

**MINUTES REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2023
MEMORIAL BUILDING
20 CHURCH ST. 3RD FLOOR AND VIA ZOOM**

Select Board

Eric Remick, Chair, *Zoom*
Ceilidh Galloway-Kane
Elizabeth Dow
Shari Cornish
Danny Hale, *absent*

Others Present

David Upson, Town Manager
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator
Tonia Chase, Town Clerk, *Zoom*
Michael Henry, Police Chief
Tracy Martin, CDC- *Zoom*
Casey Rowell, Business Manager- *Zoom*

Others Present

Bill Chidsey
Mark Rowell- *Zoom*

Regular Meeting

6:00 P.M. – Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Select Board Vice- Chair, called the meeting to order.

6:00 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda – *None*

6:00 P.M. – Communication from the audience - *None*

6:00 P.M. – Select Board to approve the minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting of January 19, 2023, the minutes of the Public Hearing of January 19, 2023, and the minutes of the Special Select Board meeting of January 24, 2023.

Upon motion by Eric Remick, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting of January 19, 2023, the minutes of the Public Hearing meeting of January 19, 2023, and the minutes of the Special Select Board meeting of January 24, 2023, as written.

6:02 P.M. – 6:04 P.M. Town Manager’s Report – Given by David Upson

David updated us on the agreement between Hardwick & Woodbury regarding West Woodbury getting plowed. David mentioned that a joint meeting needs to occur soon between the Hardwick Select Board and the HED Commissioners. Amanda will set up a doodle poll for the Hardwick Select Board members. Next, he mentioned that the Town of Hardwick has \$3,000 allocated for the fireworks. With the price increasing drastically, he proposed that the Hardwick Select Board donate the \$3,000 to Kiwanis and have them take the lead. The Select Board generally agrees to transfer the funds over to Kiwanis. Finally, Tracy Martin, the Town’s Community Development Coordinator (CDC) submitted the Downtown Transportation Fund Grant for an additional \$200,000 for the Pedestrian Bridge project.

6:04 P.M. - 6:05 P.M. Road Foreman Report – Given by David Upson

David reported that the Highway crew has been pushing back banks this week. They’ve had some minor equipment failures, but they’ve all been replaced. Ceilidh commented on how good the roads were!

6:05 P.M. – 6:10 P.M. Hardwick Police Department Report - Given by Police Chief Mike Henry

Mike updated the Board about some equipment repairs. They are waiting to get them all fixed. He also mentioned

that both of the batteries in the hybrid needed to be replaced recently. Ceilidh asked if there was a warranty, and the warranty was expired.

The Police Station now has two snowmobiles; in which have been active on the VAST trails. The officers did about 50 inspections January 28 & 29. They will continue to monitor the trails.

Lastly, the Senior Citizen side of the Police Station has had a lot of use for that space. If you would like to schedule that space please contact the Police Department 802-472-5475.

6:10 P.M. – 6:12 P.M. Item #1 Select Board to consider appointing Emily Hershberger to the Hardwick Energy Committee

Ceilidh asked about terms. Amanda clarified that there wasn't terms for the Energy Committee. Bill Chidsey stated that making terms was on one of the future agendas. Terms would not apply to Emily tonight; not until the Energy Committee agreed to it.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Board appointed Emily Hershberger to the Hardwick Energy Committee.

6:12 P.M. – 6:20 P.M. Item #2 Select Board to approve the Energy Committee to work with the Window Dressers to better sustain the heating of the Town buildings.

Window Dressers is a company that works out of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont to custom build indoor insulating window inserts. These inserts have clear polyolefin film with pine frames, and a compressible foam gasket. Bill explained that Diane Peduzzi and Paul Fixx held a meeting that discussed the process. Bill would like the Energy Committee to take the lead on this project. He would like to have people trained on how to properly measure, how to install, and how to determine the billing for the homeowner. He asked about tracking the invoices and the revenue. The Select Board told him he had to talk with the Business Manager. Elizabeth asked if this was an educational program or product, and Bill said it would be both as the homeowners could get informed about the product and help build. See report for more information.

6:20 P.M. – 6:23 P.M. Item #3 Select Board to consider approval of a liquor license application

Eric asked Mark Rowell when he thinks he will open. Mark responded that he hopes to open by mid-May.

Tonia mentioned that first class is to sell beer, and wine, and third class was to sell spirits.

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Eric Remick, the Board approved of a first-class license for The Cork & Fork, and approved of a third-class license for The Cork & Fork.

6:23 P.M. – 6:24 P.M. Item #4 Select Board to consider approving the Better Connections grant resolution

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Board approved the Better Connections grant resolution.

6:25 P.M. – 6:31 P.M. Item #5 Business Manager to present FY23 second quarter budget update

The Business Manager provided an update on revenues and expenses for the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2023. The expectation is that we would be at 50% and we are remarkably close, so we are on track with the budget as

of this time. See attachments for the full report.

6:31 P.M. – 6:36P.M. Item #6 Select Board to consider approval of 1-year NEPBA contract for the Police Department bargaining unit.

David mentioned some of the changes from the current contract to the proposed contract. Those changes include; changing the term of the contract, revamping the pay scale to be more competitive with other agencies, providing fitness pay and special duty pay, added Juneteenth to be apart of the holiday schedule, and changed the changes in health insurance employee contribution.

Eric asked why it was only a one-year contract. David said that this would make it so the Town could stay competitive.

Upon motion by Eric Remick, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Board authorized the Town Manager to sign the 1-year NEPBA contract for the Police Department bargaining unit.

6:36 P.M Item #7 Select Board to consider approving a banner application for Hardwick Farmer’s Market to be hung on Wolcott Street May 12, 2023 through October 7, 2023

Upon motion by Eric Remick, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Board approved the banner application for the Hardwick’s Farmers Market to be hung on Wolcott Street from May 12, 2023 to October 6, 2023.

6:37 P.M. – 6:38P.M. Item #8 Select Board to consider a new road name for property off of Hopkins Hill

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the new road name “Sweetgrass Lane Pvt.”

Select Board Reports:

- Eric mentioned that a resident was concerned about the noise and smell from the snowmobiles going by their house at all hours of the day & night. Eric suggested that they reach out to VAST.
- Eric mentioned that the Yellow Barn is moving in the right direction.
- Shari mentioned that the Town House will open March 1.

New Business:

- Shari mentioned that the Preservation Trust is reinstating their Preservation Bus Tours. They will be on a tour of the NEK on February 15th. They will be stopping in Hardwick. Ben Doyle said the group was especially interested in an update on the pedestrian bridge project and what was happening with the old Gazette building along with the Granite Shed and the Yellow Barn projects. Shari will be meeting them in Downtown and is making packets that will include information about the historic buildings of interest and others in downtown. The Civic Standard will be open for them to visit and have refreshments available. Eric confirmed that he would be available to meet them at the Yellow Barn. Shari is working with the town office to make a plan for where they could best park the bus while in Town.

Old Business:

6:44 P.M. Ceilidh Galloway- Kane, Select Board Vice-Chair, adjourned the meeting.

Minutes taken by: _____
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator

Minutes approved by: _____
Eric Remick, Select Board Chair