource.

B. Woodruff, Public Works Director, was asked about traffic calming measures. There was a discussion at the last meeting regarding speed tables and speed bumps. B. Woodruff said the process needs to begin with a measured traffic study. When individuals are walking, biking or standing on the roads it seems like everyone goes faster than the speed limit. Once the data is collected then you can make informed decisions about how to proceed. CVRPC has the equipment to perform these. R. Clapp stated he would like to see Maple Street studied. The only fog line is on Stowe Street - the State does yellow lines on a Class II highway such as Maple Street. There are other line striping techniques that can be utilized. B. Woodruff suggests to get the data as soon as possible on both Maple and Kneeland before proceeding with striping. Since 2017 Guptil Road has been considered a High-Risk Rural Road.

There are temporary flashing speed signs available in Town that get rotated when the batteries are dead and moved to other locations.

Flashing lights at the cross walks along Main Street are extremely costly and need to be considered in the 2025 budget. These are approximately \$15,000 per sign.

**Future of Shaw Mansion Road:** T. Leitz stated the July 2024 flood the immediate priorities were opening roads where people were stranded. Shaw Mansion was not prioritized because all residents were able to get around one direction of the other. Emergency services were consulted and said they could respond without it being reopened. This is a FEMA eligible project. There is a legal process to consider discontinuing the through way of the road. It would require a site visit and warning of the meeting to all abutters. Counsel advised the finance challenges and operational challenges are substantial enough to consider not repairing the road. The culvert appears to be reuseable; work would require several hundred yards of material; material has been stockpiled to at least refill the hole. Fill, excavation and specialty work would be needed. PWD recommends repairing and reopening the road.

P. Arnot stated he was contacting the Town about the speed limit in the Shaw Mansion dip and his desire to keep the road closed making it more pedestrian friendly.

C. Kletecka stated there is a lot more development making it more necessary to have the road open.

M. Jordan lives on Valley View, she has seen an uptick in traffic and acknowledges during mud season it will be important there are options to residence. She is in favor of keeping Shaw Mansion open.

D. Jones has lived on Shaw Mansion his entire life and agrees that mud season is crucial to have options. He supports keeping it open.

L. Brueckner would like Shaw Mansion to stay open because of mud season.

The majority of the participants would like to have Shaw Mansion open. Consensus of the board is to reopen the road. Public Works will need time to contract with a construction company.

**FEMA Buyouts (Randall & Elm Streets third discussion):** P. Flanders thanked the board for their consideration to speak again. The elevation difference from one end of Randall Street to the other is 3.8' with P. Flanders being on the low end with his first floor being at 425' elevation. R. Clapp stated he now supports P. Flanders' request for a buyout considering such details as home on Randall that are currently on the market and not selling as buyers are more aware than ever about the risk of flooding. T. Leitz and R. Clapp spoke to Governor Scott last week who assured them action will be taken in the corn field to assist with flood mitigation. K.

**Sweeney moved to approve the buyout of 21 Elm Street. A. Johnson seconded the motion.** M. Bard stated he still wants to proceed with other flood mitigation measures along the Randall Street corridor consideration of raising all the houses on the street. T. Wood stated she also spoke to Doug Farnham who assured her the silt will be removed from the river bed. **A vote was held and passed unanimously.**

**UDAG Loan Committee:** \$600,000 from the construction of Ben & Jerry's is currently loaned out totaling \$1.8 million. There is now a committee to make decisions regarding loans. The committee would like to invite a member of the Select Board to join the committee. M. Bard and R. Clapp have both expressed interest in being appointed.

**TextMyGov:** T. Leitz introduced TextMyGov to the board stating he worked with folks that were involved with the flood in 2023 to establish this service so residents can easily communicate with the Town. [About TextMyGov - Waterbury, VT \(waterburyvt.com\)](https://www.waterburyvt.com/textmygov)

Consideration to switch the next two agenda items to accommodate K. Cubbon from CVRPC. **K. Sweeney moved to change the order of the agenda placing the 8:50pm agenda item: Adopt Local Hazard Mitigation Plan next. I. Shea seconded the motion; a vote was held and passed unanimously.**

**Adopt Local Hazard Mitigation Plan:** The plan has been on the Town of Waterbury website for more than two weeks receiving public comment. K. Cubbon spoke of the timeline that is coming. An action of preliminary adoption will provide the interim status. J. Hayes from Huntington Place asked some specific questions regarding the lower section of Union Street as it relates to flooding along Huntington Place. J. Hayes would like reassurance that Union Street and Huntington will have specific language in the LHMP to address flooding. F. Siner wanted to make sure the board realized when there is a lower Union Street flood, she and her neighbors become trapped due to the bridge being flooded. **A. Johnson moved to adopt the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with local statute the Waterbury Selectboard adopts the Waterbury, Vermont 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. While content related to the Town of Waterbury may require revisions to meet the plan approval requirements, changes occurring after adoption will not require the Town of Waterbury to re-adopt any further iterations of the plan. Subsequent plan updates following the approval period for this plan will require separate adoption resolutions. M. Bard seconded the motion. A vote was held and passed unanimously.**

**Grant Hazard Mitigation Grant Application:** SLR Consulting Hydrologist study, is going to include the Ice Center to Jenny Davis Road and Thatcher Brook up to Kneeland Flats. The hydrologist needs to wait until the leaves fall from the trees this fall in order to get accurate lidar data. The State has been clear that dredging is not a viable option. T. Leitz is lobbying the State for the ability to clear out flood debris from the cornfield without State approval. Data in the study indicated changes to Dac Rowe and the Winooski Street bridge. There is concern at the wastewater treatment plant during flood; recommendation for better armoring of the lagoons. The Ice Center land was looked at a decade ago but did not take into account moving the road. Route 2 has one culvert pipe that floods the backyards of homes that border the Interstate. All the bridges along Thatcher and Graves Brooks will be looked at as part of the study. The Hazard Mitigation Pre-App can go in soon; the deadline is August 30. **A. Johnson moved to authorize the Municipal Manager to submit an application for the Hazard Mitigation Grant and also post what is submitted publicly. K. Sweeney seconded the motion. A vote was held and passed unanimously.**

**Housing Trust Fund & Local Options Tax Funding Options:** K. Sweeney proposed the LOT be split in thirds. 1. Housing Initiatives 2. Road and Infrastructure 3. Paying down debts. A. Johnson asked if the discussion tonight is limited to this year or if this is a conversation for all years moving forward. R. Clapp stated for him this is a conversation for 2024 LOT funds that the Town did not realize they would even receive this year when the

discussion began.

The board has not yet made any motion to fund a Housing Trust.

M. Bard stated he was initially not in favor of the LOT but he was persuaded. He stated the idea of the LOT was sold to the voters is because it would be used to capture more revenue from out of staters. He is reluctant to earmark it in places that don't serve the entire community.

J. Camaratta stated a Housing Trust Fund is typically used to make housing more affordable but with the high cost of housing, that is not a very feasible use. The Task Force looked more at expanding rentals. Building additional capacity, Vermont Housing Improvement program (VHIP) stated the average grant was awarded at \$42,000 of a \$50,000 construction project. There are parameters that come along with that program. Initial planning to construct an ADU can cost anywhere from \$2,000 to \$10,000. There is a potential to use a Housing Trust Fund to top a program like VHIP making added funds available for the construction of an ADU.

**K. Sweeney moved the Town of Waterbury create a Housing Trust Fund. I. Shea seconded the motion. A vote was held and passed unanimously.**

**Change to Town Meeting format (first discussion):** R. Clapp stated he likes the Duxbury model. They have a meeting in January where they discuss the budget before the meeting is warned so they have an opportunity to make adjustments to the ballot before Town Meeting Day. K. Sweeney stated the meeting itself is an important element of democracy but he would like to move to all paper ballot. A. Johnson reminded the Board they have to plan ahead to discuss this at Town Meeting to change the format of Town Meeting. L. Scagliotti stated in November 2022 the Town of Duxbury held a Special Town Meeting to change the format. They had the first Pie in January early 2023 and then had an Australian ballot in March on Town Meeting Day.

**Next Meeting Agenda:**

After Action Report from CReW  
Division of Local Options Tax Allocation  
Town Meeting Day Format (second discussion)  
CReW and future floods

**Executive Session: A. Johnson moved to enter into executive session to discuss a contractual matter and that the Municipal Manager join. K. Sweeney seconded the motion, a vote was held and passed unanimously.**

The Board exited Executive Session at 10:53. **A. Johnson made a motion to authorize the Manager to sign an agreement with James Barlow for legal services. The motion was seconded by K. Sweeney and passed unanimously.**

**Adjourn: K. Sweeney made a motion to adjourn at 10:55. The motion was seconded by I. Shea and passed unanimously.**