

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 26, 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/ckOHloPXLU8>

Attendance: Nicole White-Fogarty-chair, Amy Record, Vern Stone, Doug Stone-Road Supt., Gretchen Harvey-Admin/Sec, Chelsea Parker-Asst. Clerk, Connor Fogarty, Mark Fogarty, Pol Llovet, David Hooke, Kathy Hooke, Gene Craft-Clerk/Treasurer, and Reva Seybolt.

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

Agenda Review & Modifications: None at this time.

Public & Staff Comments: None at this time.

Highway: Road Report: N.White-Fogarty reported on the research about which truck body size is best for the packer. The current packer carries an average of 2 tons per week. D. Stone reported on the grant-funded work completed on Chamberlain Hill Rd. Three culverts were installed and the area has been inspected and hydroseeded. Similar grant-funded work on Parker Rd. is upcoming. He will address brake problems on the 10-wheeler this fall and has ordered mower parts. The new truck is still awaiting a body. The SB discussed a recent message from Casella's in relation to the transfer station and asked the Admin. Asst. to follow up.

FEMA Projects: Two bids were submitted on 8/14/25 for the final 2023 FEMA-funded project for Reed Road. They were from: Northwoods Excavation Inc. at \$264,290.00 and J. Merrill Construction at \$314,811.00.

Action: V. Stone moved to accept the bid from Northwoods Excavation Inc. to install a box culvert on Reed Rd. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously. There was a discussion about the wrap up of the Mero Bridge project. G. Harvey was asked to reach out to the engineer overseeing the work with some follow-up questions.

G. Craft asked D. Stone about a washout on Beaver Meadow Road. Others noted washouts elsewhere and how there seems to be more this season than is typical. G. Harvey was asked to post notices on the Listserv regarding upcoming work being done at the Ely Mine site. Notably, there will be some blasting done during the week of Sept. 8th. Chelsea Parker will begin cleaning Town buildings this week and was encouraged to talk to both D. Stone and R. Seybolt about the needs of the Garage and Town Center Building respectively. The SB reminded Chelsea that the cleaner is an employee of the Town and reports to the Selectboard via its Admin. Asst.

Animal Control Officer: N. White-Fogarty reported that is has been a busy month and wants to remind everyone with any type of dog concern to utilize the pager #802 240-0402, leave a call back number, and someone will call you back. She has been able to re-home all roaming dogs this past month. She also wants to remind any unvaccinated dog owners of the presence of incidents of rabies in the Upper Valley and that Tractor Supply in Lebanon offers just, affordable vaccinations without vet visits. Installing microchips or tags on your pet also greatly facilitates reconnecting pets with owners.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: V. Stone moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 8/12/25. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Current Period Warrants Approval: V. Stone moved to approve the current period warrants. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Recreation Committee: Kathy Hooke reported on TC trail work. Upper Valley Trails Alliance (UVTA) led 6 work days on the TC trail this summer, 4 of them with youth crews and 2 with volunteers from Hypertherm Corp. The work crews focused on boardwalks/bridges in the wet areas. UVTA has submitted an invoice for \$7,331.50, which is within the estimate and there are 30 hours remaining that can be committed to this project. The next step is to walk the trail and see what final improvements might be accomplished with the remaining grant funds. N. White-Fogarty noted that there is a leash law in Vershire and if a walker/hiker lets their dog off leash, they should be able to keep it under voice control. K. Hooke also acknowledged the feedback she received from Peet Pearson and is working on an adjustment to the trail route near her property line. She also noted that the trails subcommittee has been discussing Patterson Mtn viewshed. She asked if the SB would consider expanding the Rec Committee's mission to include Patterson and Eagle Hollow properties for the purpose of overseeing recreational uses of these sites.

Energy Committee: D. Hooke reported that the EC is still pulling together a budget/plan for the remaining energy conservation work on town buildings that was authorized at Town Meeting 2025. He summarized what has been spent to date and what is left to accomplish. The EC will submit a written proposal at the next meeting. N. White-Fogarty noted that finding replacement bulbs for recessed lighting in the TC has been challenging and asked the EC for their input. This led to a brief discussion about outside lighting with support for timers and/or motion detecting fixtures. There are some costs to factor into the equation and the EC will look into these

questions. M. Fogarty asked if there is any data available yet on cost savings from having solar at the new garage. D. Hook will analyze the recent bills from WEC and gather more for a good report to the Selectboard.

VTC Committee: R. Seybolt expressed gratitude for the various tasks that have been accomplished at the TC and that a new building cleaner will start this week. Two of the picnic tables need a 2nd coat of sealant and Ken Bushey and his helpers will be doing this soon. The VTCC will be considering next year's budget requests at upcoming meetings.

Pol Llovet was given the floor to ask about the rules governing dog barking in Vershire. The existing Dog and Pet Ordinance has a benchmark of 30 minutes of consistent barking. G. Craft urged him to look at the ordinance which can be found on the Town's website.

Action Items/Assignments:

Administrative Assistant: Correspondence & Report: G. Harvey reported that a porta potty from Wind River Environmental has been delivered to the Transfer Station, the refrigerator appears to be repaired but is still being monitored, and reminded the SB that a town-wide vote will be held on September 27th for the purpose of adopting an updated Town Plan.

Executive Session: Personnel. Action: N. White-Fogarty moved to enter an executive session allowed under 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) for the purpose of an evaluation of a public officer or employee. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to exit the executive session with the finding that the Town will adopt two amendments to the employee handbook. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to amend the Employee Handbook with changes to sect. 17. Eligibility for Benefits; and sect. 21 Vacation Leave. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The updated employee handbook will be linked to the Town's website.

Adjourn: N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:38pm. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.