

TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, August 8, 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; Dan Fraser, Vice-Chair; Kim Souza, Clerk; Lannie Collins, Member; Mary Erdei, Member; Rocket, Member, Ally Tufenkjian, Member; Lana Livingston; Gail Ostrout; Diane Leigh; Tim Reiter; Scott Bunzey; Liz Dian; Gabrielle Lucke; Tom Kahl; Chris Beetham; Mike Harris, Joe Major; Will Adler; Tim Fariel.

Note: Rocket left the meeting at 7:35PM and was not present at the Executive Session.

Zoom Present and Commented: Marie Alvin.

JAM Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLPQi7t9h70>

- I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting: Selectboard Chair, Mike Hoyt called the meeting to order 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: Selectboard Chair, Mike Hoyt recessed the Selectboard meeting and opened the Local Cannabis Control Board.
 - a. New: Wholesalers - S-000001922 Altius THC, LLC
Selectboard Member, Rocket made the motion to approve a Local Cannabis License for S-000001922 Altius THC, LLC. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
 - b. New: Manufacturer - S-000002369 GMG Cannabis, LLC, or Green Mountain Gourmet Cannabis Company.
Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian made the motion to approve a Local Cannabis License for S-000002369 GMG or Green Mountain Gourmet Cannabis Company. Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
 - c. Renewal: Outdoor Cultivator - S-000004451 Cloudy Day Farm, LLC
Selectboard Member, Rocket made the motion to approve a Local Cannabis License for S-000004451 Cloudy Day Farm. Selectboard Vice Chair, Dan Fraser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
Selectboard Chair, Mike Hoyt closed the Local Cannabis Control Board and reopened the Selectboard Meeting at 6:17PM.
- V. Order of Agenda: There were no changes to the order of agenda.
- VI. Selectboard

1. Public Comment

Gabrielle Lucke, Chair of the Town Manager Search Committee, thanked several people that helped out in the process. Those included Gail Ostrout and her team, the Town Manager's Office Admin for her support, Dominic Cloud who helped put forth strong candidates, also all the committee members. They all worked well

together. She also hopes that the new manager will be provided mentoring and leadership support.

Will Adler from Quechee brought to the Selectboards attention that Lebanon Waste Management has concerns about the future between Lebanon and the Town of Hartford. He is concerned about the future arrangements.

Tim Fariel served on the Town Manager Search Committee but is speaking on behalf of himself. Hopefully, when filling the leadership position, they will define and cultivate an atmosphere of respect and support. He suggested that the Selectboard reacquaint themselves with the document Selectboard Rules and Procedures.

Marie Alvin from WRJ on Zoom called in to report back to the Board on her list of items. Hartford Ave seems to be going okay. She is still suggesting that a fence be put along the north side of the Park & Ride. This would help with trash being left there. She inquired again on the Town donating land for Haven's overflow. Kim Souza responded that the committee, before the current committee, had come up with no land the Town currently owns as suitable. Ms. Alvin has seen the results of the traffic study done on Hartford Ave. She hopes another one can be done in the Fall when there is more traffic around the schools.

2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements

Kim Souza echoed what Gabrielle Lucke said and wants to also express appreciation for the committee that worked well together.

Mary Erdei reported on the pride parade. It was a colorful and fun event. She also noted the event at Lyman Point Park with Bernie Sanders and Grace Potter and other young artists. The event thanked the Arts in schools.

There are now 2 vacancies on the Conservation Committee.

Rocket wanted to thank Kim for her work on the Town Manager Search Committee. He also wanted to thank Kim for arranging the trainings for the Board of which he initially didn't support but now can see the benefit. He also commented on the "Bernie" event that the high school performers were not from Hartford and he hopes in the future that they can showcase our students here.

Rocket applauded a citizen from Quechee that has made astronomical discoveries. He also walked down past the Quechee bridge. It is bad with debris.

Lannie Collins spoke about the Quechee covered bridge. He suggests that in the future that we find quicker was to address such emergencies as this.

3. Appointments

Tom Kahl, Chair of the Conservation Commission, shared with the Selectboard the attributes the Commission is looking for in members to the Conservation Commission. He also announced that Lee Michaelides, a current member of the commission, has offered to resign his seat to make way for both candidates to be appointed tonight. Mr. Michaelides will still go to the meetings and volunteer his time to the committee and continue to work on projects. He remains a valuable past member, now volunteer, to this Commission.

- a. **Selectboard Member, Rocket made the motion to appoint Mike Harris to the Conservation Commission for a four-year term beginning August 8, 2023 and ending August 7, 2027. Selectboard Vice Chair, Dan Fraser**

seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- b. **Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian made the motion to appoint Chris Beetham to the Conservation Commission for a four-year term beginning August 8, 2023 and ending August 7, 2027. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

VII. Town Manager and Significant Activity Reports

Significant Activity Report:

<https://cms5.revize.com/revize/hartfordvt/Total%20Sig%20Acts%20for%208.8.2023.pdf>

Acting Asst Town Manager Update (previous meeting's open items)

Citizen comment about construction vehicles for Twin Pines construction using Wilder Park and Ride: there was no request to the Town, nor are there any plans, for construction vehicles to utilize the Park and Ride. There will likely be commuting workers who are involved with the project, and they are welcome to park their vehicles there.

Simon Pearce representatives requested Route 4 signage by the Fat Hat Factory for direction to public during covered bridge closure: With Route 4 being a state road, and VTrans being unable to respond as quickly as needed currently, Public Works is working directly with Simon Pearce. Simon Pearce will purchase small roadside signs for installation at the intersection of Route 4 and Quechee Main Street. Permanent signage at this location would either need a permit from the State or to be outside the State's right of way, and may be reviewed at a later day if still necessary.

VINS has been notified directly that the Town has rescinded their recommendation for precautions at the VINS site, and has re-opened their trails. The Army Corp of Engineers makes their own determination, and trails by the Gorge remain closed while they are being cleaned-up.

The owner of the Wilder Center has been notified that the Town appreciates the offer to purchase the building, and declines.

VIII. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances

- a. **Quechee Covered Bridge Contractor Award Update Only**

Background: The Quechee cover bridge has been closed since July 10, 2023, due to severe erosion on the northern riverbank slope. To facilitate the emergency repairs to stabilize the riverbank slope, the Department of Public Works prepared a competitive bid package with a bid opening date of July 31, 2023. To expediate the project, the DPW requested pre-authorization from the Selectboard to allow the Acting Town Manager or designee to award a construction contract to the lowest responsible bidder in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

Approval was granted to award the contract to Fenoff Excavating, in the amount of \$89,000, with authorization for the DPW Director to sign the construction contract.

Impact: The immediate goal of the emergency repairs of the riverbank slope is to allow the Quechee covered bridge to be reopened to vehicular traffic. Fenoff Excavating has indicated they will be able to start the project immediately once all required construction documents are secured. It is anticipated the repairs will be completed with 5-7 days. As outlined in the July 18, 2023, pre-authorization memo, it is anticipated that 100% of the cost for this repair would be eligible under the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Repair

Program.

Long-term, the goal is to seek financial assistance from either Federal Highway Administration and or FEMA for structural improvements to the existing wingwall to minimize future riverbank slope erosion damage from storm events.

IX. Commission Reports

Kim Souza

The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on July 31st and approved 9 applications.

The Town Manager Search Committee conducted the first round of Town Manager interviews during the week of July 24th and the committee recommended 4 candidates to bring forth for a 2nd round of interviews with the Selectboard. Those interviews are scheduled for this week. Members of the search committee have all expressed their appreciation for the process and the leadership of Dominic Cloud and the committee chair & vice chair, Gabrielle Lucke and Joe Major, respectively. The committee is confident that the Selectboard has been presented with a group of finalists that will bring us to the final stages of securing the employment of Hartford's next Town Manager.

- X. Consent Agenda: Selectboard Vice Chair, Dan Fraser made the motion to approve: Payroll Ending: 8/5/2023; A/P Manifest of 8/4/2023 and 8/10/2023; Selectboard Meetings 9/5/2023 and 9/19/2023. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. All were in favor and the motion passed. Dan Fraser made the motion approve 7/25/2023 minutes, Kim Souza seconded the motion. 6 were in favor and 1 (Tufenkjian) abstained. The motion passed.**

Approve Payroll Ending: 8/5/2023

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 7/25/2023

Approve A/P Manifest of: 8/4/2023 and 8/10/2023

Selectboard Meetings needs to be Approved: 9/5/2023 and 9/19/2023

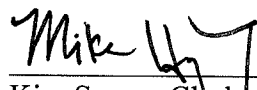
XI. Executive Session

Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss employment of a public officer/employee pursuant to title 1, Section 313(a)(3). Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Dan Fraser made the motion to close the Executive Session. Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

XII. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting:

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:31PM. Selectboard Member, Mry Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.



~~Kim Souza, Clerk~~ MIKE HOYT, Chair
August 8, 2023 Meeting