

A VIDEO RECORDING OF THE MEETING IN ITS ENTIRETY IS AVAILABLE THROUGH VERMONTCAM.ORG. THE WRITTEN MINUTES ARE A SYNOPSIS OF THE DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING. MOTIONS ARE AS STATED BY THE MOTION MAKER. MINUTES SUBJECT TO CORRECTION BY THE SHELBURNE SELECTBOARD. CHANGES, IF ANY, WILL BE RECORDED IN THE MINUTES OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD.

TOWN OF SHELBURNE

**SELECTBOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
January 9, 2024**

***Hybrid meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Ashooh (Chair); Cate Cross, Matt Wormser, Luce Hillman, Andrew Everett.

ADMINISTRATION: Matt Lawless, Town Manager; Peter Frankenburg, Finance Manager.

OTHERS PRESENT: Members of the public participating in the meeting included Shelburne Town Host, Gail Albert, Ken Albert, Eloisa Johnson, David Solomon, Jim White, Peggy Coutu, Susan McClellan, Dave Brunelle, Jane & Tom Zenatny, Don Rendall, Rowland Davis, Mike Schramm, Mark Pennington, Media Factory.

[Note: Minutes reflect the order of the published agenda.]

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Mike Ashooh, called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

2. APPROVE AGENDA

MOTION by Matt Wormser, SECOND by Cate Cross, to approve the agenda with the amendment to discuss Pond Road earlier on the agenda. VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Brunelle, 72 Hedgerow Drive, expressed concern about the road to the solar panel field to be built behind his house and the process for input from the town/residents. It was noted the application for the solar panels and infrastructure approval is through the Vermont Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Following discussion, the Selectboard will review the town ordinance relative to setbacks and gather more information on the solar panel project.

5. MINUTES

December 12, 2023 & December 19, 2023

MOTION by Matt Wormser, SECOND by Cate Cross, to approve the minutes of 12/12/23 and 12//19/23 as presented. VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

6. SELECTBOARD COMMENTS

- The public was urged to attend the upcoming neighborhood meetings on the bylaw rewrite being facilitated by the Planning Commission.

- Shelburne was accepted into a state cohort at Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) to work on diversity and equity issues. Cate Cross, Matt Lawless, Susan Elliot and Patricia Fontaine of the Equity & Diversity Committee will attend six months of training with VLCT.

7. TOWN MANAGER COMMENTS

- Shayne Gardner was hired and just began working as the new Stormwater Coordinator.
- Shelburne is well represented in the state legislative session which just started. Shelburne's state representatives are working with VLCT to lobby for the town.

8. CBC APPOINTMENTS

Natural Resources Charter Update

There was discussion of the charter for the Natural Resources & Conservation Commission and staggered terms of four years for the members.

MOTION by Matt Wormser, SECOND by Luce Hillman, to approve the 2023 charter update for Shelburne Natural Resources & Conservation Commission as amended. VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

Chittenden County Communications Union District (CCCUD)

David Solomon, Shelburne's CCCUD representative, gave a brief update on the progress to date in bringing broadband coverage to underserved areas of the community.

MOTION by Matt Wormser, SECOND by Luce Hillman, to reappoint David Solomon to the CCCUD for a term commencing January 10, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024. VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

Parks & Rec Committee – Student Representative

The Selectboard interviewed CVU sophomore, Eloisa Johnson, for a position on the Parks & Rec Committee. Eloisa Johnson explained her interest in and use of the town's parks and recreation areas. There was public comment in support of the appointment of Ms. Johnson.

MOTION by Matt Wormser, SECOND by Cate Cross, to appoint Eloisa Johnson to the Parks & Rec Committee for a term commencing January 10, 2024 and ending March 30, 2026. VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

9. PUBLIC HEARING: FY2025 General Fund Budget & Capital Improvement Plan

Staff reviewed the refinement of budget numbers to date.

MOTION by Matt Wormser, SECOND by Luce Hillman, to open the public hearing on Shelburne's General Fund Budget and Capital Improvement Plan for FY2025. VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

The public hearing was opened at 8:09 PM. There was discussion of the budget showing a 3.4% increase and the ballot item of \$173,000 for the Open Space Fund. There was agreement more education/discussion is needed on what open space is exactly.

COMMENTS

There were comments from the public on the following:

- Concern that the amount requested for the Open Space Fund may be too high and will not be supported by the voters.
- There is need for the town to have enough funding in order to act on a land opportunity before it is lost.
- The value of what is being purchased (land) will only appreciate over time.
- The town has been successful in partnering with VT Land Trust and/or The Nature Conservancy on land acquisitions and showing the town's commitment to preserve the land.
- Explanation is needed on what the money in the Open Space Fund will be used for; there are legal issues with using these funds for paths and parks.
- The timing of the request for this budget year may not be the best.
- A more significant number (dollar amount) is needed to support open space along with significant public education on open space.
- A variety of mechanisms for land conservation should be considered.

MOTION by Matt Wormser, SECOND by Cate Cross, to close the public hearing on Shelburne's General Fund Budget for FY2025. VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

MOTION by Matt Wormser, SECOND by Cate Cross, to close the public hearing on Shelburne's Capital Improvement Plan for FY2025. VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

The public hearing was closed at 8:58 PM.

MOTION by Andrew Everett, SECOND by Mike Ashooh, to accept the dollar amount (\$173,000) recommended by Shelburne Natural Resources & Conservation Commission for the Open Space Fund ballot item. VOTING: 2 ayes, 3 nays (Matt Wormser, Luce Hillman, Cate Cross); motion did not carry.

MOTION by Matt Wormser, SECOND by Luce Hillman, to set aside \$100,000 from the general fund budget for the Open Space and Conservation Fund for FY2025. VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

10. STREETLIGHT POLICY and REQUESTS

MOTION by Matt Wormser, SECOND by Luce Hillman, to amend the agenda to move the Streetlight Policy and Requests to the next meeting. VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

11. LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

MOTION by Matt Wormser, SECOND by Cate Cross, to approve the revised 2023 Local Emergency Management Plan. VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

12. TAX PENALTY WAIVER REQUESTS

MOTION by Cate Cross, SECOND by Matt Wormser, to approve the waiver of tax penalties for certain petitioners as noted consistent with town policy:

- Denise Speer \$29.64
- Ted Grozier \$153.57
- Heather Preis \$361.22

VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

13. CCRPC UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM

Staff reported the town is eligible to include two projects in the CCRPC Unified Work Program and recommends including a study of options for Pond Road and the Webster-to-School Connection Study. There was discussion of and public comment in support of looking at priorities in town before committing money to a study of Pond Road and looking at other ways to make Pond Road more sustainable and safer.

MOTION by Cate Cross, SECOND by Matt Wormser, to recommend the Webster-to-School Connection Study be included in the CCRPC Unified Work Program noting that this project is the highest priority if the town asks for two studies.

VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

MOTION by Matt Wormser, SECOND by Andrew Everett, to recommend a Pond Road study be included in the CCRPC Unified Work Program as the second priority of two studies. VOTING: 3 ayes, 2 nays (Cate Cross, Luce Hillman); motion carried.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Matt Wormser, SECOND by Cate Cross, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 PM.

Scdy by tape: MERiordan

For the Selectboard

Date