

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 7:00pm, Vershire Town Center

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

Video link: <https://youtu.be/jvgyGjD0DMU>

Attendance: Nicole White-Fogarty-chair, Vern Stone, Amy Record, Doug Stone-Road Supt., Gretchen Harvey-Admin/Sec, Mark Harvey, Earl Robinson, Debra Kingsbury, Pat Barnes, Kristen Quirk, Holly Shore, Ken Bushey, and Mark Fogarty.

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

Agenda Review & Modifications: N. White-Fogarty summarized the work that has been ongoing between the Selectboard, elected officials, and the staff in order to share the outcomes from two retreat gatherings held in July 2025. Retreat summary: <https://vershirevt.org/departments/selectboard/>

One of the important retreat outcomes was an understanding of the need for improved communications. To that end, the Selectboard is working to establish clear lines of communication between itself and its subcommittees, elected officials, and the public. This work includes developing clear directions for posting on its website about how to access local services. There also is a flowchart graphic being created that will be shared and posted in order to help residents easily determine who to contact for assistance.

N. White-Fogarty also wanted to acknowledge that the town has received both emails and letters expressing concerns about public safety in Vershire. The Selectboard is doing all it can by enforcing its ordinances, but it has limited authority to act when it comes to illegal behavior that can only be addressed by law enforcement agencies.

Public & Staff Comments: Holly Shore asked the board if either of the sheriffs in Orange or Windsor counties had been invited to attend a Selectboard meeting for the purpose of discussing policing contract options for Vershire. The Selectboard replied that it can certainly request information about public safety contracts from these counties, however, none have been solicited to date. The board also explained that if a policing contract option is presented, the next step would be for a proposal and its costs to be included on the warning for Town Meeting-2026. The warning is published at least 30 days ahead of time. Holly was advised to speak to the Town Clerk about the steps to follow in order to get an article placed on the warning via public petition. Debra Kingsbury suggested that perhaps more than one town could combine by soliciting a shared contract for policing services.

Highway: Road Report: D. Stone reported that the new truck has been inspected. He also has done additional work on the other trucks and they are ready for winter. The packer truck has a new fuel filter and hydraulic line, works well, but will need some winter tires. He has salted some already and ordered more salt for winter. He reported on some bagged hazardous trash left on Beaver Meadow Road near the class 4 line. He will arrange for it to be picked up along with tires left on Eagle Hollow Road. He has already picked up the tires and freezer left on Durgin Hill Road. Debra Kingsbury asked if installing game cameras might work to discourage trash dumping outside of regular transfer station hours.

Animal Control: N. White-Fogarty reported on a situation where a dog was found and then returned home to its owner in W. Fairlee. V. Stone noted that two weeks ago, the Game Warden was called due to dogs running deer in the Heights. Otherwise it has been relatively quiet this month. Now that the weather has turned colder, dogs tend to be kept closer to home.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: V. Stone moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 11/4/25. 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: K. Bushey asked Mark Harvey to present on behalf of the Trails subcommittee. Mark serves on the interim board of the Rivendell Trails Assoc. (RTA). Its members are reaching out to landowners in all 4 towns to update trail crossing agreements. Mark presented a map for re-routing a section of the CRT in Vershire due to access restrictions from a landowner. The re-routing proposal requires Selectboard permission in two instances. One section would request CRT permission to mark parts of Taylor Valley, Carol's Corner, Van Dyke, and Moody Hill class 4 roads before the trail would re-enter private land. A second section requires permission to build a foot-traffic only trail that approaches the summit of Patterson Mountain Town Forest from the south. He left the permission agreements with the Selectboard for consideration at its next regular meeting.

Kristen Quirk presented a proposal to organize a Stitching group that would meet in the Town Center building approximately 3 times per month and beginning on November 30th. After gauging public interest, she proposed three meetings per month with each at different times and on different days to accommodate varied schedules. These gatherings will be publicized as open to the public in different locations including being scheduled on the

Town's calendar. She noted two contingencies: bad weather and potential building rentals. She understands the need to be flexible and reschedule as needed due to building rental and weather conditions. The Selectboard welcomes the proposal for another way to utilize the TC building.

Ken Bushey reported on getting the ice rink ready for winter use. A new backup rink liner is being delivered to 815 Vershire Center Rd. The tentative plan is to fill the rink using the existing liner on the morning of Dec 6th. The Rec Committee also approved the continuation for Zumba classes through the end of the year. The committee continues to discuss arranging for yoga classes in the future. N. White-Fogarty asked for a copy of the flyer being used to promote Santa's visit on Dec. 6th and noted that it should be shared with Westshire Elem.

Energy Committee: Pat Barnes reported on the TCB ceiling patch proposal previously shared by one contractor with the Selectboard. He noted that there are funds available for this including the surplus from the new furnace installation plus funds allocated for town building weatherization. He noted that the most energy efficient approach would be to eliminate the pipe altogether rather than capping it. There were a number of concerns raised about the estimate: it was too brief and unspecific, the cost seemed too high, and it goes against regular policy to make a decision with only one estimate for a project. V. Stone will gather more information and estimates for getting this work done at a competitive price to share next time. Pat also summarized the weatherization work completed at the Log Cabin and the Town Office. He noted also that a rough and very preliminary estimate to date for cost savings from the town garage solar project is approximately \$3,000.00 savings after its 1st 4 months online.

VTC Committee: No Report.

Action Items/Assignments:

Administrative Asst. Report: G. Harvey reported on posting the transfer station job and explained that the contract agreement with Northwoods for culvert work in the spring is ready to sign. **Action:** V. Stone moved to sign the agreement with Northwoods for culvert repair work on Reed Road in the spring of 2026. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously. G. Harvey also asked for scheduling options for two informational meetings, December budget meetings, and full-time employee annual reviews.

Adjourn: A. Record moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.