

APPROVED: June 9, 2025

TOWN OF WINCHENDON
REGULAR BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, May 12, 2025 6:30pm
Town Hall, 2nd Floor Auditorium, 109 Front St., Winchendon, Mass.

Present: Rick Ward, Chair
Andrew Beauvais, Vice Chair
Melissa Blanchard
Erika Eitland

William McKinney, Town Manager
Debra Dennis, Executive Assistant

Absent: Audrey LaBrie

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- All Alcoholic Beverages Pouring License-Loi Asian Cuisine Inc, 302 Spring Street-Owner Hui Yi Su and Manager Xiuqing Chen
- Resignation Email-Jennifer Phelps-Park & Recreation Commission
- Entertainment Permit-Immaculate Heart of Mary-Strawberry Festival, June 13, 2025 and June 14, 2025
- (2) Two Special One Day Wine & Malt License-Reverend Henry Ramirez-Immaculate Heart of Mary, Strawberry Festival June 13th 5pm-8pm and June 14, 2025 9am-8pm
- Special One Day Wine & Malt License-Ryan Cadrette-Four Phantoms Brewing Co-June 28th Battle of the Bands-Noon to 7pm at GAR Park
- Mobile Vendor Permit-Maddy's Ice Cream and More LLC-Madyson Silvagnoli-Hours of Operation Sunday-Saturday 10am-Sunset. Maddy said driving the streets of Winchendon. Summer months only
- Entertainment Permit-Farming is Life LLC-Vrinda Jody Mendoza Pekala owner-Sunset Socials-Amphitheater 86 Ingleside Road 6/14, 7/12, 8/9, 9/13, and 10/11 rain dates 6/15, 7/13, 8/10, 9/14, and 10/12
- (5) Special One Day Wine and Malt License-Vrinda Jody Mendoza Pekala- Sunset Socials-Amphitheater 86 Ingleside Road 6/14, 7/12, 8/9, 9/13, and 10/11 rain dates 6/15, 7/13, 8/10, 9/14, and 10/12
- Proposed Economic Development Task Force Summary for the Board prepared by Vice Chair Beauvais and Selectwoman Eitland
- Annual Town Warrant

6:30 pm Chair Ward called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.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 Eitland commented we had the town election and will be holding the Annual Town Meeting on Monday May 19th at 7pm. Doors open at 6pm in the gym at Murdock/Middle High

School. Town Wide cleanup Saturday May 17th. She commented about having a representative from French review water testing/soil testing. A few things had her concerned. State help us understand the information. This is Rick Ward's last meeting. She thanked him for his service to us as a Board and the town. He has been inspiring. We will build off of his encouragement.

Selectwoman Blanchard said she hopes we will see Rick often. She thanked Rick for his leadership. The Friends of the Library will be holding an Open House on May 17th from noon to 2pm. Taste of Winchendon was a great success this last weekend. Great turnout. Thanked everyone who came out to vote. Your vote does matter. Your voices are heard.

Vice Chair Beauvais thanked Rick for his dedicated service to the town. Thanked him for his guidance and mentorship. Thanked residents of the town who came out to vote.

Chair Ward Rick congratulated Audrey LaBrie and Tiffany Newton for their successful run to the Board of Selectman. Tiffany Newton will take office after Town meeting. Congratulations to Tara Teixeira, Glenn LaRochelle, and Greg Vine. He thanked Christine Giovannucci and Yvonne Senecal for stepping up as candidates for Board of Selectmen. Write in candidates Michael Gaynor and Barbara Zisk and Murdock High School Cheerleaders for bringing home the national title, they do the town proud. Winchendon Courier is out on paper. Take a moment to note passing of Ernest Bud Fletcher. Member of Firefighter for 35 years. Director/Trustee YMCA for 40 years. Robinson Broadhurst for 25 years. He will be missed.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Barbara Zisk-issue with the Articles. Article pertaining to the 1.9 override passed on May 5th. People were under the understanding it would also need to pass at Town Meeting.

Inanna Arthen-Question relates to the warrant articles. Payments from French doesn't appear in the revenues for 2025. Where is it going? It doesn't show up in the financial section of the budget. Is it just going into free cash?

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS: All Alcoholic Beverages Pouring License-Loi Asian Cuisine Inc, 302 Spring Street-Owner Hui Yi Su and Manager Xiuqing Chen-Selectman Beauvais read the public hearing notice into the record.

Selectman Beauvais motion to open the public hearing. Selectwoman Blanchard seconded. Roll Call Vote: Eitland aye, Blanchard aye, LaBrie aye, Beauvais aye, and Chair Ward aye.

Selectwoman Eitland and Selectwoman Blanchard said they don't have any issues with this. Selectman Beauvais said no issues.

Public Comments: None

Selectman Beauvais moved to close the public hearing. Selectwoman Eitland seconded. Roll Call Vote: Eitland aye, Blanchard aye, LaBrie aye, Beauvais aye, and Chair Ward aye.

Selectman Beauvais moved the Board of Selectmen acting as the Local Licensing Authority approve the 2025 All Alcoholic Beverages Pouring License for Koi Asian Cuisine Inc. located at 302 Spring Street Winchendon-Owner Hui Yi Su, and Manager: Xiuqing Chen". Selectwoman Eitland seconded. Roll Call Vote: Eitland aye, Blanchard aye, LaBrie aye, Beauvais aye, and Chair Ward aye.

4. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS:

4.1 Resignation-Jennifer Phelps-Park & Recreation Commission

Selectman Beauvais moved the Board accept the resignation of Jennifer Phelps from the Parks & Recreation Commission and thanked her for her service. Selectwoman Eitland seconded. Vote: All aye.

5. PERMIT/LICENSE APPLICATIONS:

5.1 Entertainment Permit-Immaculate Heart of Mary-Strawberry Festival, June 13, 2025 and June 14, 2025

Selectman Beauvais moved the Board approve the Entertainment Permit for Immaculate Heart of Mary for the Strawberry Festival on June 13th and 14th pending a tent permit by the Building Inspector. Selectwoman Eitland seconded. Vote: All aye.

5.2 (2) Two Special One Day Wine & Malt License-Reverend Henry Ramirez-Immaculate Heart of Mary, Strawberry Festival June 13th 5pm-8pm and June 14, 2025 9am-8pm

Selectman Beauvais moved the Board acting as the Local Licensing Authority approve the two Special One Day Wine & Malt License for Reverend Henry Ramirez on June 13th and 14, 2025 for the Strawberry Festival. Selectwoman Eitland seconded. Vote: All aye.

5.3 Special One Day Wine & Malt License-Ryan Cadrette-Four Phantoms Brewing Co-June 28th Battle of the Bands-Noon to 7pm at GAR Park

Selectman Beauvais moved the Board of Selectmen acting as the Local Licensing Authority approve the Special One Day Wine & Malt License to Ryan Cadrette of Four Phantoms Brewing Co for the Battle of the Bands on June 28th at GAR Park from noon to 7pm. Selectwoman Eitland seconded. Vote: All aye.

5.4 Mobile Vendor Permit-Maddy's Ice Cream and More LLC-Madyson Silvagnoli-Hours of Operation Sunday-Saturday 10am-Sunset. Maddy said driving the streets of Winchendon. Summer months only.

Selectman Beauvais moved the Board approve the Mobile Vendor Permit for Maddy's Ice Cream and More LLC. Selectwoman Eitland seconded. Vote: All aye.

5.5 Entertainment Permit-Farming is Life LLC-Vrinda Jody Mendoza Pekala owner-Sunset Socials-Amphitheater 86 Ingleside Road 6/14, 7/12, 8/9, 9/13, and 10/11 rain dates 6/15, 7/13, 8/10, 9/14, and 10/12-The applicant informed us that between 200 and 300 people will be attending these events. Police Chief Wolski has stated detail for these events will be required. Jody Mendoza and Richard Banner came forward. Ms. Mendoza said she wants to hold Sunset Socials event for the community. First one is Salsa and Sangria. Blues and Jazz. Farm fresh food. Selectwoman Eitland said curious why dedication to make this happen. Ms. Mendoza said being a farmer is rewarding but not financially rewarding. The purpose of doing this is to provide the farm with revenue sources. Mr. Banner said this is our first year but want this to be a multiple year adventure.

Selectman Beauvais moved the Board approve the Entertainment Permit for Farming is Life LLC for the Sunset Socials at 86 Ingleside Road on June 14th, July 12th, August 9th, September 13, and October 11th with rain dates of June 15th, July 13th, August 10th, September 14th, and October 12th pending approval of the Mobile Vendor Food Permit by the Board of Health. Selectwoman Eitland seconded. Vote: All aye.

5.6 (5) Special One Day Wine and Malt License-Vrinda Jody Mendoza Pekala- Sunset Socials-Amphitheater 86 Ingleside Road 6/14, 7/12, 8/9, 9/13, and 10/11 rain dates 6/15, 7/13, 8/10, 9/14, and 10/12

Selectman Beauvais moved the Board acting as the local licensing authority approve the five Special One Day Wine and Malt Licenses for Vrinda Jody Mendoza Pekala for the Sunset Socials at 86 Ingleside Road on June 14th, July 12th, August 9th, September 13, and October 11th with rain dates of June 15th, July 13th, August 10th, September 14th, and October 12th. Selectwoman Eitland seconded. Vote: All aye.

Selectman Beauvais moved to take 7.1 out of order. Selectwoman Blanchard seconded. Vote: All aye.

6 BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS:

6.1 Update on Formation of "Economic Development Task Force"-A Proposed Economic Development Task Force Summary for the Board prepared by Vice Chair Beauvais and Selectwoman Eitland. Selectman Beauvais said what we are proposing is a seven member task force: 2 from BOS, Town Manager or Designee to provide staff support, Land Use Coordinator for Staff Support, additional five members with relevant experience. Selectwoman Eitland said we need to come up with a Strategic vision beyond the Master Plan. Chair Ward said he has no problems with this at all. Selectman Beauvais commented we are looking at something big. There are some big companies looking for a better home and why not Winchendon. Bring in more revenue to take tax burden off the residents.

Selectwoman Eitland moved that the Board of Selectmen establish the Economic Development Task Force to promote sustainable economic growth in Winchendon. The Task Force will consist of seven members—two Selectmen, five residents with relevant experience, and two non-voting staff (Town Manager or designee and

Land Use Coordinator). I further move to begin recruitment and planning efforts. Selectman Beauvais seconded. Vote: All aye.

7 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Update on the “Crumbling Concrete” and current legislative efforts-Karin and Brian Forgues came forward. Mass Residents Against Crumbling Concrete is their organization. Chair Ward read the information pertaining to Crumbling Concrete. Their house is the first house to be raised. This home is on stilts. No recourse for them. Pushing for legislation by the state. Karin Forgues-22 Sibley Road update provide map the last time they were here. 43 towns across the state that have homes that are affected. Brian Forgues said this is not just a homeowner issue. Point out you can ask for an abatement that can affect the town. Make awareness ask the Town for support and write letter to the state. Karin Forgues said the foundation has been lobbying for eight years. Chair Ward asked for the house bill and title and will work to get a letter to send off. Selectwoman Eitland and Selectman Beauvais said they appreciate bringing this forward and have their support. Mr. McKinney asked if this type of concrete is being used Karin Forgues said yes up until November. **Selectman Beauvais moved the Board send a letter of support to the Representatives. Selectwoman Eitland seconded. Vote: All aye.**

8 OLD BUSINESS:

8.1 Annual Town Warrant - review/vote of tabled articles-Selectwoman Eitland said since we have the numbers tonight I would like to vote on it. Mr. McKinney said we have the override but Town Meeting vote will be how to spend it. There is 1.9 million available to spend but it is up to the residents as to how much they want to spend. The vote is by department. Chair Ward the Moderator when we get to the budget she will go department by department and she will ask if anyone wants to hold any. You have an opportunity to bring up any questions and have your say on each department. Tiffany Newton asked concerning the budget levy limit passes vote on 1.9 million dollar spending. If not potential to use 1.9 million next year. Selectwoman Eitland asked about Article 12 with no override. She asked if we could revisit the vote. Chair Ward said when we go to town meeting and you vote on 11 there will be discussion and talk that over. If budget in Article 11 doesn't pass then we would have to go to Article 12 and go over it department by department.

9 TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. McKinney said he wanted to make residents aware that there are towns out there that don't tax up to their levy limit. We tax up to the levy limit. He said payments for the landfill when deposited goes into Treasurer miscellaneous. He said payments received will be posted on the Town Website in next couple of days. Brian Croteau gave a 60 day notice this week. He did a lot of work for the Town. He said we will be posting position later this week. Chair Ward said we are not going to find a harder workers than in this town. This is a loss for the town. If we don't get the budget this is the first employee leaving. Selectwoman Eitland said this is a big loss for the town.

10 TOWN MANAGER'S FINANCIAL REPORT: There was no Town Manager's Financial Report this evening.

11 MINUTES:

11.1 Draft Special Meeting March 27, 2025-These were tabled.

11.2 Draft Board of Selectmen Meeting April 14, 2025-These were tabled.

11.3 Draft Board of Selectmen Meeting April 28, 2025-These were tabled.

11.4 Draft Joint Meeting Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee April 29, 2025-These were tabled.

12. COMMUNICATIONS:-Chair Ward said the Chair is usually the speaker at Memorial Day. Vice Chair will be available. Veterans Ceremony 9am. Parade starts at 10am ends at GAR Park if a nice day if not ends at the American Legion.

13. AGENDA ITEMS: Chair Ward said we will be holding a meeting prior to the town meeting at 6:30pm. He encouraged everyone to get there early. Bill McKinney said there will be seats on the floor of the gymnasium.

Reschedule next meeting to June 9th. If anything critical comes in then June 2nd.

Joint meeting with Board of Health concerning River Street (French). Suggested having Conservation Commission to also attend. Chair Ward said she will talk to Tina (Chair). Encourage tri board meeting. Talk about the Comm 97.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION: There are no executive sessions scheduled this evening.

15. ADJOURNMENT-Chair Ward thanked Audrey LaBrie who provided me a lot of guidance. Barbara Anderson Mike Barbaro, Amy Salter, Danielle LaPointe and current members Andrew Beauvais, Melissa Blanchard, Erika Eitland. Thanked department heads in town hall. They are very dedicated. Thanked people he met. Hopes as we go forward with this town we are still one town we are still Winchendon. You should have pride in the town. We are one town and move forward for the benefit of this town.

Selectman Beauvais moved to adjourn. Selectwoman Eitland seconded. Vote: All aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56pm.

Respectfully submitted


Debra Dennis, Executive Assistant