

**TOWN OF SHELBURNE
SELECTBOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
January 30, 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; Susan Elliot, Assistant to Town Manager; Diana Vachon, Town Clerk.
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Members of the public participating in the meeting included Shelburne Town Host, Barb Johnson, Judy Raven, Joyce George, Tracey Beaudin, Alyssa and Dave Brunelle, Karen van Doren, Amy Demetrowitz for Champlain Housing Trust, Alex Bravakis for Novus Energy, Media Factory.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVE AGENDA

MOTION by Cate Cross, **SECOND** by Matt Wormser, to approve the agenda as presented. **VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.**

3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

4. MINUTES

January 9, 2024

MOTION by Cate Cross, **SECOND** by Matt Wormser, to approve the minutes of 1/9/24 as presented. **VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.**

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Barb Johnson, Falls Road, requested the town communicate with VTrans on the installation of the crosswalk beacon on Route 7 and the town keep the crosswalk connector clear in winter.

6. SELECTBOARD COMMENTS

- The public was urged to attend the Planning Commission neighborhood meetings on the bylaw rewrite.
- The public was urged to complete the VLCT survey on inclusion.
- Positive comment was made on the work being done by the Planning Commission and the work being done by the task forces from Shelburne Forward.

- Passenger rail service from Burlington to New York City was mentioned as an underutilized resource.

7. TOWN MANAGER COMMENTS

- Annual census (count) of the homeless was done recently. Results forthcoming.
- Falls Road bridge replacement pre-construction meeting was held.
- Water main break on Falls Road has been temporarily repaired and service restored. The break shows the town's water system aging infrastructure.

8. BAY RIDGE COMMUNITY SCALE SOLAR PROJECT

Representatives from Champlain Housing Trust, their consulting engineer, and the solar energy company explained the design of the solar array to be installed on property behind Harbor Place. The design was reviewed with neighbors to address concerns of runoff and screening. The installation conforms to the town's solar ordinance. The array avoids the wetlands and brush will be mowed a couple times a year. An 8' high fence and screening (deciduous and evergreen plantings) will be put in place for safety and to help screen the view of the panels. Cables will be underground.

Alyssa and Dana Brunelle are neighbors to the solar field and even with an 8' fence and trees being planted to screen the solar panels they are not happy. The solar installation conforms to Shelburne's ordinance and is the process of PUC approval.

Judy Raven, Shelburne Climate & Energy Committee, urged the Selectboard to send a letter of support for the project to the Vermont Public Utilities Commission.

MOTION by Luce Hillman, SECOND by Andrew Everett, to convey to the Vermont Public Utilities Commission endorsement concerning the Bay Ridge Community Scale Solar Project as presented on January 30, 2024. VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

9. STREETLIGHT POLICY and REQUESTS

Staff reviewed the requests received to date for streetlights mainly for safety purposes at high traffic intersections. Streetlights must be 'dark sky' compliant. There was discussion of understanding the impact of installing streetlights in areas where there are no lights presently and the cost of installing/maintaining the lights. There was mention of having the Planning Commission consider the matter of streetlights with zoning. Staff will contact residents regarding support for a streetlight in their area. The Selectboard agreed a streetlight should be installed on Shelburne Road per the request.

There was public comment in support of a streetlight on the northwest corner of the Route 7/Harbor Road intersection (by the Mobil gas station) for safety purposes and a streetlight in the Hedgerow neighborhood to help deter crime in the area.

MOTION by Cate Cross, SECOND by Andrew Everett, to approve the streetlight installation on a utility pole nearest 5288 Shelburne Rd. VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

10. PLANNING & ZONING FEE SCHEDULE UPDATE

There was discussion of the percent of increase in the fees, comparison to fees in surrounding towns, and having the fees reflect the types of development the town wants to promote.

MOTION by Matt Wormser, SECOND by Andrew Everett, to approve the Planning & Zoning fee schedule as presented and ask the Planning staff to assess additional changes based on the broader development situation as well as fees charged by other communities. VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

11. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Staff reviewed the capital projects in Year 2024-2025 of the five year Capital Improvement Program. There are no new projects added to the list and larger projects are scheduled in later years. It was stressed the capital plan/program is a tool to identify town projects that need to be done and to begin the planning process.

MOTION by Matt Wormser, SECOND by Mike Ashooh, to approve the Capital Improvement Program for 2025-2029 with the understanding this is a list of projects and not a hard & fast set of recommendations or commitments. VOTING: 4 ayes, one nay (Luce Hillman); motion carried.

12. GENERAL FUND BUDGET FY2024-2025

Following review of the budget presentation for town meeting, the Selectboard asked Diana Vachon, Town Clerk, to find out if explanatory information on the tax impact on property values of the budget and articles on the warning can be available at town meeting.

MOTION by Cate Cross, SECOND by Andrew Everett, to approve the General Fund Budget for FY2024-2025. VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

MOTION by Cate Cross, SECOND by Andrew Everett, to publish the town meeting warning with amendment of the start time to 7:30 PM. VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Matt Wormser, SECOND by Andrew Everett, to adjourn the meeting. VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 PM.

Scty by tape: MERiordan

For the Selectboard

Date