

MINUTES REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, August 15, 2024
MEMORIAL BUILDING
20 CHURCH ST. 3RD FLOOR AND VIA ZOOM

Select Board

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

Others Present

David Upson Jr., Town Manager
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator
Mike Henry, Police Chief
Kristen Leahy, Zoning Administrator
Tonia Chase, Town Clerk

Others Present

George McWilliam
Sharon McWilliam
Zach Hoppe
Gillian D’Acierno
Gail O’Brien

Regular Meeting

6:00 P.M. – Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, called the meeting to order.

6:01 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda – Add approval of a class 2 liquor license for Agri Mark Inc. (Cabot Creamery) and place this as item #2, and push everything else down. There won’t be a Hardwick Electric Report, or a Road Foreman report tonight.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve the adjusted agenda as stated.

6:02 P.M. Communication from the audience- None

6:02 P.M. – Select Board to approve the minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting of August 1, 2024

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting of August 1, as written.

6:02 P.M. – 6:18 P.M. Town Manager Report – Given by David Upson

David reported Winterset will start mobilizing Riverside Farm bridge Friday, August 16, and will start actual work on Monday, August 19. David found out that there might be additional cost for bank armoring in this project.

There will be work done at the Town’s Gravel pit starting on Monday, August 19. The Town has hired a contractor to help with the logistics for drilling and ledging. Crushing of the gravel will happen the last week of August.

With the last Water & Sewer bill that the Town sent out, there was information about the Lead Service Inventory and asked that people respond. There have been very few responses. Please respond as soon as possible. In September, A&E will start going door to door if needed to get the responses. The Lead Service Inventory project is mandatory.

With the two floods that have occurred recently, it has compromised the Main Street wall in the Downtown area. David has been working with FEMA to try and get this issue looked at and repaired as soon as possible. This project will be classified under the permanent work, but the Town can't get funding at the moment due to funding issues in Washington. Therefore, the Town may need to borrow money to get this repaired sooner than later. David asked the Select Board for guidance before moving forward. Danny suggested that this be discussed more in depth at the next Select Board meeting. David said that by October there might be more funding options, but that no one can get into the water after October. With the wall being as compromised as it is, the Pedestrian Bridge must be postponed; however, David wants to take the bridge down.

Lastly, David said that there needs to be conversation on the Jackson Dam to see how it's affecting the flooding in Hardwick. He has talked to Scott Johnston, current HED Manager, to see if the Town could move forward with getting information about both Jackson Dam and the Hardwick Lake. Both Scott and the Select Board gave David the go ahead to get the assessment.

Eric asked about Fisher Folly bridge and Hardwick Farm Road. David said that the temporary bridge on Fisher Folly is completed, and that Hardwick Farm Road is back open.

Shari asked why there wasn't a road sign up on the Hardwick Health Center side of Creamery Road. David will follow up on this.

6:18 P.M. – 6:22 P.M. Hardwick Police Department (HPD) Report – Given by Mike Henry

Mike reported that there has been a shift in how restraining orders are maintained. Before there was a specific point of contact within the county. Now all restraining orders are maintained with the local and state police departments, meaning Hardwick Police Department will have to maintain all of the documentation for restraining orders within the area.

Mike also reported that there is currently an officer in the full-time academy, and the plan is to send another officer to the part-time academy in September.

6:22 P.M. – 6:23 P.M. Item #1 Select Board to approve of mailing a local ballot for Justice of the Peace to all active voters accompanied by the general election ballot being mailed by the State - Action needed

Tonia explained that the Justice of the Peace information could normally be placed on the back of the ballots; however, the election ballots are being mailed by the State; therefore, the State needs permission from the Select Board to include the Justice of Peace information.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve including the Justice of the Peace to the ballots.

6:23 P.M. – 6:24 P.M. Item #2 Select Board to consider approving a liquor licenses – *Action needed.*

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve the following liquor licenses:

Second Class Licenses for:

Agri-Mark Inc. (Cabot Creamery) – Yellow Barn

6:24 P.M. – 6:24 P.M. Item #3 Select Board to consider allowing Hardwick Downtown Partnership to do a coin drop in August 2025 (month is still available) – Action needed

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to approve Hardwick Downtown Partnership to do a coin drop in August 2025.

6:24 P.M. – 6:25 P.M. Item #4 Select Board to consider appointing Gillian D'Acierno as an alternate on the Hardwick Planning Commission for the remainder of a 3-yr term expiring 06/30/2026 - Action needed

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to approve Gillian D' Acierno as an alternate on the Hardwick Planning Commission for the remainder of a 3-year term.

6:25 P.M. – 6:29 P.M. Item #5 Select Board to consider a cannabis license renewal for Root to Vitality Cannabis LLC – Action needed

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to approve the cannabis license renewal for Root to Vitality Cannabis LLC.

6:29 P.M. – 6:33 P.M. Item #6 Select Board to consider accepting one of the two proposals received for the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) project and authorize the Town Manager to sign a contract – Action needed

David explained that this project is in the Village of East Hardwick, and this would fix the riverbank below the River House, which was damaged caused by the flooding. There were concerns that one proposal would make it so the landowners would have to cover some costs, which the Town is trying to avoid. Danny asked about reimbursement aspect, and David did not know how much the Town is having to pay.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to approve New England Consulting Engineers for a total of \$26,800.

6:34 P.M. – 6:42 P.M. Item #7 Select Board to consider spending the real estate proceeds of the sale of Carey Rd (when it happens) on the blasting and operation of the Town gravel pit– Action needed

Eric wants to know roughly what the Town wants to spend, and for what. David stated that blasting is \$5.95 per cubic foot, and the Town needs to blast between 5,000 and 6,000 cubic feet. There will also be preparation costs from a consultant. The total estimated cost will be between \$40,000 and \$50,000. David stated that he wants to use as much material as possible from the Town's pit so that FEMA can reimburse it. Danny also stated that using the pit would save time and additional costs as the Town is currently going to Danville for material.

Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Danny Hale, the Select Board voted to approve spending the real estate proceeds of the sale of Carey Road on blasting and operation of the Town gravel pit.

6:42 P.M. – 6:49 P.M. Item #8 Select Board to set a date for a public hearing about a VCDP grant that Heartbeet Lifesharing is applying for– Action needed

Heartbeet Lifesharing would like to apply for a VCDP grant through the Town in order to support their additional staffing and buildings. The Town of Hardwick would be the applicant & fiscal agent; however, Heartbeet would be the ones doing all of the reporting and would be the ones that would get reimbursed. The amount that they are wanting to apply for is \$112,102.

The Select Board decided to hold a public hearing on September 5, 2024, at 5:45 PM. The public timeline will need to be 15 days.

Select Board Reports:

Shari reported that the Chamber players had their last concert at the Hardwick Town House tonight. Shari also reported that the construction crew for the Town House will be there next week. Eric mentioned that the LVRT is open again from Hardwick to Swanton.

New Business:

Amanda mentioned that the Town needs to discuss Water & Sewer Rates, and the Business Manager would like 1 to 2 Select Board members to be a part of the discussion. Tim and Eric volunteered.

Old Business:

At the last meeting there was discussion about there being a painted walking lane along South Main Street. Shari wanted to see the status on this project. David mentioned that he will follow up with this next week, and that he would like to see it completed before school starts.

David mentioned that at the last meeting there was a discussion about hiring more staff. David mentioned that he would like to hire an Administrative Assistant in order to help him with projects, and day to day tasks. The Select Board asked to start designing a job description for this position.

Eric mentioned that Cabot Creamery is hiring.

7:10 P.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, adjourned the meeting.

Minutes taken by: _____
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator

Minutes approved by: _____
Eric Remick, Select Board Chair