

**Town of Winhall Selectboard  
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, August 5, 2015**

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**PRESENT:** Bob Oakes, Bill Schwartz, Stuart Coleman (absent), Lucia Wing (Secretary), Lissa Stark (Town Administrator), Jeff Whitesell (Police)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Andy Gluss, Richard Meyer, Mike Wilson

**CALL TO ORDER:** Oakes called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM at the Town Hall.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: SOLAR SITING:**

*Richard Meyer and Mike Wilson* came before the Selectboard to comment on solar siting in Vermont. Meyer submitted an amendment to the recent May 15, 2015 legislation which the governor had signed and put into effect on June 11, 2015. Meyer commented that the amendment stated “the legislative body and the planning commission for the municipality in which a facility is located shall have the right to appear as a party in any proceedings held under this subsection.” In other words towns had been given additional rights and authority relative to Vermont Service Board proceedings at which they could make recommendations and submissions. Towns could weigh in on screening, setbacks, and water flow requirements and further, could adopt an ordinance or bylaw provided it was not more restrictive than requirements applied to commercial development in the municipality. The Winhall Planning Commission was currently working on a renewable energy resource section for its Town Plan which would include solar siting standards. The Selectboard suggested Meyer/Wilson investigate Vermont Community Solar on line which would give them more information about how towns could proceed relative to solar energy. Further discussion included the change in access to the proposed solar farm in Winhall from Route 30 to Black Cherry Road off Kendall Farm Road and the importance of decommissioning especially as it related to funding. The Selectboard suggested that Meyer and Wilson attend a Planning Commission meeting scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup>.

**POLICE/RESCUE REPORT:**

1) Whitesell and the Selectboard discussed the police report for July including traffic tickets and warnings, animal control issues, property watch, false alarms, medical assists, and law incidents in and around Winhall and the Stratton Mountain Resort. Whitesell reported a golf cart and an ATV vehicle had been stolen.

2) *Andy Gluss* came before the Selectboard to talk about Vermont Alert which Gluss felt all taxpayers and voters in Winhall should know about. Vermont Alert was a county-wide information center found on line. Whitesell suggested the WPD could enter data into Vermont Alert on a variety of topics including local weather especially in winter, road closings, fire, and other technical information; discussion followed about training sessions. Currently information about local Winhall happenings reached residents thru social media including Nixle, Face Book, and Twitter; a suggestion was to expand the list of who received information thru the above media. Whitesell and the Town Administrator would work together to establish a mailing list.

**OLD TOWN HALL: DISCUSSION:**

The Selectboard discussed the recent request to use the upstairs of the old Town Hall for a variety of recreational programs including yoga. Currently the building was not ADA compliant. A plan was in place to open an art & music center on the ground floor which was moving forward. Discussion followed about funding; using the multi-purpose room at the Mountain School; and finding a place to house the Winhall Museum. A suggestion was to expand the Library and house the Museum there. The

Town Administrator reported she had checked with VLCT about the insurance on the building which was in place.

**TRANSFER STATION REPORT:** (No report)

**FACILITIES REPORT:** (No report)

**HIGHWAY & ROADS REPORT:**

The Selectboard discussed replacing the culvert on Todd Hill Road which would have to be closed for a couple of days; Whitesell would alert residents on the road closing thru Nixle.

**TOWN GARAGE UPDATE:**

Town garage construction was making good progress; discussion followed about spray painting.

**LOWER TAYLOR HILL CHAPIN LOTS:**

The Town Administrator reported MSK had finished the engineering work on the Chapin lots located on Lower Taylor Hill Road relative to State permitting. An individual was interested in the lots. Stark would update the current listing stating "State permits pending."

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. After review, the Selectboard appointed Tami Blanchard to the Winhall Planning Commission; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Oakes; unanimous.*
2. The Selectboard discussed preparing a RFP for Town sidewalks thru Bondville as a result of reclamation of Route 30 the following year.

**ADMINISTRATIVE:**

- 1) After review, the Selectboard approved the Town tax rate of .3827 for 2015/2016; *motion by Oakes; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*
- 2) Stark reported the Town had been awarded a \$9,200 Better Back Roads grant which would be for culvert replacement re: Elizabeth Bell property on Benson Fuller Road.

**PAYORDERS:**

After review, the Selectboard approved payorder #7/22/15 & 8/5/15 as presented; *motion by Oakes; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

**PAYROLL:**

After review, the Selectboard approved payorder #29,#30, #31 & #32 as presented; *motion by Oakes; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

**APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES:**

After review, the Selectboard approved the minutes of July 15, 2015 as amended; *motion by Oakes; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

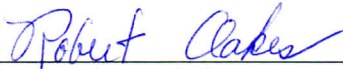
At 7:00 PM the Selectboard voted to go into executive session to discuss legal matters; *motion by Schwartz; seconded by Oakes; unanimous.* At 7:30 PM, the Selectboard came out of executive session; *motion by Oakes; seconded by Schwartz; unanimous.* No decisions were rendered.



As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM; ***motion by Oakes; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.***

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by,

Lucia Wing, Secretary  
Winhall Selectboard



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Robert Oakes, Chair

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William Schwartz, Vice-Chair



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Stuart Coleman, Member