

TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, May 30, 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; Rocket, Member, Ally Tufenkjian, Member; Lana Livingston; Gail Ostrout; Greg Sheldon; Scott Cooney; Matt Osborn; Bryan Gazda; Chris Holzwarth; CHICo Eastridge; Christine Cooper Warner; Aaron Warner; Colin Butler; Cathy Melocik; Heidi Duto; Todd Campbell; Sara Campbell; Joseph Trottier; Tom McCleary; Tom Kahl; John Haffner; Marcy Bartlett; Adams Carrol;

Absent: Dan Fraser, Selectboard Vice-Chair

JAM Link: [Hartford Selectboard 05/30/2023 - YouTube](#)

- I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting by Chair, Mike Hoyt at 6:00PM.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by Lannie Collins.
- III. Local Liquor Control Board: None
- IV. Local Cannabis Control Board: None
- V. Order of Agenda – there were no changes to the order of agenda.
- VI. Selectboard
 1. Public Comment

CHICo Estridge, Hartford and JAM, informed the Board about the opportunity to update the system in the Board Room using “OWLS”. The Board would like a demonstration before approving the update. Aaron Warner, Hartford, commented on the origins of the PRIDE movement.

Cathy Melocik, Wilder, commented on Mr. Warner’s comments.

Colin Butler, Hartford, commented on the Town Survey. He noted that the survey recorded his name.

Cathy Melocik, Town Manager Search Committee, said the survey did not keep anyone’s name.

Marie Melvin, WRJ, asked for answers for her last meeting questions to the Board. Zoom participants still cannot see the people in the Board room. There is no plan to change this. Police calls were not reported by village. Chief Sheldon said they are working on it. What are the results of the Safety meetings. Hartford Community Coalition coordinated these meetings. They have not provided the Selectboard with any of the results.

2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements

Lannie Collins thanked the WRJ Veteran's Council for their remembrance of Memorial Day that they did in front of the Municipal Building and at the Bridge and the Hartford Cemetery. It was very well attended and an honor to be part of that. Also thanked the members of the American Legion POST 84 for putting the flags up along rte. 5. He hopes someday in the future we can have flags throughout the Town. Mr. Collins also noted that at the last Selectboard meeting that he experienced the Board voting without the Members discussing the Pride flag issue. He believes the Board did not take into account the statements from citizens on this issue.

Rocket missed the last meeting about the Pride flags. However, although he loves the Pride flag he believes the Board should be focused on their responsibilities to the Town. He thanked all the families that have veterans in their families. About the article in the Valley News that he did, moving forward, it is not always about being right but being effective. He would also like to find a way to search for more grants for the Town.

Ally Tufenkjian announced that the first 2 hours of the next Selectboard meeting on June 13th will be a combined with the School Board to discuss the equity work both Boards have been doing.

Mary Erdei talked about IDEAL VERMONT, a DEI program for municipal workers.

Mike Hoyt said that the organizers of the HHS Alumni Parade on June 24th has asked if the Selectboard Members would like to be part of the Parade.

Kim Souza – the 4th annual Juneteenth celebration will be held at Lyman Point Park on June 17th. More details to follow.

Hartford Block party is June 21st.

3. Appointments: None

4. Town Manager

Significant Activity Report: https://www.hartford-vt.org/services/town_manager/significant_activity_reports.php#outer-1558

5. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances

a. Highway Roadside Mower Replacement

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion that the Selectboard authorize the Tow Manager to purchase a new 2023 New Holland FS6-110 with a Samurai 22 mower and the 5 year or 5,000-hour warranty for a total of \$146,452.38. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- b. Award Paving Contract
Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion that the Selectboard authorize the Director of Public Works to execute a contract with Blaktop, Inc. utilizing the \$775,000 of paving reserves dedicated to this project and to provide up \$236,000 of short-term financing from other reserves and operating cash flow to fully implement the Class II Paving Grant and Grant in Aid if awarded. Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- c. Gates Fairview Retaining Wall Update – Update only
- d. Hartford Ave and other water infrastructure updates – Update only
- e. Hartford Ave Speed Study
Selectboard Member, Rocket made the motion that the Selectboard authorize Town of Hartford Management to submit a formal request for speed limit reduction on Hartford Avenue to the State Traffic Safety Committee. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. 5 were in favor and 1 (Collins) was not in favor. The motion passed.
- f. Wilder Park & Ride (cameras, lighting and closure) The Selectboard did not make a motion to close the Park & Ride. They will continue to research signage, lighting and cameras and keep it open for now.
- g. Interest in Resources and Support for Vermonters Experiencing Homelessness
Selectboard Member, Rocket made the motion that the Selectboard authorize the Acting Town Manager to write a letter of interest to the Department of Children and Families regarding the Interest in Resources and Support for 2023 Homeless Response Efforts. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- h. Finalize Community Safety Review RFP
Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion that the Selectboard approve the proposed Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Assessment on Community Safety to be issued on June 5, 2023. Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- i. Non-Union Staff COLA increase for FY24
Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei made the motion that the Selectboard approve a 5% COLA for the non-union staff for FY24. Selectboard member, Lannie Collins seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- j. Hartford Boards & Commissions Vacancy Posting Policy & Appointment Policy.
Selectboard Member, Rocket made the motion that
1) The Selectboard approve and adopt the Hartford Committee, Commission & Board Vacancy Notification Policy, effective May 30, 2023. Following adoption, the Selectboard will notify all committees accordingly.
2) The Selectboard approve and adopt the Hartford Committee, Commission & Board Appointment Policy, effective May 30, 2023. Following adoption, the Selectboard will notify all committees accordingly. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. 5 were in favor, 1 (Collins) was not in favor. The motion passed.

VII. Commission Reports

Ally Tufenkjian

Resilient Hartford:-There were two successful workdays at the Clifford Park Food Forest on May 20th and May 21st with 7 volunteers on Saturday and 14 on Sunday. -A Memorandum of Understanding between the Ottauquechee Water Protection Association and the Quechee Lakes Landowners Association (QLLA) is being developed by the QLLA Diversity Equity and Inclusion Council to allow the Abenaki Garden on QLLA property. -The Wilder School food forest project is awaiting the School Board's approval on its proposal.-There are two committee vacancies.**Hartford Committee on Racial Equity & Inclusion:**-This year's Juneteenth celebration will be held jointly with Lebanon in Lyman Park on June 17th. Six speakers are lined up including Xusana Davis, Vermont's Executive Director of Racial Equity. There will also be a DJ, jazz band, and kids' activities. Lyman bridge will be decorated. The Lebanon School District will be doing a Juneteenth movie night on the 19th in their auditorium. -Some members of the committee participated in the interview process for the School District's Equity Coordinator. Julia Lau was recently hired into the position.-There is currently one vacancy and one anticipated vacancy on the committee. **Housing & Homelessness Committee:**-To keep developing the committee's work plan, committee members have been meeting with different housing and homelessness related groups, including those in Thetford, Woodstock, Lebanon and Bradford. Member Sandy Mariotti met with a representative from Woodstock's Housing Working Group and was informed that Woodstock is distributing Local Option Tax funds to support construction of accessory dwelling units.-Lynne Goodwin, Lebanon's Director of Human Services, recently submitted a plan to the Lebanon City Council for addressing homelessness in Lebanon and hired a consultant to identify strategies for regional cooperation around addressing affordable housing and homelessness. Hartford and this Committee can be partners in this assessment, which should start this June.- Committee members hope to generate more awareness about the sunsetting of the state's hotel/motel voucher program and help research potential solutions and responses.

Mary Erdei

Parks and Recreation

Director Hausler announced that Vermont awarded a Facility of Service Award to Hartford for its pool facility and it was only one of two awards given. Hilda Ojibway and Scott Snyder accepted the award and plaque. The revisions to the

town's Park Ordinances go before the Selectboard for approval at the next meeting, May 16th and it will include the addition of 2 Parks since the last Ordinance approval, Quechee Falls and the Maxfield Complex.

The camps and programs are almost all full at the moment and almost all employees have been hired (and rehired) and only one employee needs to complete training at the pool. Discussion also ensued concerning the first step in the planning of a Recreation Center. The gathering of names for input and interest in the project will be solicited from both the Commission and other town staff as they move to bring forward this project. Next meeting will be June 8th.

Hartford Conservation Commission

First item of business revolved around Pollinator Pathways and discussion of whether we should/could seed the section of the Forest that took "a beating" from logging for pollinators or grasses indigenous to our area, like at the log landing. Almost all trails are now open for use including bike trails; restoration on the Stick Trail is needed and may be part of what happens on Trail Workday, June 3. Another item for the Workday would be to remove the Invasive Honeysuckle near the Lower Reservoir. A.J. will lead a public walk through explaining the work accomplished in the forest possibly in June or July, or in the Fall if wet. Kiosk signs need to be reshingled/or repaired with shakes.

Vermont American Chestnut Foundation out of Bethel has some 1 foot young Chestnut trees to try to put in the ground to see how they adapt and thrive. The Vernal Pool Walk was a great success with about 35 people in attendance, ranging in age from 3 years to the 70's. Thank you Katie Mann for organizing this event and advertised by others. Green Up Day on Saturday, May 6th, 8:30-noon. Bird Walk on May 20th led by Ted Levin. Join for identification and listen to the songs of the birds from 5:30 a.m. until about 9:30. Next meeting is June 5th and June 21 is the Block Party.

Kim Souza

The Planning Commission met on May 22nd and approved two applications. Application #23-03 by Ke Zhang (owner/applicant) for Site Development Plan Approval under section 260-45 of the Hartford Zoning Regulations to add a fourth dwelling unit to an existing multi-unit dwelling, lot 31-0098-000, 153 Christian Street, White River Junction, in VR-C and R-3 zoning districts was approved as well as Application #23-04 by Quechee Lakes Landowners Association (owner/applicant) for Site Development Plan Approval under section 260-45 of the Hartford Zoning Regulations and compliance with the Quechee Lakes Master Plan for improvements to the Racket Sports Center, lots 07-0086-Q-Club and 07-0087-Q-Ski, 3366 and 3283 Quechee Main Street, Quechee, in the Quechee Lakes Planned Development.

The Planning Commission also met on May 24 to continue and approve Application #23-01 by Catamount Self Storage, LLC (owner/applicant) for

Site Development Plan Approval under section 260-45 of the Hartford Zoning Regulations for a self-storage facility, lot 08-0090-000, Route 14, White River Junction,
in an IC zoning district.

The Town Manager Search Committee met on May 25 and discussed wrapping up the survey results collection and reviewed the draft position materials including the preliminary position posting, potential job description and graphic

brochure. Suggestions were shared and submitted to the VLCT consultant who will present the current drafts to the Selectboard on May 30th.

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

Approve Payroll Ending: 5/27/2023

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 5/16/2023

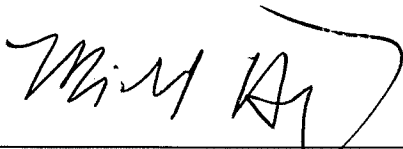
Approve A/P Manifest of: 5/26/2023 and 6/1//2023

Selectboard Meetings Already Approved: 6/13/2023; 6/20/2023 & 6/27/2023

- IX. Executive Session: Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian made the motion to enter executive session to discuss the employment/evaluation of a public officer/employee pursuant to Title 1, Section 313(a)(3) of the Vermont Statutes. Selectboard Member, Rocket seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Member, Rocket made the motion to close the Executive session at 10:05PM. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- X. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting: Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Selectboard Member, Rocket seconded the motion at 10:06PM. All were in favor and the motion passed.



~~Kim Souza, Clerk, 5/30/2023 Minutes~~

MIKE HOY, SB CHAIR