

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 7:00pm, Vershire Town Center.

There will be a remote option for this meeting via Zoom or by phone.

Video: <https://youtu.be/I5Cy-xCxOW0> AND

<https://youtu.be/19ITQZWYm2c>

Attendance: Vern Stone, Doug Stone-Road Supt., Amy Record, Andrea Cunha-Admin. Asst., Nicole-White Fogarty-Chair, Taylor Parker, Earl Robinson, Mark Fogarty, Kathy Hooke, and David Hooke.

Call to Order: Nicole White-Fogarty called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Agenda Review & Modifications: Taylor Parker requested that the Snowmobile Club be added to the agenda.

Public & Staff Comments: None at this time.

Snowmobile Club: T. Parker reported that the snowmobile club was awarded a \$5,000 grant from Polaris to purchase materials for trail repairs, including areas on Turnpike and Taylor Valley roads. The Club asked permission to do the work and wondered if the Town would assist by trucking materials to the problem sites. The Club has also requested permission to stage materials on the Chelsea side. **Action:** V. Stone moved to allow the snowmobile club to access Durgin Hill Road just past the transfer station. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously. **Action:** V. Stone moved to use Town equipment to move material to the repair sites. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously. D. Stone announced that VASA's annual meeting will be held on July 26th in West Fairlee and is open to all ATV club members. He will be posting about an expected increase in traffic and notes there will be two parking areas by Ward's Garage, as well as some parking in W. Fairlee.

Highway: Road Report: D. Stone reported on several maintenance and operational tasks, including equipment repairs and ongoing construction projects. Eagle Hollow Road has been graded and maintenance work performed on the mower and the back hoe. Catamount Solar began their installation process at the Garage. Kellie Merritt will begin working full-time on 6/18/25. A. Record inquired about the EC Fiber wire that was on the road. D. Stone has rolled it up and removed it. N. White- Fogarty discussed the need to address littering on the job site on Mero Road. D. Stone and N. White-Fogarty will follow up with the contractor. M. Fogarty asked if there was anything in the contract about littering. D. Stone and V. Stone both noted that littering is unprofessional and illegal. Access to Town sand piles

are now blocked due to individuals picking up truck loads of sand. This sand is available to residents for winter use only.

Animal Control: N. White-Fogarty discussed development of an Animal Control Officer job description that includes training requirements. An appropriate stipend/rate per call for on-call responses also needs to be determined. She recommends looking into purchasing a catch pole A. Cunha will investigate what other towns do and assist.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: A. Record moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 6/3/25. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Current Period Warrants Approval: N.White-Fogarty moved to approve the current period warrants. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Recreation Committee: K. Hooke reported on the grant agreement presented by *The Upper Valley Trails Alliance*. It proposes the following trail work be done to improve Vershire trails at the Town Center: make them more durable, sustainable, and able to accommodate multi-uses such as running, XC skiing, snowshoeing, and mountain biking. The plan is to utilize the High School Trail Corps (3 Staff and 8-10 corps members) for 4 days and the total materials and labor estimate is \$8,581. The \$10,000 in funds made available by the Byrd Foundation will be used to cover these costs. They are hoping to begin work 7/3/25 under K. Hooke's direction. The additional work dates of 7/8, 7/15 & 8/1 will focus on trail clean up. Further, the End-of- School party was a huge success attended by over 150 kids.

Action: V. Stone moved to approve the application from Upper Valley Trails Alliance. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

N.White-Fogarty mentioned that there will be a public meeting on 6/24 at 6pm at the Town Center Building to discuss remediation progress at the Ely Copper Mine.

Energy Committee: D. Hooke provided updates on the committee's Vershire Day preparations and plans for co-events with the farmers' market. N. White-Fogarty discussed the boiler installation costs for two buildings, which came in under budget but higher than original estimates. D. Hooke also discussed weatherization funds for the log cabin and town office, noting they would need to verify the amount of available funds. Additionally, they addressed maintenance needs for the Town Park and Ride, including the installation of a new sign.

VTC Committee: N. White-Fogarty reported that the picnic tables will be stained on Friday 6/20. The conditions of the ditches will also be addressed. She will contact the mowing service and find out the costs of some additional maintenance in this area. Alternative mowing contractors will also be considered for 2026-27.

Action Items/Assignments:

Administrative Assistant: Correspondence & Report: A. Cunha reported that the MOU with the Emergency Management Committee is still in need of one signature and she will follow up E. Robinson referred to the Planning Commission meeting and reported that Aaron Hoopes came out to E. Robinson's home to assess the problems with his neighbor. Photos were taken and the imposition of fine will be looked into by the Development Administrator.

Executive Session: Recording was paused for personnel discussions at 8:12pm. N. White-Fogarty moved to exit the executive session at 8:53pm with the findings to offer KellyMerritt a 6% increase to her hourly rate of pay. Also, an offer will be made to M. Washo for the Grant Writer/Manager position. G. Harvey will move into the position of Admin. Assist./Sec. as an interim. **Action:** N.White-Fogarty moved to approve these findings. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn: N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:59pm. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.