

# Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Tuesday August 20, 2024

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** John Snowdon, Bill McGahie and Mark Terry

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by John Snowdon.
2. Approval of Minutes: August 8, 2024. Motion was made by Mark Terry, seconded by Bill McGahie to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
3. Guests:
  - A. Ben Hoy & Recycling Committee - Recycling Center Study (Study available at Selectmen's Office)
    - Going green can simultaneously, if done correctly save money. Walpole takes in about \$85,000 in recycles and \$100,000 in bag sales. Much larger operation and has been evolving for over 10 years. The facility runs with 3 full time employees and 1 part time with additional volunteers. Serves about 6500 people. Much larger operation than what we would be looking at in the near future.
    - Westmoreland currently pays Casella to take recycles and they make the money. If the town purchases a baler can make the money from recycling and reduce trucking cost since won't be trucking loose loads/air. Used baler approx. \$13,000. Used balers can be reliable and last a long time if maintained. Can also rent a baler. Recycling correctly is more labor intensive and we would need either volunteers or additional part time help
    - Dave Wirth pointed out that we would also need a forklift/skid steer in addition to a baler. Hoy said can either rent or borrow one a couple of times a month to stack and straighten until able to get one.
    - Hoy did a study with Harrisville and they are just starting their recycling program no longer commingling. They have 2 employees that work 23 hours a week each. They are open 10-5 and use 2 hours after open to bail and organize. Harrisville is comparable to Westmoreland in size. We currently have 2 part time employees that work 27 hours a week combined.
    - Changing our trucking company from Casella to Ruggiero can save money while using a local company. Ruggiero would provide the same setup.
    - Selling bags helps reduce cost and more people think about recycling. There would be an initial cost to purchase bags.
    - Terry - Would need to find a way to market and get people on board.
    - Snowdon - The burden of this lies on the recycling committee as far as deciding where to start, marketing and getting the process off the ground. The study Ben Hoy did was an incredible asset.
    - There are grants to help with equipment and structural needs to update a recycling center.
    - Committee to schedule a visit with Harrisville to see how they began and what the facility is like.
  - B. Dave Wirth - Solar for Fire Station
    - Proposal for \$20,000 10kw system for Fire Station. Would receive just \$1968 state rebate and \$5609 federal tax credit. Net system \$13087.

- Need to find out what has to be done with rebate. If it can go into the general fund or have to be used toward the fire station build, since the system will be paid for using bond money.
- 10kw will not entirely power fire station, but can add to system as have money
- If we do solar may not qualify for future grants on fire station solar, but would for Town Hall.

C. Laurie Burt - Zoning Administrator

- Residents of 3 South Village have advertised an apartment for rent that they are completing. No permits were obtained and do not have a special exception per Town Ordinance Section 407.2. Snowdon - Letter needs to be sent per policy to inform owners of violation and what they need to do to be in compliance.
- Informed that there has been someone living in a camper on site at 95 Thompson Road for over a year. There is a vacate order for 95 Thompson due to septic issues.
- Laurie has been asked by the mortgage company of Riverview Storage on Route 12 to answer a lengthy list of research questions. Will not be doing this and will suggest they hire someone to do this. Looking at the file for this however have found that several things that were required to be done by the Planning Board were not done. Plat has not been signed and needs to be followed up on.
- Owner of 102 Hurricane looking to potentially subdivide. Sent to the Planning Board for information about what is involved.
- 2 properties on Route 63 had septic systems put in that are too close to the road or to the neighbors boundary. Septics according to state statutes are to be 50' from boundaries and frontage. State approved both systems. Terry - Designer is responsible for the plan and installer should be doing per that plan. Talbot - Health Officer should be receiving septic plans, but he has not been.

4. Old Business

- A. Thompson Road - Emergency order evacuation due to septic will need to go to court. Town attorney to pursue. Met with Road Agent, Dave Poklemba, to see the possibility of plugging culvert to offer a temporary solution to benefit 92 Thompson. Determined after looking at the area that as the road is now plugging the culvert would cause the road to wash out and potential property damage. Project would require major road work and would not be cost prohibitive. Resident of 92 Thompson to have well water tested for contaminants. When the owner paid taxes there was discussion of potential subdivision of property. This should not happen until the septic issue is resolved. The Health Officer requested to be notified.
- B. Radio Tower - Delay in some of the parts may put grant money at risk. Project to be completed by August 31st to qualify and now will be pushed out to mid September. Talbot has reached out to the grant representative for direction.
- C. NHDOT - River Road Bridge - Red listed bridge put on 10 year plan for work 2032. The grant is an 80/20 however the town would have to put all money up front and may have to wait 2 years for reimbursement. Towns can apply for federal funds to help with matches, but could max out with federal money since state funds also may come from federal grants. If the Town can secure federal grant funds a conversation with NHDOT would need to happen so they can use non federal money to avoid maxing out allowed federal funds on a project. Applications for the NBRC fall funding round are due

September 6th so we will wait until the spring round to apply. Snowdon would like to schedule a time when Chris Coates can come to a selectmen's meeting to discuss how the County can work with the Town.

5. Accounts Payable: Motion was made by John Snowdon, seconded by Mark Terry to approve Manifests for: General Fund \$189,837.68 Motion passed 3-0.

6. New Business

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Payroll 8/20/2024	Eversource \$442.36	General Journal Entries
Payroll Taxes 8/20/2024	NH Fish & Game \$49.00	868 - Restitution
Walmart \$100.44	Amazon \$60.90	869 - Adjusting Entry

- A. Conservation - \$5000 to Monadnock Conservancy. John Snowdon called NHMA and Monadnock Conservancy. Based on RSA 36A:4-a, since the Conservation Commission has already been granted town approval to donate funds to valid organizations, i.e. Monadnock Conservancy, selectmen do not have to vote on it. The Conservation Commission can donate the \$5k themselves now that they have had a public meeting. Selectmen all support money being used to help put land on Goodrums into conservation.
- B. CCEMS will offer a CPR & AED ½ day training and a ½ day Stop Bleed & First Aid Training. Graham Gitchell will help. Need to set a date and advertise to community
- C. Fine for building without permits - Due to the perpetual problem of residents building without permits, Snowdon proposed the town implement a fine similar to Walpole of up to \$500 for beginning construction prior to obtaining permit. McGahie requested further discussion and next meeting when Zoning and Planning could be invited to participate. Further research on other surrounding towns policies would be beneficial to discussion.
- D. Converting Town Roads - Terry - several roads in town are actually driveways. Some of these are difficult to maintain and plow. Would like to have the road agent provide a list of these roads and look at each and what it would mean to the property if they were discontinued by the Town. If there are some that should be discontinued then we need to research the current procedure to do so.
- E. Certificate of appreciation - Terry would like to initiate a certificate of appreciation with a nomination process for residents who go above and beyond to do good things for the Town. Residents then would be recognized at Town Meeting. Selectmen agree this would be a good idea to proceed with.

7. Correspondence: Primex Training September 25th  
NHDOT Culvert work

8. 9:24pm Motion by Bill McGahie, seconded by John Snowdon to adjourn meeting. Motion Passed 3-0. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jodi Scanlan  
Town Administrator

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 3, 2024 1:00PM  
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED  
SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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John Snowdon, Chairman

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William McGahie

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Mark Terry