



## TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, September 3, 2024, 6:00pm Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street,  
White River Junction, VT 05001

This meeting was conducted in person

**Present:** Michael Hoyt, Chair; Kim Souza, Vice-Chair; Mary Erdei, Clerk; Lannie Collins, Member; Susan Buckholz, Member; Brandon Smith, Member; Ida Griesemer, Member; John Haverstock, Town Manager; Lori Hirshfield; Scott Hausler; Allen Hall; John Haffner; Kevin Geiger; Jackie Oktay.

**Present on Zoom:** Gail Ostrout; Bryan Gazda; Marie Alvin.

**JAM LINK:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUdqqZdHzAA>

- I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting by Chair, Mike Hoyt at 6:00PM.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by Ida Griesemer
- III. Local Liquor Control Board:
  - a. Consider NEW Liquor Permit for Cappadocia Café, LLC d/b/a Cappadocia Café, 5 South Main Street, White River Jct., VT 05001 (1<sup>st</sup> Class). **Selectboard Member, Brandon Smith made the motion to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Class Liquor permit application from Cappadocia Café. Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**
  - b. Consider RENEWAL of Vermont Distillery Co., 5573 Woodstock Road, Quechee, VT 05059 (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Class). **Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Liquor permit application from Vermont Spirits Distillery Co. Selectboard Member, Sue Buckholz seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**
- IV. Local Cannabis Control Board: None
- V. Order of Agenda: There were no changes to the order of agenda.
- VI. Selectboard
  1. Public Comment –
    - a. Joe Major noted the appearance of Hartford Heroes banners in White River Junction and congratulated all involved, also suggesting that a brief extension of the 60-day time limit be granted.
    - b. Marie Alvin commented on the homelessness and drug issues in Town and expressed dissatisfaction with the Community Safety Study results.
  2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements
    - a. Kim Souza reminded everyone about the upcoming Selectboard Listening Session at the Wilder Library on September 10 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm on the topic of Town communications.
    - b. Brandon Smith commended “Green Woodlands” in New Hampshire on an excellent mountain bike trail system and supports a banner extension for the Hometown Heroes Organization.
    - c. Ida Griesemer noted the upcoming Listening Session and offered to post a Selectboard invitation for social media platforms.
    - d. Lannie Collins also noted the presence of banners in White River Junction, specifically mentioning the Eddie Leavitt banner.
  3. Appointments: None.
  4. Town Manager’s Report  
Significant Activity Reports: <https://www.hartford-vt.org/Archive.aspx?ADID=487>

5. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances

- a. Housing & Homelessness Committee Update. Committee Chair John Haffner provided an update of the work of his Committee.
- b. Execute Modified Combined Sewer Overflow Loan Documents. **Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion to approve and sign the loan documents. Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**
- c. Remarks from Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission Regarding Grant Opportunity. Kevin Geiger explained that TRORC had secured a grant to assist several towns in the region with transportation, climate resilience and equity-related projects.
- d. Review Proposal to Replace Communications Tower at 1032 Bliss Road Planning & Development Director Lori Hirshfield explained that there has been an application filed regarding the potential replacement of a communications tower with a taller one at 1032 Bliss Road. **Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to have the Selectboard support upcoming comments from the Planning Commission, together with a comment that the alternative tower location site of 594 Bliss Road be considered. Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**
- e. Discuss Future of Wright's Dam and Reservoir Town Manager John Haverstock explained that he and Parks & Recreation Director Scott Hausler have been working with Town resident Allen Hall on investigating the feasibility of rehabilitating and re-filling Wright's Reservoir. However, Wright's Dam had seen its hazard rating worsened to HIGH and the Vermont League of Cities & Town will no longer insure it effective January 1, 2025. Therefore, the Town manager is now investigating potential breach and/or removal of the dam. Following extended discussion, no action was taken and the Town Manager will continue to research options.
- f. Discuss Selectboard FY2026 Budget Guidance. Selectboard Chair, Mike Hoyt, explained that the Selectboard will need to adopt FY 2026 Budget Guidance for Staff at its September 17 meeting.
- g. ARPA Funds Update  
Town Manager John Haverstock updated the Selectboard on staff efforts to obligate already-allocated ARPA funds by October 1, 2024 and on the several suggestions put forward by Town residents on how available ARPA funds could be used.

VII. Commission Reports:

- a. Mary Erdei reported on HCoreI, noting a vacancy and mentioning that work is being done on their Charge document and a gender inclusivity policy. The Hartford Conservation Commission has one vacancy, there will be a Selectboard walking tour of the Town Forest and the HCC is considering access to the Hurricane Forest.
- b. Ida Griesemer noted the upcoming Window Dresser event within the context of the Energy Commission's work.
- c. Lannie Collins reported on the Historic Preservation Commission, noting a vacancy and discussing the Victor Circle housing project, underground railroad tunnels, war memorial planning.

- VIII. Agenda: Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Approve Payroll Ending: 8/31/2024

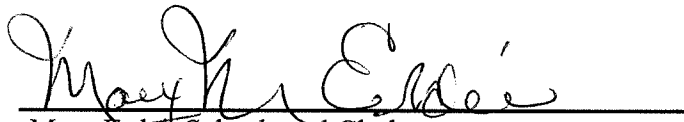
Approve A/P Manifest of: 8/30/2024 & 9/5/2024

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 8/20/2024

Note: Already Approved Selectboard Meetings: 9/10/2024 (Listening Session); 9/17/2024 and 9/22/2024 (Strategic Planning Session); 10/1/2024; 10/15/2024; 10/29/2024.

- IX. Executive Session: None

- X. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting: Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza made the motion to adjourn the Selectboard Meeting at 8:30 PM. Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Erdei", is written over a horizontal line.

Mary Erdei, Selectboard Clerk

September 3, 2024 Selectboard Meeting