

TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, January 9, 2023, 6:00pm  
Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street,  
White River Junction, VT 05001

This meeting was conducted in person at Town Hall

**Present:** Michael Hoyt, Chair; Kim Souza, Clerk; Lannie Collins, Member; Mary Erdei, Member; Member; John Haverstock; Dana Clawson; Scott Cooney; Jason Owens; Tish Owens; Will Adler; David Briggs; Peggy Briggs; Joe Major; Jesse Pollard; Stephanie Waterman; Richard Otis

Zoom: Dan Fraser, Vice-Chair; Rocket, Member; Ally Tufenkjian; Heidi Duto; Mike Morris

**JAM LINK:** <https://www.youtube.com/live/T0jHspywQQ0?si=XAuBRye1DTaqGqX6>

- I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting by Chair, Mike Hoyt at 6pm.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by Lannie Collins
- III. Local Liquor Control Board: None
- IV. Local Cannabis Control Board:
  1. #S-000005167-The Hidden Grove, LLC **Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza**  
**Selectboard Clerk made the motion to approve the permit request of The Hidden Grove, LLC. The motion was seconded by Selectboard Member Mary Erdei. All were in favor and the motion passed.**
  2. #S-000005000-VVS Farm, LLC. **Selectboard Member Mary Erdei made the motion to approve the permit request of VVS Farm, LLC. The motion was seconded by Selectboard Clerk Kim Souza. All were in favor and the motion passed.**
- V. Order of Agenda: A Resolution of Necessity relating to a bond proposal for Fire Station No. 2 was added to the agenda.
- VI. Selectboard
  1. Public Comment  
David Briggs spoke of his plans to re-develop his properties in White River Junction and of his interest in the work of the Town's Energy Commission and Climate Action Steering Committee.  
Jesse Pollard spoke of his work on the Town Energy Commission and of his support for the application of Richard Otis to join the Town Energy Commission. He also spoke of his interest in pending energy legislation in Montpelier.  
Mike Morris commented on a perceived conflict of interest for Selectboard members who may be either landlords and/or tenants acting on the current charter revision proposal, which addresses the regulation of rental housing. He also expressed concern at the manner in which the Selectboard Chair is conducting Agenda-setting meetings.
  2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements  
Lannie Collins spoke in praise of the work done by DPW to tackle snow events, despite staffing vacancies.  
Ally Tufenkjian expressed concerns about threats targeting organizations and events intending to be positive and inclusive. Most members echoed Ally's comments. Lannie Collins voiced his opinion that not everyone in our community views the drag story hour event positively.  
Kim Souza shared the Town Meeting Cycle event listing including Warrant Information Night, Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM at Hartford High School Auditorium  
Budget and Candidates Night, Monday, February 26, 2024 at 7:00 PM at Hartford High School Auditorium

Town and School District Meeting Day, Saturday, March 2 at 10:00 AM at Hartford High School Gymnasium

Town Meeting Day, Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Polls Open at Hartford High School from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

**3. Appointments**

- a. **This item was tabled to assure that this vacancy is properly posted.**
- b. **Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei made a motion to re-appoint Dylan Kreis to Resilient Hartford for a three-year term beginning on January 9, 2024 and ending on January 8, 2027. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**
- c. **Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei made a motion to re-appoint Laura Simon to Resilient Hartford for a three-year term beginning on January 9, 2024 and ending on January 8, 2027. The motion was seconded by Selectboard Clerk Kim Souza. All were in favor and the motion passed.**
- d. Richard Otis explained his background and interest in serving on the Town Energy Commission. **Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei made the motion to appoint Richard Otis to the Energy Commission for a three-year term beginning on January 9, 2024 and ending on January 8, 2027. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

**4. Town Manager's Report/Significant Activities**

Warrant Information Night will be held on Thursday, January 18 at the Hartford High School Auditorium at 6:00 pm.

**5. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances**

- a. Review and Approve Selectboard 2024 Meeting Calendar **Tabled.**
- b. Town Treasurer Joe Major discussed an upcoming forum at 6:00 pm on January 22 at the Cornerstone Community Center at which business grant opportunities and individual retirement opportunities would be discussed and which will be attended by State Treasurer, Mike Pieciak
- c. Report on Activities by Environmental Sustainability **Tabled.**
- d. Environmental Sustainability Coordinator Dana Clawson Request for funds from the Climate Action Reserve to purchase energy saving machinery/equipment for the Parks & Recreation Department. **Tabled.**
- e. Consider Purchase of Police Department Rifles. **Tabled.**
- f. Consider Revised Utility Agreement with VTrans. **Tabled.**
- g. Consider Approval of Modification of Truck Lease Financing Terms. **Tabled.**
- h. Discuss Improved Access to Town Policies and Ordinances. **Tabled.**
- i. Fire Chief Scott Cooney discussed the need for the Selectboard to adopt a Resolution of Necessity for Bond Issue related to Fire Station No. 2. Chair Mike Hoyt read the resolution aloud. **Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made a motion to adopt the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

**VII. Commission Reports**

- **Kim Souza:**

Planning Commission met December 18<sup>th</sup> to review 2 applications during a public hearing.

Application #23-26 by The Town of Hartford School District (owner/applicant) for Site Development Plan Approval for a school/educational building related to hours and programming on Christian Street in an agricultural overlay district and R-3 zoning district was approved unanimously.

Application #23-21 by Craftstudies Inc. (owner) and The Upper Valley Haven (applicant) for Site Development Plan Approval under section 260-45 of the Hartford Zoning Regulations for an Emergency Shelter at 608 North Main Street, White River Junction, in the HCR Zoning District was approved unanimously.

- **Ally Tufenkjian:**

**Hartford Committee on Racial Equity & Inclusion (HCOREI):**

HCOREI had more discussion about its 2024 goals in the areas of Recommendations, Education & Outreach, Data, & Committee Organization.

Julia Lau, School District Equity Coordinator, will be attending the January 17th HCOREI meeting.

One Committee vacancy.

**Resilient Hartford:**

A draft plan based on feedback from the December community discussion on the Clifford Park Food Forest is being prepared, with an important revision being an enhanced riparian buffer along the White River to account for future flooding.

The Conservation Commission will be working on pollinator gardens in 2024 and is seeking partners; the Committee will pursue the possibility of a pollinator garden as part of the Food Forest.

One committee vacancy.

**Hartford Committee on Housing & Homelessness (HCHH):**

HCHH is scheduling a joint January meeting with the Norwich Housing Committee.

The Hartford Business Revolving Loan Fund (HBRLF) members have been discussing the use of the HBRLF and the Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) Revolving Loan Fund for Accessory Dwelling Units and small-scale multifamily developments and want to discuss with the HCHH.

One committee vacancy.

- **Mary Erdei:**

**Hartford Conservation Commission, January 8, 2024**

Upcoming Conservation events include: Winter Walk in the Forest with Ted Levin on January 20th at 10 a.m., new Family Friendly event at the Town Forest on February 4th at 10 a.m. to introduce youngsters and their family to the enjoyment of the forest in winter led by Sky Claud, and the Hartford Stewardship Mix and Mingle on February 29th at Bugbee at 6 p.m. with presentations by the Tree Board, the Salamander Team, Climate Action Plan members, Garden Club, Resilient Hartford, Upper Valley Land Trust, VCE, VINS, our own Conservation Commission and others. JAM will cover the event, videotaping it and putting it up on the website.

As stated previously, Great River Hydro is in the beginning stages of relicensing the Wilder Dam, as well as for Vernon and Bellows Falls. The public should contact the Conservation Commission with questions or comments.

**Parks and Recreation, Dec 14th, 2023**

There are 2 vacancies on Parks and Recreation.

There were approximately 1600 tickets sold for the Polar Express that Parks and Rec partnered with White River Junction Rotary. This event was held on Dec 9th and 10th with travel on the train from WRJ to the North Pole in Norwich.

There will be a skate with Santa event. Glow skatings have been held in collaboration with the Hartford Community Coalition; public skating continues on Saturdays and Sundays.

This Spring, an electronic messaging board, app. 72 inches by 50 inches will be displayed at town hall through use of encumbered funds. It will have images and rotating messages and will be wifi activated. This will enable the town to communicate many messages in a timely and attractive fashion.

- VIII. Consent Agenda: **Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

Approve Payroll Ending: 1/6/2024

Approve A/P Manifests of: 12/22/2023, 12/28/2023, 1/5/2024 and 1/11/2024

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 12/19/2023

Approve Selectboard Meetings: 1/23/2024, 2/6/2024, 2/20/2024 and, if needed, 1/24/2024 and/or 1/25/2024

- IX. Executive Session: None  
X. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting

**Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 PM. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**



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Kim Souza, Clerk  
January 9, 2024 Meeting