

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 7:00pm, Vershire Town Center
There will be a remote option for this meeting via Zoom or by phone.
<https://youtu.be/TkAjGeGa1qA> This video is available for 30 days

Attendance: Nicole White-Fogarty-chair, Amy Record, Vern Stone, Gretchen Harvey-Admin/Sec, Steve Ward, Diann Ward, Earl Robinson, Mike Tagliavia, Mark Fogarty, Gene Craft-Clerk-Treasurer, Pol Llovet, Chelsea Parker-Asst Clerk, Pat Barnes, Reva Seybolt, Kathy Hooke, and Dexter Lefavour.

Call to Order: N. White-Fogarty called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. N. White-Fogarty began with an announcement on behalf of the Vershire Emergency Management Team (VEMT) concerning serious drought conditions across Vermont. She urged any resident with water or well problems to report them at this easy-to-use link: [Drought Resources](#). The information gathered will help Vershire identify needs and shape emergency responses.

Agenda Review & Modifications: None at this time.

Public & Staff Comments: Orange-1 Rep. Mike Tagliavia wanted to share that there are concerns pending about Act 181 passed in 2024. Act 181 directs Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) to create new regional plans with consistent future land use maps. He urges residents to check out these maps with respect to their land holdings. They are becoming available on the TRORC website. He also thinks the public comment period for these plans may remain open into 2026. Residents at the meeting wanted Mike to know that public safety issues remain a concern in Vershire.

Steve Ward wanted to discuss the recent fire and misuse of the pizza oven on 9/21/2 when a fire was set in the lower opening of the oven. The damage will be assessed. The Town was very fortunate that a member of the TC Committee just happened to stop by and was able to report the fire right away. Given the drought and wind conditions, more was at stake than just the structure itself. N. White-Fogarty made it clear that the upper oven needs to be locked at all times when not in authorized use, and that the lower opening needs to be locked/barred from being used in this way. The oversight and usage of the Town's pizza oven falls under the Vershire Town Center Committee, which reports to the Selectboard. Steve Ward also wanted to express some concerns about road maintenance on McIver, Stacy, and Rowell Roads. He asked why so much money is being spent on roads that are either little used or designated Class 4. He urged the Selectboard to take a look at the maintenance work being done at these locations. Diann Ward asked if consulting with Allen Rowell about some of these issues would be considered, as he does annual work for other towns.

Highway: Road Report: D. Stone submitted his report by email. He reported that grant-funded work on Chamberlain and Parker Roads is complete and that the paperwork has been submitted. Maintenance work including culvert installations and preparations for winter including ordering gravel and sand are ongoing. Users of the metals container need to be reminded that the items must have 90% or more metal to be discarded in this bin. For those interested in the source of recent road repair funding: *The VTrans Municipal Grants In Aid Program provides technical support and grant funding to municipalities to promote the use of erosion control and maintenance techniques that save money while ensuring best management practices are completed in accordance with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP.)*

Animal Control: N. White-Fogarty reported that it has been relatively quiet lately. She wanted to remind residents that the vote on a Town Plan was scheduled for this weekend and that this is the first step before making sure ordinances were up to date and or considering proposals for new ordinances. All dog and pet owners are encouraged to use tags and chips to help identify lost pets. To report roaming dogs, the best thing to do is call the ACO pager #802-240-0402 and leave a call back number.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: V. Stone moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 9/9/25. A. Record seconded. The motion passed.

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

Committee Reports:

Recreation Committee: No report. **Trails Update:** K. Hooke provided a newly detailed map of the TC trails work and noted they are fully on town property. One section has been completed and the remaining section is scheduled for completion this fall. Work days scheduled for Sept/Oct. There have been some concerns expressed by new landowners that residents are still using older trails that exist on private property. Kathy offered to remove old blazes to help deter their use. She will post the upcoming work days, as well as the updated trails map to help educate users about their location. She also noted that the un-blazed snowshoe-a-thon trail has been used only once/year since 1998 and permissions have been acquired for its use in the past. These permissions will need to be checked for 2026. Kathy also asked if either Rec Committee oversight could be expanded to include other Town properties such as Patterson Mountain or, alternatively, if the older conservation commission should be revived. Some good trail and view clearing work has been done and she is looking into cost effective and ecologically sound strategies for enhancing the view and addressing erosion when machinery must be brought in to help with this work. V. Stone noted that there are

renegade trails used by ATVs in this area and this issue needs to be addressed as well.

Energy Committee: Pat Barnes shared a summary of the savings being calculated from installing solar panels at the new garage. The savings plus banked credits so far puts the Town on target to accrue monthly savings of about \$700.00. With respect to the Log Cabin, the committee presented a work plan for using the funds appropriated during the Town Meeting 2025 for weatherization efforts. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to authorize the weatherization of the log cabin for the estimated cost of \$1,750 from the \$2000 appropriated under Article 13 at Town Meeting 2025. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VTC Committee: R. Seybolt reiterated that the pizza oven needs to be secured and repaired once the damage has been assessed. V. Stone will assess the damage. G. Craft has the lock for the upper oven and will put it on tomorrow. She has arranged for some shelving repairs in the TCB and would find it helpful to know who has access to the building. In planning for next year, interior painting and cupola painting and repairs are high priorities for the VTCC budget proposal. She asked for suggestions on who might do the cupola work.

Action Items/Assignments: NECE (New England Consulting Engineers): D. Lefavour entered Zoom and was asked some questions about the remaining FEMA road repairs. The Town wants the construction company that built Mero bridge to return a mailbox they needed to move back to its original location and pay for the road signs that workers damaged. D. Lefavour suggested holding back the repair costs for both from final payment to CCS and having the Town make the repairs. The SB again expressed much dissatisfaction with the aesthetics of the precast lines as they do not line up as they should. D. Lefavour's answer was that the bridge design did not address those particular aesthetics. He said an inspection is not required nor is a sign off from NECE in order for the final invoice to be paid and that the Town has a one-year warranty on the work. There was some discussion about a timeline for the culvert work on Reed Road but arrangements are still pending.

Administrative Asst. Report: G. Harvey asked the SB some questions regarding the personnel policy handbook with respect to breaks during the day. She will follow up with the lawyer who assisted the Town with revisions. She also was asked to share some recent complaints with the Dev. Admin. and the Dev. Bd of Adjustment. She explained to Pol Llovet that she is still following up on the question of ECFiber board representation from Vershire.

Adjourn: N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:48pm. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.