

# Town of Mendon

## Selectboard

September 13, 2021

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

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

Visitors present: Justin Lindholm, Bob Harnish, Jim Reddy, Jennifer Bagley, Fred Bagley, Susannah Loffredo, Dennis Charles, Norm Cohen, Ann Singiser

The Selectboard Meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM at the Town Office.

### Agenda:

Motion by R. Wilcox to approve the agenda with the addition of pay order for 9/13/21 of \$490 and an update on Mendon on the Move Boosting Outdoor Recreation. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

### Announcement

Selectboard Rules of Procedure are available for view.

SAVE the DATE Mendon Town Picnic Remembering Irene September 18, 2021 Noon to 3 PM at the Mendon Recreation Area with a rain date of September 19, 2021. Details about the event will be posted on the Town of Mendon website at [www.mendonvt.org](http://www.mendonvt.org) and Mendon's Facebook page.

### Administrative Matters

*Selectmen's Orders* were reviewed.

Motion by R. Wilcox to approve payroll in the amount of \$10,606.28 for the period ending 9/4/21 and orders for 9/9/21 for \$131,465.80 and \$31,673.22 and orders for 9/13/21 for \$490.00. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: R. Wilcox moved to approve the minutes of 8/23/21 and 9/10/21. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Public Comment J. Lindholm spoke in support of the Declaration of Inclusion condemning racism as long as wording was not included welcoming everyone to Mendon. He supported welcoming people to Mendon that supported inclusion.

### Business

*Grants in Aid FY22* The Chair of the Selectboard signed the Grants in Aid Agreement for FY22 for \$6,700 in financial support to bring hydrologically connected road segments into compliance with the Municipal Roads General Permit.

*Town of Mendon Signs* Mendon on the Move Route 4 Beautification Committee requested the Town of Mendon signs at the Mendon Orchards and Fox Hollow be maintained and brush cut around them. A further request was made to look at possible relocation to increase the visibility of the signs. The Selectboard requested P. Douglas, Constable and B. Ellis, Road Commissioner to take a look at alternative placement of the sign to increase their visibility.

*Declaration of Inclusion* J. Bagley originally requested the Town consider adoption of a Declaration of Inclusion and thanked the Board for all the discussion to this point. L. Courcelle read the current draft of the Declaration of Inclusion from the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. Al Wakefield previously submitted the Declaration of Inclusion A Vermont Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Initiative and N. Cohen referred to the version included in this document on page 5. J. Bagley stated she had reviewed that version and made some changes and she read her version. L. Courcelle stressed that the Declaration of Inclusion should be shared with the public and have an educational piece and voted by the town because the Selectboard does not know how the town feels about it. J. Lindholm continued to support the Declaration of Inclusion with wording that does not welcome everyone rather those that embody the spirit of inclusion.

L. Courcelle moved to adopt the Town of Mendon Declaration of Inclusion to read:  
The Town of Mendon condemns racism and welcomes all who incorporate the spirit of inclusion. Our town strives to provide safety, security and protection to all of its citizens to the full limits of its legal authority.

As a town, we formally condemn discrimination in all of its forms and commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community.

The Town of Mendon has and will continue to be a place where individuals can live freely and express their opinions.

Motion seconded by R. Wilcox. Discussion continued. T. Corsones discussed who determined the “spirit of inclusion” and requested the wording be changed. S. Loffredo also recommended rewording the third sentence and combing the thought with the first sentence.

L. Courcelle moved a friendly amendment to amend the Town of Mendon Declaration of Inclusion to read:

The Town of Mendon condemns racism and discrimination in all of its forms and commits to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community.

Our town strives to provide safety, security and protection to all of its citizens.

The Town of Mendon has and will continue to be a place where individuals can live freely and express their opinions.

Motion seconded by R. Wilcox. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

*Appropriations* The Selectboard discussed the petition requirements for Appropriation requests to be included on the ballot for Town Meeting 2022. The Selectboard amended the procedure last year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to limit the exposure to COVID-19 in the community any organization funded in FY22 can submit a request for funding for the same amount for FY23 without submitting a petition signed by 5% of the voters. Any new organization or an increase of funding amount by a previously funded organization would require a petition be submitted to the Town Clerk by January 13, 2022 signed by 5% of the Mendon voters.

*Tax Appeals to the State Appraiser* The Selectboard discussed the process of property appeals filed with the State Appraiser. The Selectboard will not seek legal representation in this process. Vermont Municipal Assessor's will lay out the evidence for the Town. The Town will be responsible for all education costs due to the state after December 2021.

*Regional Emergency Management Committee* The regional Local Emergency Planning Committees were replaced with one statewide Local Emergency Planning Committee. The Emergency Management Division will establish Regional Emergency Management Committees. A meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup> will outline the guidance and responsibilities of the Regional Emergency Management Committee. The Selectboard supported attendance in this meeting by the Emergency Management Director or the Town Administrator in his absence.

*Journeys End Traffic Study & Traffic Ordinance Update* S. Tully provided an outline of action steps that are required to complete the traffic study and amend the Traffic Ordinance. Some proposed changes to the Traffic Ordinance were submitted to the Selectboard for review. The Director of Public Safety and Road Commission still need to review the proposed changes.

*Road Reclassification* S. Tully provided an outline of action steps to reclassify roads. The Selectboard reviewed this procedure and discussed in detail the status of the Falls Road. On Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup> the Selectboard viewed multiple projects on the road. S. Tully was asked to research state statutes whether class 3 roads are required to be plowed by the town in the winter. S. Tully reported on research of Orchard Road conducted by J. Lindholm. In 1987 the road was reclassified from a Pent Road to a class 3 town highway.

*BUUSD proposes discussion Limiting School Choice in Mendon* S. Tully requested the Selectboard take a position on supporting or opposing the BUUSD limiting school choice in Mendon as it effects the Town. A. Singiser spoke against the Selectboard discussing the issue as it's an issue of the School Board. R. Wilcox spoke in favor of weighing in on the issue as it effects property values in Mendon. S. Loffredo informed the Selectboard that she takes the minutes of the School Board meetings and the School Board has brought up discussing school choice with the Town of Mendon Selectboard and the Town of Chittenden Selectboard. The Mendon Selectboard elected to table the issue to see if they School Board comes to them to discuss how limiting school choice effects the Town.

*Irene Recognition Committee Update* L. Courcelle provided an update regarding final preparations for the Town Picnic.

*Mendon on the Move Boosting Outdoor Recreation* L. Courcelle provided an update regarding Mendon on the Move Boosting Outdoor Recreation. The Committee is organizing a Mendon Peak trail clear day. The Committee has created a nonprofit organization Mendon Mountain Club Inc. They are a chartered a chapter with VMBA and is looking at creating a local trail with a private property owner in Mendon..

There being no further business, R. Wilcox moved to adjourn at 7:15 PM. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard approved the motion.

Date Approved \_\_\_\_\_

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Richard Wilcox

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Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

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Larry Courcelle

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Val Taylor

