

**MINUTES REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024
MEMORIAL BUILDING
20 CHURCH ST. 3RD FLOOR AND VIA ZOOM**

Select Board

Eric Remick, Chair
Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Vice Chair
Shari Cornish
Danny Hale
Tim Ricciardello

Others Present

David Upson, Town Manager
Casey Rowell, Business Manager
Alex Jump
Karen Whitcomb
Liz Baum

Others Present

Sarah Lammert

Regular Meeting

6:00 P.M. David Upson, Town Manager, called the meeting to order.

David wanted to take a quick minute to wish Hazen Lady Cats GOOD LUCK! They are playing in the semifinals at the Barre Auditorium tonight!

6:00 P.M. Reorganization of the Select Board. Town Manager to take nominations for Chair.

- a) Floor opens for Select Board Chair nominations
- b) Board votes to elect Chairperson - *Action needed*
- c) Chairperson assumes control of the rest of the meeting

Danny Hale nominated Eric Remick for Chairperson, seconded by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane. The Select Board voted unanimously for Eric to be the Chairperson.

Eric resumed control of the meeting.

6:01 P.M. Election of a Vice-Chair of the Select Board - *Action needed*

Danny Hale nominated Ceilidh Galloway-Kane for Vice-Chair, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted unanimously for Ceilidh to be the Vice-Chair.

Eric welcomed Tim Ricciardello to his first Select Board meeting. Tim replaced Elizabeth Dow, who did not run again.

6:02 P.M. Approval of Minutes of Regular Board meeting of February 15, 2024, and the Special Informational meeting of February 29, 2024 - *Action needed*

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of Regular Board meeting of February 15, 2024, and the Special Informational meeting of February 29, 2024, as written. Tim abstained.

6:03 P.M. Set/Adjust Agenda – Add an Item #8 Select Board to authorize the Town Manager to sign the agreement for the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District’s (CVSWMD) Household and Hazardous Waste event to be held on July 27 in Hardwick.

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve the adjusted agenda, as stated.

6:12 P.M. Communication from the Audience - none

6:04 P.M. – 6:25 P.M. Item # 1 Town Appointments - *Action needed*

- David Upson, Jr., Civil Defense/Emergency Management Coordinator
- Bill Chidsey, Town Energy Coordinator
- Shari Cornish, CVSWMD Representative
- Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, as CVSWMD Alternate Representative
- Lawrence Hamel, Town Service Officer
- Danny Hale, as Agent to Convey Real Estate
- Shari Cornish, as Board Representative to Sign Warrants
- Shari Cornish as, NEKarts Board Representative
- Paul Fixx as NEK Communication Union District Representative
- Eric Remick, as Hardwick Trails Committee Rep.
- Eric Remick, Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Committee Rep.
- David Upson, as Town Safety Officer
- Maya McCoy, Town Website Coordinator
- Shari Cornish, Town Representative for NVDA
- Danny Hale, Hardwick/Woodbury Rail Trail
- Eric Remick, Town Health Officer
- David Upson, Jr., Deputy Health Officer

Note: The appointment of the Health Officer is through the Vermont Department of Health. Eric Remick is the Health Officer by default as the Select Board Chair and David Upson, Jr. is the Deputy Health Officer.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Board voted unanimously to approve the slate of appointments as presented including the blanks that were filled in from the agenda.

6:09 P.M. Item # 2 Establish Select Board Calendar - *Action needed*

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Danny Hale, the Select Board voted to approve a calendar of meetings for the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, except July 4, at 6:00 p.m.

6:11 P.M. Item # 3 Select Board to consider cannabis license renewal for The Clean Cannabis Company – *Action needed*

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to approve the cannabis license renewal for The Clean Cannabis Company.

6:13 P.M. Item # 4 Select Board to approve and sign the annual Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge standards (required for highway aid) – *Action needed*

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Danny Hale, the Select Board voted to approve and sign the annual Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge standards and Network Inventory.

6:15 P.M. Item # 5 Select Board to consider a request from Greensboro Nursing Home to have a coin drop in October 2024 (currently available) – *Action needed*

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, the Select Board voted to approve the request from Greensboro Nursing Home to have a coin drop in October 2024.

6:16 P.M. Item # 6 Select Board to consider a request to change Graham Drive to Blackberry Ln – *Action needed*

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, the Select Board voted to approve the request to change Graham Drive to Blackberry Ln.

6:17 P.M. Item #8 Select Board to authorize the Town Manager to sign the agreement for the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District's (CVSWMD) Household and Hazardous Waste event to be held on July 27 in Hardwick.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, the Select Board voted to authorize the Town Manager to sign the agreement with CVSWMD for the Household and Hazardous Waste Collection event on July 27.

Select Board Reports: Shari reported that the Town House is open for the season. The first event is March 15 with Rebecca Ann Locicero, a psychic medium. Details can be found at www.hardwicktownhouse.org

Eric provided an update on the Yellow Barn. It is moving along nicely. Several new windows went into the barn and the porch at the back of the barn is almost complete, which looks really good. The windows for the accelerator building will not go in for a couple of months. Danny asked about the contaminated soil and when the rest is going to be moved. Eric said that trucking it to Coventry will start again soon weather permitting.

New Business: Ceilidh said we should talk about construction in Hardwick during the summer and how we are going to navigate that with signs, etc. Construction of the pedestrian bridge is likely to begin in July. We need to talk about this at the next meeting.

Danny brought up a crosswalk on S. Main Street. He said that the crosswalks on S. Main Street are something that will need to be addressed in the future and there are definitely repairs/redesigns that are needed.

Old Business: none

6:30 P.M. Sarah Lammert and Liz Baum from Greensboro Nursing Home (GNH) joined the meeting in regard to their coin drop request. We were running ahead of schedule when Item #5 came up. The Board did vote to allow them to have October for a coin drop. Liz and Sarah thanked the Board for granting their request. They shared that over the last 10 years, fifty-five residents of Hardwick have resided at GNH. Danny encouraged them to send someone to Town Meeting next year because they have an appropriation request annually.

6:33 P.M. Item # 7 Select Board to consider an economic development loan request from Vittles Kaef LLC (Karen Whitcomb)– *Action needed*

We skipped over this and came back after Item #8, the Select Board reports, and old/new business because Karen was not present yet. Karen gave some background about her request for a loan. She is planning to work in collaboration with Carol and Steve Parks at Connie’s Kitchen. They will share the space. Connie’s will continue with wholesale bakery items in the back of the space and Karen will have a café at the front end of the space. She needs a loan for some new equipment and start-up costs. Karen wants to provide timely meals including fresh sandwiches, as well as grab n’ go items and crock pot meals. The Board will discuss personal financial information in an executive session.

6:40 P.M. *Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to enter executive session per 1 V.S.A. § 313 for loan contract discussion to include Town Manager, Business Manager, and Karen Whitcomb.*

7:00 P.M. Karen Whitcomb left the meeting.

7:15 P.M. Exited Executive Session. *No action taken.* The Town Manager’s office will follow up with some additional questions for Karen. They are not ready to decide on the loan request this evening. They need more information. The Board wants to amend our current Economic Development loan policy to change the interest rate structure for loans. The Business Manager will work on the policy amendment for the next meeting.

7:16 P.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, adjourned the meeting.

Minutes taken by: _____
Casey Rowell, Business Manager

Minutes approved by: _____
Eric Remick, Select Board Chair