



Town of Winchester
1 Richmond Road Winchester, NH 03470

**Minutes of the
Selectmen Meeting**
Wednesday, August 11, 2021

Board members present for the Work Session: Lindseigh Picard, James Rokes and Theresa Sepe. Also, Jennifer Rhodes and Cheryl Laraba.

Board members present for the meeting: Herbert Stephens, Lindseigh Picard, James Rokes and Theresa Sepe. Ben Kilanski was a few minutes late. Also, present were, Margaret Sharra & Richard Lapoint.

First order of business: Work Session

The Chairman opens the meeting at 5:30 pm for a 2nd Welfare work session with Jennifer Rhodes and Cheryl Laraba. Jennifer recapped some of the items that were discussed at the last meeting. Jennifer did reach out to NHMA for legal language. NHMA did say that inspecting apartments to make sure that they meet code and safety standards was permitted they would advise the town to ask the Town Attorney to draft the language. Market Basket does allow food vouchers and they will send the town a vendor number to use. Jennifer asked the board if internet should be an allowable expense. After discussion everyone agreed it should be. Selectman Picard made a motion to allow \$80.00 for internet an allowable expense. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. Motion carries 3-0. Jennifer asked the board about car payments. Selectman Rokes made a motion to allow up to \$150.00 for a car payment an allowable expense. Selectman Picard seconds the motion. Motion carries 3-0. Jennifer asked the board to move the office down the hall for more privacy and out of the public view. Selectman Sepe would like to wait for a full board and ask the other departments if they see any issues with the move.

The board recessed @6:23 until 6:30.

Second order of business: Minutes & New Business

The board reviews the minutes of 8/4/21 for approval. Selectman Picard makes a motion to approve the minutes. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. Motion carries 3-0-1.

Monadnock Speedway is requesting permission to host a light fest event produced by Viive Events on September 25 and possibly October 16. Both Chief Kellom and NH Fire Marshall have been notified. There are detailed plans on traffic and safety controls in place. Selectman Stephens makes a motion to approve pending Chief Kellom's approval. Selectman Picard seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Picard makes a motion to approve a fireworks permit for 140 Bolton Rd on 9/4 from 8-11pm. Selectman Sepe seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0.

Margaret updated the board on current and future grant opportunities. Both Karey & Margaret suggest a work session in September.

WEDC- Stone Mt Business Park Quarterly update.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve the water warrant in the amount of \$137,024.15 and the sewer warrant in the amount of \$97,505.91. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve the junkyard permit for Truesdell Garage @ 15 Hildreth St. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to deny the request of a tag sale on town property located on Keene Rd. Selectman Sepe seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Concern Citizen emailed the board, Nancy O'Connor, Old Hinsdale Rd.

"We were very upset to arrive at the hazardous waste facility in Keene only to find that Winchester (the only town in Cheshire County) is not on the list to dispose of waste. Why is Winchester encouraged to illegally dump pesticides etc! I am very disappointed and saddened in our town for not making this environmental service available. 95.00 is a steep expense for a few containers of hazardous waste." Selectman Kilanski stated that several years back the previous board did not renew the contract with Keene because of the cost and not many people were using the services. Selectman Picard asked if people were aware of the services. Selectman Kilanski stated that it was posted at the Transfer Station. Selectman Picard said that the board will be starting to budget for 2022-2023 this maybe a good time to send out a poll asking residents if they would use the hazardous waste facility in Keene.

Concern Citizen emailed the board, Jonathan Gallup, Michigan St.

"Dear selectboard, I have noticed that we are not getting the videos of the selectboard meetings posted to the town Facebook page. I think it is important that this gets fixed as the pages you are posting to are not accessible by all in the community due to certain individuals in charge of these pages. I also have noticed that we are talking about paying someone to do the videos monthly where this seems appealing it will involve more money in the future whereas if we buy the right equipment, it will be self-sufficient with some selectboard or town administration training on how to get it setup. I think this would help keep money from flowing from the town monthly which is what a lot of people in town are upset about is spending and taxes. Third the community declaration sounds good and seems great, but we already have statements out there about inclusion no racism. This is redundant and a waste of time. I hope it is voted down as it is all for show and the individuals proposing it / signing it are not as inclusive as they may seem. They are inclusive to their factions or peers but are not to their fellow neighbors for differing views this will not change due to a statement. Thank you for your time and efforts on the board. Don't forget the town is upset about spending some want to spend more some want to spend less let's be wise with the money and spend only what we need to we are not Keene we are not a big city we do not need to bring those ideas her if that is what people want, they shouldn't move to smaller towns in NH." Selectman Picard said she was going to address the livestreaming equipment.

Concern Citizen emailed the board, Kevin Bazan, Swan St.

It has come to my attention that the Winchester Selectboard is hesitant to sign a resolution that was presented to them that addressed human rights and inclusivity in town. I strongly encourage the select board to sign this resolution. Not long ago, a swastika was found on the covered bridge in Ashuelot. The symbol of nazism and antisemitism on our cherished covered bridge that invites thousands of people from outside our community each year! How has the select board responded to this atrocity? Signing the resolution is the proper way to respond and to let everyone know Winchester is a welcoming community that denounces hatred and barbarous acts. Please sign this resolution. Selectman Stephens asked how signing the declaration is going to stop people from putting swastikas on the bridge. Selectman Picard said that hate has been in the community for long before the declaration. Selectman Stephens asked how are you going to monitor this and stop it. Selectman Picard said it is less about stopping or monitoring and more about taking a stand as leaders and I don't accept it and we don't accept it as a group. This is how you teach other and as leader we have the opportunity to set an example. Selectman Kilanski said the board made a statement a year ago and he stands by the statement. Selectman Picard makes a motion to sign the resolution. No second

The board reviews and approves the following financial documents:

N/A

Third order of business Other:

Selectman Sepe stated that the ELMCC is hosting Teen Night on Friday, Aug 13th.

Selectman Picard said RED Committee wanted to thank all the Music in the Park sponsors this year. Music in the Park has 2 more weeks left of the music series. School Board meeting Aug 12th @ 6:30. Planning Board has a hearing on Monday, Aug 16th. Also the Planning Board will continue with their work sessions on the zoning ordinance. Selectman Picard has some information on options for livestreaming and asked the board to have a work session next week, Aug 18th at 6pm. The board agreed.

Fourth order of business public comment:

Natalie Quevedo stated that declaration was introduced after the swastikas were found on the bridge. The declaration includes every single person in this town. This brings everyone in town together. Natalie read a section of the declaration “ *enable people to meet their basic needs and enjoy basic civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights; enabling access to affordable housing, quality education opportunities, and health care, among other human rights, and the Town of Winchester, New Hampshire is committed to protecting the rights of all people, and embraces and works toward providing equitable access to opportunities for people of all ages, sexes, races, ethnicities, religious beliefs or memberships, citizenship status, abilities, gender identities, and sexual orientations. We welcome all people of different faith, disabilities, ethnicities, nationalities* ” Natalie said it is about everybody and this town is welcoming. Selectman Stephens that the town welcomes everyone. Natalie said if you put in on paper it is a good statement for the town.

Sheena Bushee stated she was here last year when the statement was read and there was no conversation. Sheena said that Selectman Kilanski was speaking for the board, but the community doesn’t see that. There is no reason not to sign the declaration. We are fighting about not signing something that includes everybody in the community. This sends mix signals. You are representing the town and you say racism doesn’t affect you but so many have been affected by it. What is so wrong with saying that it is wrong even if it hasn’t happened to you. As a citizen we are not sending good messages to our youth, and it allows more things to fester. The board is sending mixed signals and not supporting the town.

Nonpublic under RSA 91-A:3II (c)

Selectman Sepe makes a motion to enter nonpublic session under “ b & c ”. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0. A roll call vote was taken, and members vote “yes” individually, and the board convenes in non-public at 7:49pm.

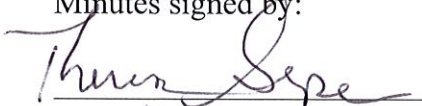
Adjournment:


The board reconvenes in public session at 7:49pm.

Selectman Picard makes a motion to seal the minutes under “b”-Personnel & “c”-Land Use. Selectman Kilanski seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Picard makes a motion to adjourn at 8:40pm. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted:
Karey Miner, Town Administrator
Minutes signed by:


Vice, Chairman
Theresa Sepe


Karey Miner