

TOWN OF WINCHENDON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Meeting Minutes

MONDAY, April 22, 2024-6:30pm

Town Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Auditorium, 109 Front Street, Winchendon, Mass.

WINCHENDON TOWN CLERK  
RCUD MAY 23 2024 PM4:50

Present: Audrey LaBrie, Chair  
Rick Ward, Vice Chair  
Danielle LaPointe  
Melissa Blanchard

William McKinney, Town Manager  
Debra Dennis, Executive Assistant

Absent: Barbara Anderson

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List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- Letter of Resignation- Adrian Guerrero, Finance Committee
- 7 Special One Day Wine & Malt Licenses Application-Miranda Jennings, WCAC
- Special One Day Wine Only License Application-Kristen Killay, Red Apple Farm
- Special One Day Malt Only License Application-Shawn Herman, Wachusett Brewing Company
- Sponsorship -Cailte Kelley, Edward Jones \$1,200, Phelps Family \$400, and the Sultzbach Family \$300
- Winchendon Youth Advisory AD-HOC Committee Presentation-Emily Croteau and Miranda Jennings
- Draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant May 20, 2024

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**6:30 PM** Chair LaBrie called the meeting to order at 6:30P.M. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair LaBrie asked if anyone would be audio or video recording this meeting tonight to which there was no response heard.

**1. SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- 1.1. Annual Town Elections May 6, 2024-Selectman Ward announced the Annual Town Election will be held on May 6, 2024 at the Senior Center from 8am to 8pm. The following positions are up for election: two Board of Selectmen members, two School Committee members, one-year School Committee member, one for Board of Health positions, and one Housing Authority.

Selectmen Ward said awhile back we voted to assign our right of first refusal for the property by Miller's River that was looked at for solar fields and gave it to Mount Grace to use conservation. One of the requirement is the Commonwealth of Mass acting through DCR is considering acquiring 330 acres of the property primary undeveloped. The Department of Conservation and Recreation may acquire the property located in the Town of Winchendon and the Town of Ashburnham as shown on locus map marked exhibit A or other interest there in for conservation and recreation purposes.

- 1.2 Winchendon's Boston Post Cane Recipient- Chair LaBrie said the Winchendon Boston Post Cane Recipient Mr. Adelard J. Vaine will be announced at the Annual Town Meeting and will be honored at a ceremony date and time to be determined at the Senior Center.
- 1.3 Town Roadside Cleanup-May 18<sup>th</sup> 8:00AM-2:00PM-Chair LaBrie announced the Board of Health will be conducting a Town Roadside Cleanup on May 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:00AM-2:00PM. If interested in volunteering show up on the Pleasant Street parking lot of Town Hall. She thanked all the volunteers in advance.

- 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mitch Fudo said he is a solar representative from Sunrun and he wanted to introduce himself. He said he will be going before the Board at the next meeting to ask for a solicitor's permit.

- 3. PUBLIC HEARINGS:** There were no scheduled public hearings this evening.

#### **4. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS:**

- 4.1** Resignation-Adrian Guerrero, Finance Committee-Chair LaBrie thanked him. **Selectman Ward moved the Board of Selectmen accept the resignation of Adrian Guerrero and thanked him for his service. Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: All aye.**
- 4.2** Establishment of Water and Wastewater Enterprise Funds Review AD-HOC Advisory Committee- Chair LaBrie said a notice was placed on the Town Website to see if anyone was interested in serving on this. We received three letters of interest. Now that we know we have some interest we can meet informally and come back before the Board to form an official committee. Selectman Ward said the committee should have people that are familiar with this water system, the Town Manager, the DPW Director, and someone from Finance Committee should be involved. We need to be fair. The people on this should have town water and also on well water. You need a mixture.

**Selectman Ward moved to take 7.2 out of order at this time. Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: All aye.**

#### **5 PERMIT/LICENSE APPLICATIONS:**

- 5.1** Special One Day Wine & Malt only Licenses (7) – Miranda Jennings, Winchendon CAC, 5 Summer Dr.-Fundraising Events, Bingo, Trivia, Open Mic, and Bowling 5/16, 5/24, 6/20, 6/22, 6/28, 7/18, and 7/26-Miranda Jennings came forward. She said they want to continue doing community events that are also fundraisers with Park and Recreation. **Selectman Ward moved to approve seven Special One Day Wine & Malt Licenses for May 16<sup>th</sup>, May 24<sup>th</sup>, June 20<sup>th</sup>, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, June 28<sup>th</sup>, July 18<sup>th</sup>, and July 26, 2024 for Miranda Jennings of the Winchendon CAC for fundraising events being held at 5 Summer Drive as presented this evening. Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: All aye.**

- 5.2** Special One Day Wine Only Licenses (2)-Kristen Killay, Red Apple Farm, Wyndonshire Renaissance Faire April 27<sup>th</sup> and April 28, 2024-Kristen Killay came forward. **Selectman Ward moved to approve the Special One Day Wine Only Licenses for April 27<sup>th</sup> and April 28, 2024 for Kristen Killay, for the Renaissance Faire being held at the Winchendon Community Park Amphitheater, 86 Ingleside Road as presented this evening. Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: All aye.**

Selectman Ward said the Renaissance Faire is this weekend, you don't want to miss.

- 5.3** Entertainment Permit-Winchendon CAC, Annual Benefit Concert August 10<sup>th</sup> noon-9pm-This was passed over this evening.

- 5.4** Special One Day Malt Only License-Wachusett Brewing Company, Amphitheater Event 5/10 7pm-10pm- Brian Meurner came forward. **Selectman Ward moved to approve a Special One Day Malt Only License for May 10, 2024 for Shawn Herman for Billy and the Jets Concert being held at the Winchendon Community Park Amphitheater 86 Ingleside Road as presented this evening. Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: All aye.**

#### **6 BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS:**

#### **7 NEW BUSINESS:**

- 7.1** Accept Event Sponsorships for Winchendon Recreation Department- Cailte Kelley, Edward Jones \$1,200 (Concert), Phelps Family \$400 (sword prom Wyndonshire), The Sultzbach Family \$300 (Movie Night)-**Selectman Ward moved to accept the following event sponsorships: Cailte Kelley, Edward Jones \$1,200 (Concert), Phelps Family \$400 (sword prom Wyndonshire), the Sultzbach Family \$300 (Movie Night)-as presented this evening. Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: All aye.**
- 7.2** Establishment of Winchendon Youth Advisory AD-HOC Committee- Addison Mesla, Abigail Bradley, Tora Estes, Emily Croteau, Kia Jess, Nicholas Chagnon, Eva Martin, and Ben Fuller. They presented their power point presentation overview. The committee would be made up of seven members from ages 14 to 19 and appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Ben Fuller said the committee gives the youth of

Winchendon a chance to give their feedback to the town. Emily Croteau said she want to work with other committees. The goal is to adopt and establish a Winchendon Youth Commission. Selectman Ward said look at these young people who are trying to make a difference. Selectwoman LaPointe commended them on the great job. **Selectman Ward moved to establish the Winchendon Youth Ad Hoc Committee as presented and to eventually establish the Winchendon Youth Commission. Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: All aye.**

- 7.3 Review and Vote to Finalize the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for May 20, 2024- Bill McKinney said there are thirty-two warrant articles. He went over all articles. He said Town Counsel has advised Articles 29-32 Citizen's Petitions are non-binding. Selectman Ward said on the warrant under Citizens Petitions put non-binding. Chair LaBrie said on Article 25 the dollar amount is needed for Town Meeting. Selectman Ward said a question that will come up is what is the benefit to the town going into a pilot agreement. **Selectman Ward moved the Board finalize the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for Monday, May 20, 2024 as presented this evening with the amendments discussed. Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: All aye.**

## 8 OLD BUSINESS

- 8.1 Update on Mabardy Landfill/W.L. French Operations-Selectman Ward asked the Representative for French Operations about report on the test holes which states that a car battery was found. He read the report which states batteries were found. Chair LaBrie said there are no updates at this time from the DPW Director, Brian Croteau or the Land Use/Planning Coordinator, Nicole Roberts.

Jane LaPointe came forward. She said this has to do with testing of the materials at the site which is random. May 28<sup>th</sup> 2020 there was a landfill closing agreement which states all fill will be tested from the site to make sure it meets DEP requirements. How did we go from this requirement to what we have now?

Frank Allen came forward. The Conditions/Requirement from 2020 states that all trucks were going to be tested. Requirements are now every 70 trucks. We were expecting a town representative to be there regularly. We are finding the scope of the project has tripled. This is not just a change order. This should have been renegotiated.

Mary Harrington came forward. There are major violations and we have the power to stop it. We need you to make a difference.

Keith Kent came forward. Troubling issue for our town. In early December 2023, Justin Sultzbach calling me into a secret meeting. Mr. French upon discovery got in touch with DEP to inform them he found things in the ground. Mr. Kent said there was rebar, asphalt shingles, and batteries. The rebar and the asphalt shingles isn't in the reports. He said it's going to leech into the Miller's River. We need to place a barrier around the site.

Chair LaBrie said there was nothing secret about meeting at the site visit. Mr. Kent was overzealous since we weren't together all the time. #3 I was told after they had all the document in place they would follow up with the appropriate departments.

Marie McKenna-We have been here since 2019. The DEP said it needed to be closed. The time has increased when is it going to stop. Until anything gets renewed or permitted, all documentation needs to be compiled and reviewed.

Frank Allen said regarding the rebar. The rebar and concrete has been exposed. If it is visible, why inspections haven't seen it for two years.

David Watkins-would like to know what the plan is. The citizens need to know what is going to be done.

Jarrold Everton Director of Environmental Services for W.L. French. We have the driveway paved. The second wheel wash is in. We have planted the trees. Properties have been surveyed. We have a dust mitigation plan in place. The bond was increased to 4.2 million. It's a CD landfill. It's not a trash landfill. There is 40 or so test pits. We have completed the limits of the waste along the landfill that is getting capped. This stops the rainwater from coming in which will prevent the leeching. CD is concrete and

demo. Selectman Ward asked when is this going to be finished. Jarrod Everton said 14 months or less with importing soil. He said before its buttoned up in 2026. Selectman Ward said there is no way knowing how many batteries there are there.

Mary Harrington said she has an issue about the gravel operation they asked for a renewal. They want to blast. Blasting can change the water table which tells me it should be thoroughly investigated.

Brian Croteau the wheel wash stations are under the purview of the state not the town.

Jarrold Everton- ground waters wells are being tested. There is no impact showing that would indicate release from batteries.

**9. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:** Bill McKinney said he is meeting with residents on Monday night to discuss Mabardy further. Eminent domain letters have been sent out regarding the accepting of town roads. The audit is ongoing. The auditors were here for a couple days. We are working on getting the cash in balance. Donna Spellman, former Collector/Treasurer has been asked to come back to help.

**10. MINUTES:**

10.1 April 8, 2024 Regular Meeting-these were passed over this evening.

**11. COMMUNICATIONS:** The Finance Committee is holding a Public Hearing tomorrow April 23<sup>rd</sup> @7PM on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The Board will be meeting on Wednesday@6:30PM to vote on the Boards recommendations. The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting will be the second Monday in May.

**12. AGENDA ITEMS:**

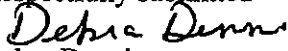
**13. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** There was no scheduled executive session this evening.

**14. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Selectman Ward moved to adjourn. Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: All aye.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted

  
Debra Dennis  
Executive Assistant

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