

**Town of Winhall Selectboard
Bondville, Vermont 05340
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, January 6, 2016**

PRESENT: Bob Oakes, Bill Schwartz, Stuart Coleman, Lucia Wing (Secretary); Lissa Stark (Town Administrator); Trevor Dryden (Roads)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Wilbur Rice, Berta Maginniss, Seth Bongartz, Frank Hanes & Debbie Peretz (Manchester Chamber of Commerce), Christie Mackenzie, Chris Giuseppe

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

Seth Bongartz came before the Selectboard to comment on the revitalized Manchester Chamber of Commerce renamed "The Partnership." He explained The Partnership was a more comprehensive business model which would continue to be a membership based organization as well as a public/private partnership with a two pronged focus: destination marketing and economic development. Bongartz talked about the need to increase tourism in Vermont through economic development. Discussion followed that Bennington and Windham Counties were economically behind other counties, and it was time to catch up. The Partnership was looking to raise \$75,000 from its (18) membership towns throughout southern Vermont. The Partnership was looking for a \$4,200 appropriation from Winhall. The Selectboard agreed to warn it as an Article at Town Meeting in March.

POLICE/FIRE/RESCUE REPORT:

Moving forward, Chief Whitesell would meet with the Selectboard the second meeting of each month.

HIGHWAY & ROADS REPORT:

1) Dryden and the Selectboard discussed the recent winter ice storm. Dryden reported the new plows handled the icy roads competently. He had ordered signage for Lower Taylor Hill Road. Dryden questioned the status of the old 550 truck; Coleman would come up with a fair price to sell it; discussion included where to advertise it. Coleman would contact FPH. Dryden reported the Highway crew was still moving equipment into the new garage. Coleman questioned the status of the fence at the Town garage.

2) The Selectboard discussed the process of Winhall formally taking over Slade Road which the Town had plowed for the last 35 years.

3) After review, the Selectboard signed the Certificate of Mileage @ 55.892 miles- unchanged from previous years.

3) The Selectboard talked about closing down one end of Short Road because of the difficulty of winter snowplowing. They discussed putting up a barricade to prevent vehicles from going thru and/or installing a sign warning traffic that the end of the road was closed for the winter.

TRANSFER STATION REPORT: (No report)

FACILITIES REPORT: (No report)

CEMETERY POLICY: DISCUSSION:

The Selectboard discussed the first draft of the Winhall Cemetery Policy and agreed it needed further modification before they would approve it; discussion followed.

WINHALL SCHOOL BOARD: The Selectboard delayed the meeting with the Winhall School Board until Thursday, January 14th at 5:00 PM at the Town Hall. The meeting would be in executive session.

WINHALL HIGHWAY POLICY: DISCUSSION:

Next the Selectboard discussed proposed revisions to the Winhall Highway Policy. They agreed to add Gisquet's language to section 5.04 as presented; add site distances based on posted road speeds to section 4.16- "Intersections" (paragraph 3) as proposed; and clarify language in section 5.04 (paragraph 7).

NEW BUSINESS: The Selectboard would begin review of employee evaluations and authorized the Town Administrator to start the process.

ADMINISTRATIVE: UPDATE:

Stark commented on a cemetery report from 1948 which the Town Treasurer had unearthed in the land records relative to maintenance of the Barnard Lot in Winhall Hollow. The Selectboard had recently used cemetery funds to repair and fix existing cemetery stones in Winhall and concluded that the Barnard Lot was one of them.

CORRESPONDENCE: Correspondence included a letter from the Mountain School.

TAYLOR HILL BRIDGE: DISCUSSION:

Coleman reported that he had recently spoken with a State environmentalist relative to obtaining a stream alteration permit for Lower Taylor Hill Bridge; most likely it would not require one. Coleman suggested warning an Article for Town Meeting in March relative to replacing Lower Taylor Hill Bridge with a precast bridge at a cost of \$300,000. It was an opportunity for voters to discuss whether or not they wanted to replace the bridge and re-open it to public vehicular traffic.

PAYORDERS: After review, the Selectboard approved payorder(s) #1/6/16 as presented; *motion by Oakes; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.*

PAYROLL: (No payroll)

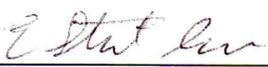
APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTE(S): After review, the Selectboard approved the minutes of December 23, 2015 as amended; *motion by Oakes; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.*

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM; *motion by Oakes; seconded by Coleman; unanimous.*

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by,
Lucia Wing, Secretary
Winhall Selectboard


Robert Oakes, Chair


William Schwartz, Vice Chair


E. Stuart Coleman, Member