

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes DRAFT
Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 7:00pm, Vershire Town Center
There will be a remote option for this meeting via Zoom or by phone.
A video link will be available for 30 days once approved.

Attendance: Nicole White-Fogarty-chair, Vern Stone, Amy Record, Doug Stone-Road Supt., Gretchen Harvey-Admin/Sec, Debra Kingsbury, Earl Robinson, Mike Tagliavia-Orange Cty Rep., Connor Fogarty, Ken Bushey, Pat Barnes, Reva Seybolt, Martin Ward, and Mark Fogarty.

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: Earl Robinson asked if there were any updates about an upcoming hearing that has been scheduled for a notice of violation on Taylor Valley Road. G. Harvey will try to find out the answer to his question about public access to the hearing.

Mike Tagliavia-Orange County Rep. wanted to check in now that the legislature is back in session. He sits on the environmental committee and noted that Act 181 will be a topic of discussion this session. He noted concerns from rural landowners regarding future land-use maps, and what each tier designation will mean in practice. Public safety is also a topic of interest and he is aware of the concerns raised in Vershire and neighboring communities. He intends to bring them up during the 'coffee with the governor' events. He will also discuss them with Commissioners of Forests, Parks and Recreation. N. White-Fogarty asked what the latest news is concerning public education. Rep. Tagliavia reported that this topic (Act 73) made up the vast majority of the Governor's recent state of the State address. N. White-Fogarty thanked him for stopping by and providing Vershire with updates on his work in the legislature.

Highway: Road Report: D. Stone reported on recent road work responding to snow, rain, and ice. The new truck is loaded up and ready for the next storm. The radio technician visited the garage to fix truck antennas and set up the base in a way that allows the road crew to hear communications while working in the shop. He will take the Jimmy packer to get a hydraulic issue addressed before it gets pressed into service. He will be looking into a grant that Rita Seto-TRORC told him about, which provides 100% funding for ledge, ditch, and guardrail work. The deadline to apply is the end of January. G. Harvey reported on a message from J. Waltermier who expressed appreciation for the excellent work the road crew has done to keep McIver road plowed and sanded during the recent storms.

Recycling Coordinator: Connor Fogarty reported that both bins were swapped out recently. He also noted that an applicant for the position of transfer station driver/attendant was present helping and learning more about the transfer station's operations for about 4 hours last Saturday. They kept the ramp well sanded and filled up 8 buckets with sand to help keep walkway areas clear of ice. N. White-Fogarty noted that the shed heater is not working. V. Stone will check it out.

Town Center Building ramp: Martin Ward presented a detailed plan with some preliminary cost estimates for what it would take to update the ramp so that it meets code and also endures long into the future. At a minimum, the ramp needs to be wider, and he proposes a length and slope adjustment and additional supporting piers, as well. He wondered if perhaps there is some grant funding that might help with these costs. His plan is attentive to the architectural aesthetics of this historic building and this led to some additional discussion about the pressing need to fix the cupola. He explained that the weathervane had originally been on the old Town Center building located on the north side of rte 113. In 3 years, this building will have been in service as Vershire Town Center for 50 years. He recognizes that the Selectboard will want to solicit other bids. His schedule is quite full right now and he would not be able to take on this project until later in the summer. He would hope to have a decision from the Selectboard in the next month or two. N. White-Fogarty thanked him for coming and for his proposal.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: V. Stone moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 12/30/25. 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 explained that the ice rink is closed as volunteers work to repair its surface. They might need to reconsider the date of the skating party depending on the weather in the next few days. Kathy Hooke and Eileen Murphy presented to the Rec Committee at their last meeting about a proposal that is taking shape to manage the Patterson town forest. K. Hooke will present this plan to the Selectboard, which has the support of the Rec Committee, at its next regular meeting.

Energy Committee: P. Barnes reported on the ongoing weatherization work being done at the log cabin. He expects it to be finished by the end of this week. He is also seeking an estimate to insulate (cellulose) the TC basement

walls where the older insulation has settled and no longer performs as needed. He asked if the roof patch placement might be accomplished at the same time any work is done on the cupola. He also requested that if there are funds leftover from the weatherization work, that the SB allow for the purchase of anchors to hold window inserts in place in the upstairs windows of the TC.

D. Hooke proposed changing the outdoor lights at the TCB as a cost-saving measure instead of continuing the contact with WEC for the existing flood light, which costs \$400/year. He proposed installing some type of under the eaves lighting that would run off the solar-offset from the Garage array. Discussion followed about what type of lighting would be best, its reach, whether it would be regulated by a timer or motion sensor, and how the parking lot closest to the building would be illuminated. The Selectboard asked D. Hooke to follow-up with Tilden electric for input and an estimate.

D. Hook also wanted to discuss the need to remediate radon at the Town office and to also consider a comprehensive plan for its renovation. He presented a draft RFP seeking an estimate from an architectural firm that he recommended. N. White-Fogarty explained that the work of considering office needs (by staff and residents), as well as potential interior changes to accommodate these needs, has been ongoing. She also noted that any estimates or proposals that are sought in the future should be sent to the Selectboard's administrative assistant for forwarding to the board. G. Harvey reported that she has been following up on getting radon mitigation estimates and will continue to do so.

VTC Committee: Reva Seybolt has no committee report at this time. She did want clarity on the town's policy regarding residents' access to town sand pile during storms. Residents are allowed to take 2 (5 gallon) buckets of sand (not salt) per storm. The recent listserv posts about the salt pile are meant to discourage residents from taking from that separate supply; The salt is extremely hard to get right now and the town needs all it can procure for its roads.

Action Items/Assignments:

Executive Session: To discuss a hiring decision. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to enter an executive session for the purpose of discussing a hiring decision as per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) and invited G. Harvey into the session. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to exit the executive session with the finding that the Town of Vershire accepts Kellie Merritt's resignation as a part-time member of the road crew, and that the offer of the Driver/Attendant transfer station position be offered to Ron

Raymond pending a negative DISA test. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to include a request for the return of town building keys from K. Merritt when the official acceptance of her resignation is sent. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Asst. Report: G. Harvey requested that the Selectboard choose a time they can meet for a special meeting on 2-22-26. This meeting likely will be needed to approve the warning for Town Meeting and in order to meet the legal requirements for the 30-day notification of the same. N. White-Fogarty requested that Eileen Murphy-Moderator be invited to the next budget meeting so that she can be apprised of any articles that might be included in the warning for Town Meeting.

Adjourn: N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20pm. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.