



TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD Minutes
Tuesday, November 14, 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; John Haverstock; Lana Livingston; Rick Vincent; Lisa O'Neil; Greg Sheldon; Connie Kelley; Scott Smith; Karl Ebbighausen; Tom Howell; Christine Cooper Warner; Aaron Warner; Will Adler; Barry Schuster; Kevin Geiger; Pat Autilio; *Gail Ostrout*.

Zoom: Dan Fraser, Vice Chair; Marie Alvin; Heidi Duto; Michelle Boleski

JAM LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40qt94Uvaj0>

- I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting by Chair, Mike Hoyt at 6:00PM
- II. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by Selectboard Member, Rocket.
- 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

Aaron Warner, from Hartford, read a statement to the Board cautioning them about DEI associations and Black Lives Matter groups.

Marie Alvin, from Hartford Ave., asked about the status of the fence and cameras for the Park & Ride. The Town Manager will check in with the DPW Director to find out the status. She also urged the Town Manager to put the cost of the cameras in the budget for FY2025. She also suggested putting charging stations at the Park & Ride.

Michelle Boleski, from Hartford, asked about the follow up to the speed study on Hartford Ave. The initial one was done in the summer when school was not in session. Another study was suggested to do when school is in session. Chief Sheldon said it has not been done yet. Chair, Mike Hoyt said they will find out.

Heidi Duto, from White River Junction, called to remind the Board that it has been over a year for the lighting in the Park & Ride. There were some grants that were going to cover the cost. Dana Clawson was looking into grants to cover this. They will follow up with him.

2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements

Kim Souza thanked John Haverstock for answering her many questions prior to the meeting. Rocket thanked the staff that are attending tonight's

meeting.

3. Appointments:

- a. **Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei made the motion to appoint Jennifer Durgin to the Hartford Climate Action Steering Team for a three-year term beginning November 14, 2023 and ending November 13, 2026. Ally Tufenkjian seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

4. Town Manager's Report
Orientation

Since my last report, I have continued meeting with community stakeholders and members of a growing support network in and out of Town. I have met with leadership of the Quechee Club, in the person of Brian Kelley. I have participated in my first meeting of the Upper Valley Leadership Team. I attended a meeting of the Hartford Rotary Club and had a splendid time getting to know the membership and the culture of the group. I plan to ride the roads of Hartford with DPW Director Bryan Gazda and to tour Town recreational facilities with Parks & Recreation Director Scott Hausler.

Community Safety Study

As you know, the Town awarded the contract for our upcoming Community Safety Study to Strategy Matters at the quoted price of \$30,000. I held an initial Zoom meeting with them on November 8 to discuss logistics. They have confirmed that they can be flexible regarding the community outreach work that needs to be done, in order to avoid the worst of winter weather. The next step appears to be setting up a Project Management Team of roughly 5 to 7 people.

Significant Activity Reports

Link: <https://www.hartford-vt.org/Archive.aspx?ADID=460>

5. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances

- a. Assessor Budget Presented by Assessor, Rick Vincent.
b. Town Clerk Budget Presented by Town Clerk, Lisa O'Neil
c. Police Budget Discussion Presented by Police Chief, Greg Sheldon
d. Dispatch Budget Presented Police Chief, Greg Sheldon
e. Discuss Policy on Policies Presented by Ally Tufenkjian and Pat Autilio.

After the presentation and discussion, it was decided to take no official action tonight. John Haverstock will check in with the Department Heads concerning the template.

- f. Discuss Flood Resilience Grant Opportunity- TRORC; Kevin Geiger "Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission"
Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian made the motion that the Selectboard authorize the Town Manager to sign a letter expressing the Town's support for a grant proposal from the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission and support from the Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional

Commission, entitled "Flood Resilient and Equitable Transportation Infrastructure for New Hampshire and Vermont."
Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- g. **Renewal of Evergreen Certification of Approved Location**
Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei made the motion that the Selectboard sign a Certificate of Approval for Location of a Salvage yard, supplied by legal counsel of Judith Belyea and Evergreen Recycling, Inc., regarding a parcel located at the end of A Street in Wilder, within an Industrial/Commercial Zoning District. Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- h. **Ratification of Out-of-Grade Pay Agreement**
Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian made a motion that in view of concerns raised about compliance with Vermont's Open Meeting Law, I move that the Selectboard ratify a prior action taken by the Selectboard on September 19, 2023 to award the Finance Director an additional \$30.00 per hour and the HR Director an additional \$25.00 per hour (based on a 40-hour workweek) for a two-month period beginning October 2, 2023 to provide onboarding support for Hartford's new Town Manager, with such funding to come from the Town Manager's budget. Selected Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. 6 were in favor and 1 (Collins) was not in favor. The motion passed.
- i. **Snow and Ice Removal**
Selectboard Clerk Kim Souza made the motion to Authorize the Director of Public Works to enter into a service agreement with Kurtzhalz Excavating for the removal of snow and ice per Kurtzhalz bid proposal, dated October 20, 2023. Selectboard Member, Rocket seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

VII. Commission Reports

Ally Tufenkjian

Hartford Committee on Racial Equity & Inclusion (HCOREI):

-Thank you to Chief Sheldon for offering an overview of the Police Department and some key pieces of his vision and strategy for their work.

Resilient Hartford:

-Planning a community discussion about the future of the Clifford Park Food Forest & Abenaki Garden at the West Hartford Library sometime in the first half of December.

-One committee vacancy.

Hartford Committee on Housing & Homelessness:

-Two committee vacancies.

Kim Souza

The Planning Commission met November 13 with several applications.

- Four of the applications by Black Rock Investments relating to a proposed large housing development were continued to December 4th.

- A Site Development Plan for a multiunit property on Hillcrest Terrace was approved with conditions provided by the commission.
- An application for a subdivision on Depot Street in Wilder was approved.
- A Site Development Plan amendment to allow Twin Pines temporary construction access on Goudreau Street was approved with conditions.
- A Site Development Plan from Northern Stage for a multi-unit development on Gates Street was approved with conditions.
- An application for a Site Development Plan from Craftsudies and The Haven for an Emergency Shelter on North Main Street was continued to December 18th.

Details for all applications and deliberation can be found in the Nov 13 minutes of the Planning Commission Meeting located in the Agenda Center of the Town website.

Mary Erdei

Hartford Conservation Commission 11/06/2023

Guest Holly Henderson from Quechee, a Wildlife Biologist and relatively new resident to the town of Hartford offered her volunteer skills in her area of expertise while raising 2 very young children. Other business included the Conservation Commission's renewed support for speakers and educational events scheduled throughout the year for the grassroots "Salamander Team" under Ben Fletcher's guidance. Discussion revolved around a Mid February (15th, 6:30 p.m.) conservation oriented event regarding citizen science/nature and stewardship with invitations to many groups involved in this area of interest (VINS, VCE, Tree Board, Climate Action, UVMBA, Garden Club, CT River Watershed Council, Resilient Hartford, Salamander Team, etc.). Reminders will go out that on May 18th, there will be a workshop/work day event to identify invasive plants and remove them, at Hurricane Forest. Other items of discussion included the budget, extending the length of the agreement with the UVMBA, the Polar Express and Rotary, painting boundary markers, Rt 5 bike corridor, among others

- 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: 11/11/2023
 Approve A/P Manifest of: 11/10/2023 and 11/16/2023
 Approve Meeting Minutes of: 10/31/2023 and 11/7/2023
Approved Selectboard Meetings are: 11/21 & 11/28/2023

- IX. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting
Selectboard Member, Rocket made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30PM. Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.



Kim Souza, Clerk
 11/14/2023 Selectboard Meeting