

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

March 10, 2021

Members of Selectboard present: Richard Wilcox, Larry Courcelle, Val Taylor

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator & Health Officer, Nancy Gondella, Town Clerk & Treasurer, Phil Douglas, Constable

Visitors present: Brett Yates, Elizabeth Swett, Hal Rosenzweig, Amanda O'Connor

The Selectboard Meeting was called to order at 5:04 PM with all present participating remotely.

In response to COVID-19, the Selectboard strongly encourages the public to participate in this meeting by video or teleconferencing. The public can follow the directions on the agenda and posted publicly on the Mendon website at www.mendonvt.org.

As Chair of the Town of Mendon Selectboard I find that, due to the State of Emergency declared by Governor Scott as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and pursuant to Addendum 6 to Executive Order 01-20 and Act 92, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

In accordance with Act 92, there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting. However, in accordance with the temporary amendments to the Open Meeting Law, I confirm that we are:

Providing public access to the meeting by video with additional access offered through telephone. We are using Gotomeeting.com for this remote meeting. All members of the Selectboard have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if desired, participate in this meeting by **joining the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone**.

- a) Providing public notice of instructions for accessing the meeting. We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing this meeting, including how to access the meeting using telephone and video in our posted meeting agenda. Instructions have also been provided on the town website at: www.mendonvt.org.
- b) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access. If anybody has a problem, please *e-mail mendonclerk@comcast.net* and
- c) Continuing the meeting if necessary. In the event the public is unable to access this meeting, it will be continued to a time and place certain.

Selectboard Meeting

Wed, Mar 10, 2021 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM (EST)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/624239701>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1 \(872\) 240-3212](tel:+18722403212)

Access Code: 624-239-701

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Please note that all votes taken during this meeting that are not unanimous will be done by roll call vote, in accordance with the law.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance of all members participating in the meeting.

Roll call: Richard Wilcox, Larry Courcelle, Val Taylor

Agenda: R. Wilcox moved to approve the agenda with the addition of seasonal posting of roads, payroll for 3/8/21 and to reschedule the next Selectboard Meeting. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Announcement

Public Invited to Comment on Aitken State Forest Draft Management Plan: members of the public who wish to review and comment on the plan can visit <https://arcg.is/0KinX5> to learn about the Aitken State Forest draft plan and to take the public comment survey. Comment can also be shared by email to ANR.AitkenSFPublicComment@vermont.gov.

Annual Organizational Matters

Motion by L. Courcelle to appoint Richard Wilcox, Chair of the Selectboard. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by R. Wilcox to appoint Larry Courcelle, Vice-Chair of the Selectboard. Motion seconded by R. Wilcox. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by L. Courcelle to appoint Sara Tully, Clerk of the Selectboard. Motion seconded by R. Wilcox. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by R. Wilcox to set the regular Selectboard meetings on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The motion passed unanimously. A calendar of 2021 meetings was provided with a few dates rescheduled around holidays.

Motion by R. Wilcox to adopt the Rules of Procedure for Selectboard Meetings. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The motion passed unanimously. The Selectboard reviewed the Purchasing Policy for the town.

Motion by L. Courcelle to identify the Rutland Herald as the newspaper of general circulation the town will utilize for town business.

Motion by R. Wilcox to appoint Justin Lindholm, Larry Courcelle and Richard Wilcox to be the Fence Viewers. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by L. Courcelle to appoint Rod MacCuiag, the Pound Keeper and Animal Control Officer. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by L. Courcelle to appoint Bill Ellis the Tree Warden. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy Adoption:

Open Meeting Law Policy The Selectboard reviewed the Open Meeting Law. S. Tully presented the Open Meeting Law Compliance Policy which outlines how Mendon will meet the requirements of the Open Meeting Law. Motion by R. Wilcox to adopt the Open Meeting Law Policy. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Road and Bridge Standards The Selectboard tabled the adoption of the Town Road and Bridge Standards until the next meeting.

2021-2022 Goals and Objectives S. Tully presented the 2021-2022 Goals and Objectives for the Selectboard to review and prioritize. The Selectboard will provide feedback for the next meeting.

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders were reviewed. Motion by R. Wilcox to approve pay orders for 3/8/21 for \$30,776.14 and approve payroll in the amount of \$9,398.20 for the period ending 03/06/2021. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: R. Wilcox moved to approve the minutes of 2/23/21 and 3/1/21. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The motion carried.

Business

Selectboard Meeting Due to a scheduling conflict the next Selectboard Meeting for regular business will be held March 23, 2021 at 5:30 PM.

Seasonal Road Posting S. Tully reported Bill Ellis, Road Commissioner posted seasonal weight restrictions on all Mendon roads on March 8, 2021. These restrictions will remain until May 15th.

Recap Town Meeting The Informational Meeting was attended by approximately 40 people. Historically approximately 60 people attend Town meeting when it is held in person. N. Gondella reported a higher than normal turnout for voting with 136 ballots returned by mail or early voting and 100 people voted in person at the polls. L. Courcelle commented that the everyone that they did a great job at the election.

Mendon on the Move Community Visit The Mendon on the Move Community Visit is scheduled for march 24th at 6 PM. All are welcome to attend. Information can be found on the town's website with links to the Mendon on the Move website.

Otter Creek Communications Union District A. O'Connor from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission presented an overview of the Otter Creek Communications Union District (OCCUD). The purpose of the OCCUD is to expand broadband throughout the district including remote and rural locations. The OCCUD is a municipal entity, but can not use taxpayer money from member towns. The Selectboard must approve joining the OCCUD and adopt a resolution to be part of the communication union district planning and for the properties in Mendon to opt in when the service becomes available. The state is committed to increasing broadband service in VT to 100/100 service. It is anticipated that there will federal funding coming to VT with the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act. The Selectboard reviewed the internet service currently available in Mendon with only 5 properties with 100/100 service. The Selectboard will send any additional questions to A. O'Connor and will warn the adoption of the Resolution at the next meeting.

Firearms Discharge Ordinance The Selectboard has warned a Public Hearing to provide an opportunity for the public to express their views regarding the adoption of the proposed Firearm Discharge Ordinance. The draft ordinance can be found on the Mendon website at

www.mendonvt.org, the Facebook page and hard copies are available at the Town Office. The Public Hearing will be held remotely March 15th at 6 PM. A link to the meeting can be found on the website. The Selectboard discussed how the public hearing will be conducted.

There being no further business, R. Wilcox moved to adjourn at 7:00 PM. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The Selectboard approved the motion.

Date Approved _____

Richard Wilcox

Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

Larry Courcelle

Val Taylor