

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 9, 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/6uhPjSMZ50s>

Attendance: Amy Record, Vern Stone, Gretchen Harvey-Admin/Sec, Connor Fogarty, Arthur Sinclair, Rita French, Barry Frasier, Chelsea Parker-Asst. Clerk, Gene Craft-Clerk/Treasurer, Earl Robinson, Dale Ricker, Suzanne Lupien, Ruby Gemmel, Dale Lewis, Brett Isley, Dave Jenks, Chris Clark, Steve Ward, Pol Llovet, and Reva Seybolt.

Call to Order: V. Stone called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Agenda Review & Modifications: None at this time.

Public & Staff Comments: Barry Frasier read a written statement outlining his concerns with the recently constructed Mero Bridge. As a resident of Vershire for 31 years, he provided some of his work history, including his experience working in water and his understanding of water flows. He was involved with recovery efforts after super storm Irene. His belief is that the recently constructed Mero bridge is more suited to a flat landscape with low water flows and that when tested by a 100-year storm, it will fail. He believes that trees and roots will quickly plug it and the mess left behind will be extensive. He offered to assist with a fresh start, if asked. V. Stone explained that the architect has been contacted to address concerns about final bridge height; the Town is awaiting a reply.

Highway questions: Rita French had some questions about the roads, some of which have already been answered by Gene. She also wanted to say that she thinks the Selectboard should have asked the townspeople for approval before making a truck purchase. She asked about gravel delivery for one of the cemeteries. She also asked why, if the State of Vermont has determined what should be done with respect to ditching on Vershire's roads, these practices have not been adopted. A. Record responded that road grants are offered regularly through the State to help fund road repairs and maintenance, and that the work is performed to satisfy VT agencies and specifications. S. Lupien explained that she too is displeased with the ditching process. She noted that none of the recommendations provided by Jim Ryan during a workshop he conducted while still working for the State, were followed. R. French asked about using a different machine for ditching and following a different process. V. Stone explained that there are documents regarding municipal road grants that she may request to see.

Highway: Road Report: D. Stone is absent and submitted his report by email. He reported that the crew graded Vershire Center Road and put chloride and water down there, graded Moody Swamp, Rowell, and Stacy

Roads, and replaced a culvert and put some new gravel on Stacy Road. Ayers and Brown Roads have also been graded. He is waiting for winter rims to come back from being painted and for news about the T1 body delivery. The crew replaced a culvert on McIver Road and are expecting the grant-funded work on Parker Road that includes three culverts and ditching to be close to being finished this week. He concluded that a freezer was left at the Recycle Station.

Transfer Station: C. Fogarty reported that approximately 2 weeks ago the mixed recycling bin was replaced without notifying him. The downside of this change is that the Town used to swap out its two bins simultaneously but this schedule has been thrown off by the switch; now he will need to request the swapping out of bins one at a time. G. Harvey will follow up with Casella and NH Recycles to find out if there are any financial implications to switching out one bin at a time. He also noted a report from a resident that someone is stealing metal from the metal bin. The rake used at the transfer station has also gone missing.

Dev. Ord. 2.8 (a): Arthur. Sinclair wanted to bring up a situation in town regarding a neighbor at 1062 Parker Road who has junk cars and other trash piled on their property. The land owner has started pushing some of the junk/trash over the hill to make it less visible, but a lot of trash remains visible including old batteries and propane tanks that Mr. Sinclair considers a fire hazard. He is also concerned about a neighbor who worries about their property's resale value. Mr. Sinclair has filed a complaint with the State of VT. He also presented a photocopy of an article recently published by the JO reporting on a similar problem in Bradford. He asked if Vershire would consider adopting an ordinance similar to Bradford's. G. Harvey noted that Aaron Hoopes - Vershire Dev. Admin. has been asked by the Selectboard chair to document any violations of the Vershire Development Ordinance 2.8(a) *[re: prohibited land use activities] dumping, storing of trash, garbage, hazardous or solid waste as defined under 10 V.S.A Sect. 6602, unless such a facility is certified by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.* Another resident in attendance corroborated the conditions on this particular property and reiterated both that the trash poses a fire hazard and that there is potential financial impact on nearby homeowners with respect to resale value of their properties.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: V. Stone moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 8/26/25 and an amendment to the minutes of 8/12/25. A. Record seconded. The motion passed.

Current Period Warrants Approval: V. Stone moved to approve the current period warrants with the exception of #965 and #3845 line items. A. Record seconded. The motion passed

Committee Reports:

Recreation Committee: K. Bushey reported that the committee hopes to offer yoga and zumba classes again this fall. He asked G. Harvey to check on insurance coverage and she reminded him about the waiver document that was used last year for this purpose. These classes are open to all and offered at no charge. He is also seeking approval to purchase a back-up ice rink liner. The Committee expects to reuse the existing liner for as long as possible, but hopes to avoid delays during ice rink season by having a replacement liner available if needed. The question of property boundaries relating to the newly developed Town Center Trail was discussed and it was noted that K. Hooke's recent trail map has addressed all concerns. The entire trail will be well within TC property lines. **Action:** V. Stone moved to approve an ice rink liner purchase. A. Record seconded. The motion passed.

Energy Committee: No report.

VTC Committee: No report.

Public Safety - S. Ward wanted to alert the town about recent incidents of theft and drug use in the community. He believes these incidents are becoming more frequent. He has had a converter stolen out of one of his trucks, and a hole drilled into a gas tank of another of his trucks out of which over 30 gal. of fuel were stolen. Warrants are not working. He has spoken with law enforcement in both Orange and Windsor Counties but policing contracts with either would not provide any nighttime patrols. V. Stone suggested that a letter to the State's Attorney might be something Vershire could do to request cutting down on incidents of repeated offenses. S. Ward thinks that changes at the state level might require several towns acting together.

Pol Llovet noted the recent mass mailing done by GWI critical of ECFiber's decision not to renew its contact with this company. He also asked about the process of becoming a delegate or an alternate to the ECFiber board. He would be willing to serve in either capacity. This appointment is made by the Selectboard. G. Harvey will follow up with this request along with a request for an ECFiber status report at the next meeting on 9/23/25.

Action Items/Assignments:

Administrative Assistant: Correspondence & Report: G. Harvey reported that the Board will need to coordinate an interview time for the road crew applicant and settle on some language for an employee handbook revision. She reported that the Mountain School is hosting the fall festival this year

but the *Vertical 5K* runners will still begin and end its run at the TCB. She asked for permission to allow them access to the bathrooms at the TCB and she would facilitate opening/closing the building during the race.

Action items: Action: V. Stone moved to recommend Steve Atwood be re-appointed Town Health Officer by VT Dept of Health. A. Record seconded. The motion passed.

Action: V. Stone moved to approve the summary of the two retreat meetings held in July, 2025. A. Record seconded. The motion passed. The link is here <https://vershirevt.org/departments/selectboard/>

Action: V. Stone moved to adopt the Town Administrator job description. A. Record seconded. The motion passed.

Adjourn: V. Stone moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. A. Record seconded. The motion passed.