

Wentworth Select Board

Meeting minutes

June 14, 2022

Those present: Arnold Scheller, Sonia Scheller, Richard Ducheneau, Chris Fournier, Pete Chierichetti, Chief Ames, Paul Manson and Linda Franz

Called to Order: Arnold Scheller called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

The following documents were signed: payroll and vendor checks; meeting minutes for May 17 and 31, 2022, abatement requests for Pike, Thibodeau, Mello, Trask and Gay, 2022 Investment Policy, OHRV grant application, raffle ticket permit for Iron Legacy MC, request for a withdraw from the bridge expendable trust for HEB Engineers invoices.

A.Scheller reported that the Conservation Commission met recently and chose a group to manage easements in town forests. If needed, they would like to hold a fund raiser to cover costs. If more funds are needed, a warrant article will be written in 2023.

S.Scheller reported that the Planning Board is about 2/3 through their review of the Master Plan. The American Community Survey group predicts that there will be 100+ children in town under the age of 5 in the next few years. There was an application for a minor subdivision on Frescoln Road.

R.Ducheneau reported that Consolidated Communications is monitoring and waiting for a ruling in Washington D.C. for the release of grant money for broadband infrastructure. They are now ~120 days out. New Hampshire Electric Co-op sent a letter to the town regarding the time-frame of their high-speed internet project. A copy of the letter is attached.

A.Scheller announced that the BRVSC will sponsor a BBQ and bonfire at the Wentworth Aerodrome on Saturday, June 18th from 12pm to 3pm.

S.Scheller announced that Carol and Clay Young will have their kids (baby goats) at the Town Common on Wednesday 6/15 at 6pm. There will be stories read and goat cheese snacks to sample.

P.Chierichetti read Chief Trott's report, and it is a part of these minutes.

Chief Ames reported that things were quieting down for the WVFD with only one call for service. The Wentworth Open Air Market inquired about vendors having propane and charcoal grills on certain scheduled dates this upcoming season. Chief Ames said that the vendors would be required to have a minimum 2 ½ lb. fire extinguisher at their locations. Linda Franz will create a permit form. If a wood fire is requested, the vendor would have to obtain a fire permit from the WVFD.

P.Manson reported that highway department is working on culverts and swales on Turner Road in preparation for paving. GMI Paving will be in the area for other projects, and Paul is hoping that he will have sufficient notice to get the prep work done.

Chris Fournier from HEB Engineers attended the meeting to give updates for ongoing projects. He and P.Manson received RFI's from FEMA for the Frescoln and Cross Road Bridges. A formal response is due by 6/24/22. C.Fournier will write the response letter. FEMA also acknowledged that the smaller bridge span designs would satisfy the requirements for the like-kind replacements of the two bridges. If the town decides to go with the larger bridges, a benefit cost analysis (BCA) will be needed. FEMA obligation is not likely before the end of the year. Cross Road bridge will need a ~\$150k temporary bridge that would be added to the FEMA claim.

The N.Dorchester bridge project for a laminated deck will cost in the vicinity of \$635k. This project needs to be done before the Frescoln and Cross Roads projects due to routing/detour issues. A warrant article for 2023 for a bond may be needed to fund this project. The NH Bridge Aid Program is on pause and no new applications are being accepted until the end of the year or next year. Funding could take up to ten years.

C.Fournier applied for state hazard mitigation grants with a 90/10 split cost for the Rowentown and East Side Road culvert repairs. The town had hydraulic studies prepared several years ago for Rowentown and N.Dorchester culverts. These are helpful in applying for grants. The Select Board recommends that the town not proceed with the East Side Road bridge at this time as there has not been any flooding in that area in recent years. C.Fournier will write a letter to the state with the intent to change the application after-the-fact from East Side Road to N.Dorchester Road. The extended deadline for these grant applications is July 15, 2022. HEB costs for grant applications and letter writing will be ~\$5k.

R.Ducheneau made a motion to use \$5,000 of the monies budgeted under subcontractors in the highway department budget to fund the costs of the hazard mitigation grant application. Seconded by S.Scheller. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

C.Fournier also reported that the Senate Bill 401 was sent to the Governor's desk for signature. The bill could perhaps double the highway block grant monies and provide surplus bridge money.

At 6:04 PM, A.Scheller made a motion to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c) *Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.* Seconded by R.Ducheneau. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. S.Scheller voted yes. R.Ducheneau voted yes. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

Re-entered public meeting at 6:18 PM.

A.Scheller made a motion to seal the minutes of the just concluded non-public session. Seconded by R.Ducheneau. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

At 6:19 PM, A.Scheller made a motion to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c) *Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.* Seconded by R.Ducheneau. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. S.Scheller voted yes. R.Ducheneau voted yes. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

Re-entered public meeting at 6:24 PM.

A.Scheller made a motion to seal the minutes of the just concluded non-public session. Seconded by R.Ducheneau. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

A.Scheller made a motion to implement the just discussed performance bonus salary increases for the highway department employees with an effective date of July 1, 2022. Seconded by S.Scheller. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.


At 6:26 PM, A.Scheller made a motion to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c) *Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.* Seconded by S.Scheller. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. S.Scheller voted yes. R.Ducheneau voted yes. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.


Re-entered public meeting at 6:40 PM.

A.Scheller made a motion to seal the minutes of the just concluded non-public session. Seconded by R.Ducheneau. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

A.Scheller made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by S.Scheller. All three voted in the affirmative. and the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Linda Franz, Administrative Assistant


Arnold Scheller, Chairman


Sonia Scheller


Richard Ducheneau

WPD Activity Report
Presented 06/14/2022

Please note that the following is a summary of notable activity conducted by the Wentworth Police Department, (WPD), but does not reflect “all” of WPD’s activity during this time frame.

The Wentworth Police Department has processed 2 resident pistol permits as well as 3 new 911 address requests and conducted 2 VIN verifications for Wentworth residents.

We have also assisted the Wentworth Warren Ambulance with two calls for service in Wentworth.

The Wentworth Police Department has received a filed an updated Restraining Order/Stalking Order that was originally a Temporary Order and now has been extended until March 2023.

The Wentworth Police Department and Wentworth Fire Department hosted the Bicycle Safety Rodeo at the Wentworth Elementary School which proved to be another huge success. We want to extend a special thank you to Chief Jeff Ames and Wentworth Firefighter Anthony Hatch for assisting us, as well as Wentworth resident Shawn Leone for taking care of bicycle repairs, inspections, and adjustments. We were able to give every student at WES a brand-new safety approved bicycle helmet which we were able to obtain at NO COST to the town of Wentworth. The helmets, led reflectors, and personal arm band reflectors were obtained through a grant that we had applied for and was awarded through the Brain Injury Association of America.

We have received our new cruiser and Chief Trott is in the process of having it decaled and outfitted with some new equipment as well as retrofitting existing equipment that is still in good working order. This is and has been a time-consuming process, but we hope to have it completed within the next few weeks if all goes well.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'WJ', enclosed in a circular scribble with a long tail extending to the right.

Please note that in following up with Grafton County Commissioner Omer Ahern we have found that Grafton County does NOT have an incinerator that we can utilize to destroy old files. Once again Chief Trott recommends highly that the town get some quotes from businesses to have the files shredded and destroyed.

Update on Racetrack activities. The first race of the season which was scheduled for 05/27/2022 was cancelled due to rain. The 2nd race which was scheduled for 06/03/2022 was nor cancelled, but was delayed to start due to rain, and then was cancelled due to rain after the second race. The 3rd race was schedule for June 10th 2022 and was completed with no delays and there were no notable incidents during either of the last races.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chief W. Trott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Respectfully Submitted
Chief Wallace Trott Wentworth Police Department

THE TOWN OF WENTWORTH
P.O. BOX 2, 7 ATWELL HILL ROAD
WENTWORTH, NH 03282
(603)764-9955 townofwentworth@wentworth-nh.org

PERMIT FOR USE OF CHARCOAL OR PROPANE GRILLS ON TOWN-OWNED PROPERTY

Applicant _____

Address _____

Contact _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Location _____

Date(s) _____

Conditions: The grills must be on ground solid enough to prevent tipping over. The grills must never remain unattended. A minimum 2 and ½ pound capacity fire extinguisher must be at the sight and easily accessible. Maintain a safe distance between the grill and any person, child or adult, who is not operating or serving from the grill. The Town of Wentworth is not liable for any property damage or personal injury caused the operator or the grill. Please note that this permit is for charcoal and propane grills only. If a wood fired grill is desired, a fire permit must be obtained at the Wentworth Fire Department.

On behalf of the applicant, I agree to the above conditions of this permit.

Signature

Printed Name

SELECTBOARD APPROVAL

Arnold Scheller, Chairman

Richard Ducheneau

Sonia Scheller

Date of Approval



June 9, 2022

Chairperson Arnold D. Scheller
Select Board
P.O. Box 2
7 Atwell Hill Road
Wentworth, NH 03282-0002

Dear Chair Scheller,

[New Hampshire Electric Cooperative](#) (NHEC) has great news for Wentworth: high-speed is coming to town!

We're pleased to [announce](#) that Wentworth is part of a major fiber-optic expansion project that will provide broadband internet capable of speeds in excess of 1 Gigabit per second to homes and businesses throughout town. Since NHEC provides electric service to all of Wentworth, our fiber-optic network will provide high-speed internet access throughout the entire community.

Through [NH Broadband](#), NHEC's internet subsidiary, the Co-op will be providing high-speed internet to nearly 16,000 homes and businesses in the following towns in Grafton County:

- Ashland
- Bath
- Benton
- Bridgewater
- Bristol
- Campton
- Canaan
- Dorchester
- Easton
- Ellsworth
- Grafton
- Groton
- Hanover
- Haverhill
- Hebron
- Holderness
- Landaff
- Lisbon
- Littleton
- Lyman
- Monroe
- Orange
- Orford
- Piermont
- Plymouth
- Rumney
- Sugar Hill
- Thornton
- Warren
- Wentworth
- Woodstock

NHEC is not asking municipalities to bond or provide town funds in support of this high-speed internet expansion project. We will be pursuing grant opportunities that the State of New Hampshire will make available in the near future from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. As the project progresses and grant opportunities become available, NHEC will be contacting you to ask for your support for this critical project, which will make great progress towards bridging the digital divide in New Hampshire.



Grafton County has some of the most unserved and underserved communities in New Hampshire, which was a significant factor in selecting it for NHEC's next fiber-optic expansion project. The new fiber-optic network will begin providing broadband service to NHEC members as sections are completed, with a goal of completing project construction in 18 months.

Preconstruction work has already begun on the Grafton County project. System design and engineering are underway, material procurement is underway and make-ready construction (the work to prepare utility poles to accept the new fiber-optic cable) is expected to begin in June.

We will be starting construction in Plymouth and moving out from there. The first Grafton County residents should receive service late this calendar year with the full build complete in 2023. We'll also be posting updates, pictures and other news on the NH Broadband website (www.NHBroadband.com) and Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/NHBroadband). In the meantime, please feel free to reach out with any questions to Michael Licata at licatam@nhec.com.

High-speed internet is an essential service, as necessary today as electricity was in the 1940's when NHEC first brought light and power to many of these same towns. Thank you for your support as we work to connect communities in Grafton County!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey W. Morrill
Jeffrey Morrill

Chair, NHEC Board of Directors

NH Broadband - Wentworth
POWERED BY NHEC
www.nhbroadband.com

