

Approved: March 10, 2025

TOWN OF WINCHENDON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, February 24, 2025 6:30pm
Town Hall, 2nd Floor Auditorium, 109 Front St., Winchendon, Mass.

Present: Rick Ward, Chair
Andrew Beauvais, Vice Chair
Audrey LaBrie
Melissa Blanchard

William McKinney, Town Manager
Debra Dennis, Executive Assistant

Absent: Erika Eitland

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- Public Hearing Notice-Earth Removal Permit Steve Powell-property located on Teel Road owned by Winchendon Materials, LLC and Keyway Properties, Inc.
 - Jordyn Lynds-Edward Jones-Solicitation Permit Application
 - Draft Board of Selectmen Minutes-February 10, 2025, and Tri-Board Meeting February 13, 2025
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6:30 PM Chair Ward called the meeting to order at 6:30P.M. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Ward 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:** Selectwoman Blanchard gave a shout out to the Department of Public Works for all the work they have been doing. Selectman Beauvais said he wants to thank residents who have attended the tri-board meeting and also for following along at home. He thanked Superintendent Marc Gosselin for presenting the school budget. He said the ongoing discussion between the school and town pertaining to the FY26 budget is essential. We need to work together to keep Winchendon proud. Chair Ward said dogs need to be licensed by March 31st to avoid late fees. Reminder Town Election May 5th nomination papers need to be back by March 17th at 5pm. The positions up for election are one 3 year term for the Moderator, two 3 year terms for the Board of Selectmen, one 3 year terms for the School Committee, one 1 year unexpired term for the School Committee and one 3 year term for the Board of Health.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** There was no public comments and announcements this evening.
3. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:** Vice Chair Beauvais read the public hearing into record as follows: The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Winchendon will hold a public hearing at 6:35pm on Monday, February 24, 2025, 109 Front Street, Winchendon MA in the 2nd Floor Auditorium on the application for an Earth Removal Permit.

The applicant Steve Powell for property located on Teel Road owned by Winchendon Materials, LLC and Keyway Properties, Inc. Also known as Assessors Map 9 Parcels 93 and 99 Winchendon MA 01475.

Applicant is seeking an Earth Removal permit to operate an earth removal operation as well as mechanical crushing and screening. Said property is located in the I-Industrial District. All interested person should plan to attend.

The application and plans are on file in the Town Manager's Office at the Town Hall and may be viewed Monday 9:00am-6:00pm and Tuesday-Thursday 8:00am-5:00pm. Rick Ward, Chair Winchendon Board of Selectmen

Selectwoman LaBrie moved to open the public hearing and Selectman Beauvais seconded. Vote: All aye.

Chair Ward said Selectwoman Blanchard who is also a member of the Conservation Commission will be participating which is allowed by our bylaws.

Steve Powell, owner and Wes Flis sight engineer came forward. Mr. Flis said this permit is for Earth Removal. We have approval from the Conservation Commission, Planning Board, and the Zoning Board of Appeals. The property consists of 90.8 acres in which we will disturb no greater than 20 acres. The plan consists of six phases. The greatest phase is #4 and smallest is #5. The majority of the driveway is phase 1. The town asked the applicant to do improvements on Teel Road. The Town Engineer will inspect in each process. Mr. Powell is ok on the Bond amount. Chair Ward said the bond amount is \$179,756.51 for Phase I of gravel removal, and \$399,098.70 for Phase I of Stormwater work. Selectwoman LaBrie said you referenced another payments which there is a payment schedule. She asked about this is only for Phase I will you be coming back for the other phases. Wes Flis said yes Mr. Powell will ask to release Phase I bond and will ask for Phase II. Selectman Beauvais asked about estimated time frame for entire project. Steve Powell said there really isn't. He said he would say it will be a long time. Selectman Beauvais asked about the improvements to Teel Rd. Mr. Powell said we are paving Teel Road in June from Route 140 all the way in. There will be illuminated stop signs at the bike path. No equipment will be parked on the site overnight on Teel Road.

Public Comments:

Mathew Henderson asked if a noise assessment was done. Mr. Powell said they put monitors for dust and noise. This is an industrial property.

Carol Sellis-asked how many trucks a day, and about the noise. Mr. Powell said a maximum of 150 trucks a day in and out. It is seasonal. Average day 100 or 75. We have newer equipment that is quiet. Chair Ward said in our bylaws we have a noise complaint process.

Selectwoman LaBrie moved to close the public hearing and Selectman Beauvais seconded. Vote: All aye.

Selectwoman LaBrie moved the Board Approve an Earth Removal Permit for Steve Powell for property located on Teel Road, Winchendon, owned by Winchendon Materials LLC and Keyway Properties, Inc., also known as Assessors Map 9, Parcels 93 and 99 Winchendon, MA 01475. Upon approval of permit, the applicant agrees to file with the Town Treasurer surety bonds in the amounts of \$179,756.51 for Phase I of gravel removal, and \$399,098.70 for Phase I of Stormwater work. Selectwoman Blanchard seconded. Vote: All aye.

4. **APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS:** There was no appointments or resignations this evening.

5. **PERMIT/LICENSE APPLICATIONS:**

5.1 Jordyn Lynds-Edward Jones-Solicitation Permit Application-Jordyn Lynds came forward. She said she is a financial advisor for Edward Jones. She said she is looking to better serve our community. Chair Ward asked since you do have a business on Central Street this is uncommon. When we do these permits it's usually for someone who doesn't have an office. Ms. Lynds said I was planning on door knocking on roads and areas I know. She said her days would be Monday through Friday no later than 5pm. Selectwoman LaBrie commented usually we have until dusk. Chair Ward said he is concerned for the senior citizens. He said Mass General Law allows for cancellation of contracts within three days so if you sign something you can cancel it. Selectman Beauvais asked what services you will offer. Ms. Lynds said financial literacy. We do have a lot of low income residents. She said she would like to teach our community financial stability. Selectwoman Blanchard said she isn't comfortable with elderly residents giving out too much information about their financials.

Selectman Beauvais moved the Board approve the Solicitation Permit for Jordyn Lynds a representative of Edward Jones on Monday-Friday from 9am to dusk. Selectwoman LaBrie seconded. Vote: All aye.

6. **BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS:** Chair Ward said Selectwoman Eitland is on the Ad-Hoc FY26 Budget Committee which held a meeting last Thursday. It is important the school override only includes the school budget not the MSBA. Work on handouts to be sent out to the public and also some slide shows. Selectwoman LaBrie said the Capital Planning Committee met but we can't decide anything until we have free cash.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

7.1 Proposition 2 ½ Override Information Sources-Chair Ward said we need something on the town website that answers all the questions. We are not the only ones that are suffering. We are looking at 3 or 4 million. Look at Duxbury website. This is not fear tactics this is the truth. It's to let you know when you vote what you are voting for. It also gives you a breakdown of what the override would cost you. It will be your choice can you live with the increase or not. Voting is on May 5th and the Town Meeting is on May 19th. You need both to pass. The Town Manager will hold an informational sessions in April. Chair Ward suggested holding at least two prop 2 ½ override informational sessions. These will be only for informational meeting not Board of Selectmen meetings. It will be up to the town to make the decision.

8. **OLD BUSINESS:** There was no old business this evening.
9. **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:** Selectwoman LaBrie asked Mr. McKinney what the plan is for 4 Summer Drive. Mr. McKinney said there will be a warrant article at town meeting.
10. **TOWN MANAGER FINANCIAL UPDATE:** There was no scheduled Town Manager Financial Update this evening.

11. **MINUTES:**

11. Draft Regular Meeting Minutes-February 10, 2025

Selectwoman Blanchard moved the Board approve the meeting minutes of February 10, 2025 as presented this evening. Selectman Beauvais seconded. Vote Selectwoman Blanchard aye, Selectwoman LaBrie abstained, Selectman Beauvais aye, and Chair Ward aye.

11.2 Draft Tri-Board Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2025

Selectman Beauvais moved the Board approve the Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of the Tri-Board Meeting on February 13, 2025 as presented this evening. Selectwoman Blanchard seconded. Vote: All aye.

11. **COMMUNICATIONS:** Chair Ward said the next regular meeting is March 10th, and the joint meeting with the Finance Committee is on March 11th at which time the Town Manager will present his draft balanced budget. Chair Ward said a balanced budget without a possible town override should reflect minimum net school funding.

13. AGENDA ITEMS:

14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**—There was no scheduled executive sessions this evening.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** Selectwoman LaBrie moved to adjourn. Selectman Beauvais seconded. Vote: All aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm.

Respectfully submitted

Debra Dennis
Debra Dennis, Executive Assistant