



TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, September 6, 2022, 6:00pm
Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street,
White River Junction, VT 05001

This meeting was conducted in person at Town Hall and Zoom

Present: Michael Hoyt, Chair; Kim Souza, Clerk; Lannie Collins, Member; Mary Erdei, Member; Rocket, Member; Ally Tufenkjian, Member; Tracy Yarlott-Davis, Town Manager; Lana Livingston, Administrative Assistant; Ben Sturtz; Beth Long; Heidi Duto; Dennis Brown

Zoom Participants: Dan Fraser, Vice-Chair

CATV LINK: <https://catv.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/30085?channel=1>

- I. Selectboard Mike Hoyt called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 6:00 PM**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by Lannie Collins**
- III. Local Liquor Control Board: None**
- IV. Order of There were no changes to the Order of Agenda.**
- V. Selectboard**

- 1. Public Comment**

Heidi Duto from WRJ spoke about public safety issues around town with the increase of RVs popping up around town. She is also concerned about the drug issues around town. She is asking that the laws and ordinances of the Town be enforced.

- 2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements**

Mary Erdei reminded everyone that there is a workshop on September 14th at 5pm regarding the Town Forest Management Plan.

Rocket sent a shout out to Public Works and their employee appreciation celebration. A welcome to the new Firefighters. As a member of the VLCT opioid settlement advisory committee there was an opioid awareness vigil at Lyman Point Park this past weekend. It was a very moving event and wants to thank the organizers of that event.

- 3. Appointments**

Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian made the motion to reappoint Dillon Bianchi to the Planning Commission for a three year term beginning September 6, 2022 and ending September 5, 2025.

Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. 6 were in favor and 1 (Collins) voted no. The motion passed.

- 4. Town Manager's Report**

Significant Activity Report:

<https://cms5.revize.com/revize/hartfordvt/September%206th%20Report%202022%20-%20complete.pdf>

Town Manager's Report:

<https://cms5.revize.com/revize/hartfordvt/TM%20Report%20090622.pdf>

5. Public Hearing opened by the Selectboard Chair, Mike Hoyt at 6:38 PM.

Application to the State of Vermont for a VCDP Implementation Grant 2022 under the Vermont Community Development Program for Riverwalk Housing Project. Grant Application: Presented by: Beth Long from Twin Pines Housing Trust. <https://cms5.revize.com/revize/hartfordvt/Riverwalk%20Multifamily%20Proposed%20Project%20VCDP%20App%20Public%20Hearing%209-6-2022.pdf>

Five members of the public were in attendance in person and on Zoom for this Agenda item.

Selectboard comments/questions focused on environmental review, energy efficiency, impact on tax revenue for the TIF District, number of unrelated people allowed in an apartment, potential impact on schools, and program areas in which VCDP funds can be used.

Public Comments: Heidi Duto spoke about previous informal discussions with the Planning Commission regarding the development project. Alex Belensz voiced his support for the project noting it makes sense given the housing need, and is in a good location with access to public transit and other amenities. He also requested the Town look into possible tenant concerns in another TPHT apartment building.

Selectboard Chair, Mike Hoyt closed the Public Hearing at 7:20 PM.

6. Board Reports & Motions

- a. Consider the submittal of VCDP Grant Application for Riverwalk Housing Project
Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei made the motion to Approve submittal of a VCDP grant application for the Riverwalk Multifamily Project and authorize the Town Manager to take all necessary actions to complete and submit the application and implement the grant.

And

Pass and sign the attached Resolution for VCDP Grant Application Authority. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Chair, Mike Hoyt read the Resolution:

RESOLUTION FOR VCDP GRANT APPLICATION AUTHORITY

Single Applicant

WHEREAS, the Town of Hartford (hereinafter "Applicant") is applying for a Grant under the Vermont Community Development Program for the Riverwalk Multifamily Project; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that an application be made and agreements be entered into with the State of Vermont.

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. that Applicant possesses the legal authority as defined in the State Act [10 VSA §683(8)] to apply for the grant and to administer the program; and
2. that Applicant apply for a grant under the terms and conditions of said program and agree hereby to enter into Certifications and Assurances thereof; and
3. the Applicant has a duly adopted and current Municipal Plan dated June 4, 2019, and that the project is consistent with said plan; and
4. the Applicant has received documentation from the Regional Planning Commission that the project is consistent with the "Regional Plan; and
5. that Lori Hirshfield is hereby authorized to be Contact Person and as such to provide, on behalf of Applicant, all documents and information necessary for the completion of said application and to provide such coordination as may be necessary for said application; and

6. that (Name) Tracy Yarlott-Davis Title Town Manager who is either the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), as defined by 10 VSA §683(8), or is the Town Manager, the City Manager, or the Town Administrator, or Michael Hoyt Title Selectboard Chair, who are hereby designated to serve as the Authorizing Official (AO) for the Grants Management On-line System, GEARS; and 7. that it is understood that, if the application is funded, the receipt of VCDP funds, as federal funds passed through the State of Vermont, may require that an audit of the Applicant be conducted under the provisions of the Single Audit Act, as amended, and that VCDP funds may be used to fund only a limited portion of the audit cost.

Passed this 6th day of September, 2022.

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to enter into Executive Session: premature general public knowledge or probable litigation to which the public body may be a party 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1). Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Please Note: Selectboard Member, Rocket recused himself from the Executive Session.

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to close the Executive Session at 8:00pm. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b. Banner & Town Hall Flagpole Policy

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion that the Selectboard approve the draft Town Hall Flagpole Policy as amended. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. 6 were in favor, 1 (Rocket) was not in favor. The motion passed.

c. Capital Improvement Plan Workshop Preview

The plan will be discussed on the Special Meeting date of September 13th.

d. Police COLA review

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion That the Selectboard directs the Town Manager to increase the COLA adjustment to a total of up to 3 percent for the Police. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. 6 voted yes, 1(Rocket) voted no. The motion passed.

Note: The reallocation of required funds will be discussed at the next regular meeting on September 20th.

VI. Commission Reports

Mary Erdei

Hartford Conservation Commission, August 29th, 2022

In person attendance: Tom Kahl, Matt Osborne, Ted Levin, Mary Erdei (Board liaison) Online attendance: Angie Emerson, Mary Hutchins, Lee Michaelides, Jon Bouton
Guests Ben Fletcher from the Salamander Team and Ryan Rebozo from VCE (Vermont Center for Ecostudies) discussed the highly successful and well-attended 5 events offered to the public on the last Sundays of the months since April past. The most recent one on insects demonstrated these events produce great grassroots community, and, while looking forward to future events, Ben asked the Commission about possible remuneration for the highly experienced facilitators going forward. Ted Levin recommended the Upper Valley Wellborn Fund to look at first for grant opportunities.

The Conservation Commission reiterated the public information and workshops starting on Sept 14th at 5 pm regarding the forest management plan on logging in the Hurricane Forest, while also establishing other goals of the Commission which include tree planting/forest cover, invasive plants and other "critters", as well as forest management.

The Commission agrees to look at organizing and combining Information/resources/committees town wide (tree board, energy, planning, zoning and conservation) to increase forest cover and fulfill townwide participation in the Climate Action Plan.

Ally Tufenkjian

Resilient Hartford:

- The August 19th work outing in the Food Forest was productive. The Abenaki Garden cover crop was tilled in to add organic matter to the soil, and oats and field peas were planted. The next work outing is scheduled for Friday, September 16th from 4-6 pm with a potluck following. Volunteers welcome!
- Because it has been a dry summer, more watering needs to be done at the Food Forest. The Committee submitted a revised rain gutter proposal, which was approved by the Parks and Recreation Department. The Committee may also be submitting a request for ARPA funds to be allocated for a gas-powered pump to help with a watering system.
- There is still an open spot on the Committee.

Rocket report from **Sister Cities**. They are excited for their trip to Cenon France in November. They are planning to come in to the Selectboard on the October 4th meeting to propose a revised Charter to expand their membership.

Lannie Collins reported from the **5th Charter Commission**. They have discussed rental housing; just cause eviction; local option tax for cannabis; reviewed procedure for 1st public hearing; reviewed petition language that prohibits selectboard from barring advisory petitions that reach the threshold.

VII. Consent Agenda: Selectboard Vice Chair, Dan Fraser made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Approve Payroll Ending: 9/3/2022

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 8/23/2022

Approve A/P Manifest of: 9/2/2022 & 9/6/2022

¾ Ton Pickup Truck Bid Award for the Fire Department

Approve Selectboard Meetings of: 10/4/2022; 10/11/2022; 10/18/2022 and 10/25/2022

Selectboard Meetings Already Approved: 9/13/2022 and 9/20/2022

VIII. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting

Selectboard Member, Lanie Collins made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 PM. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

9/6/2022



Kim Souza, Clerk