

Town of Winchester

Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Monday, August 7, 2023

Item 1 **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Mayor Todd Arcelaschi at 7:03pm

Attending Members	Todd Arcelaschi (Mayor)	Jonathan Morhardt (Selectman)
	Candy Perez (Selectwoman)	Linda Groppo (Selectwoman)
	Candace Bouchard (Selectwoman)	Jack Bourque (Selectman)
Absent Excused	Steve Sedlack (Selectman)	
Staff Members	Josh Kelly (Town Manager)	
	Glenn Albanesius (Town Clerk)	

Item 2 **Pledge of Allegiance** The Pledge was recited by all

Item 3 **Agenda Review** - The following additions were requested

* Motion Statement - Add Discussion of Fluoride Survey as Item B under New Business

Motion - Sel. Bourque / Second - Sel. Groppo

Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)

* Motion Statement - Add Discussion / Possible Action regarding Driveway Ordinance at 543

Wakefield Blvd. as Item C under Unfinished Business

Motion - Mayor Arcelaschi / Second - Sel. Morhardt

Vote to approve - Unanimous (5 - 0 - 1) Sel. Perez Abstained

Item 4 **Approval of Minutes**

* Minutes of Regular Meeting on July 17, 2023

Motion - Sel. Morhardt / Second - Sel. Bouchard

Discussion regarding the recap of Item 13 (A) resulted in TABLEING of approval.

The following is a revised summary subject to Board approval.

"At the request of the Board of Selectmen, Lance Hanson Town Planner and Ted Shafer Economic Development Director had a discussion with the Board of Selectmen about how they would move forward and identify development opportunities along the entire Rte. 800 corridor recognizing that would be important for the Grand List growth for the Town. Members of the EDC offered additional input and explanations of their mission and discussed two properties on the corridor. They were asked questions by the Board and requested to come back to the Board and report on their progress."

- Item 5 **Citizens Comments** The following residents addressed the board.
- * Stephen Kosinski
 - * David LaPointe
 - * Deb Kessler
- Item 6 **New Employee Introduction**
- A) Jamie Duffy
- * Was unable to attend tonight's meeting - will be rescheduled for a future date
- Item 7 **Town Manager's Report** - Josh Kelly reported to the Board on the following topics. . .
- * An effort is underway to have portions of downtown Winsted designated as a "Cultural District". If this initiative is successful it will increase the Town's access to State resources.
 - * Two new businesses have opened on Main Street. The Curious Cat bookstore and Home & Cake now call downtown Winsted as home. An announcement will be forthcoming regarding a new lease occupant in the old Wendy's location.
 - * STEAP and Brownfield grant applications are being finalized.
 - * Grant funding is being sought to help cover costs to establish a new Historic District. Such a district could make tax credits available and further incentivize development.
 - * Don Murelli has been hired to be the Town's new Purchasing Agent. Alexa Hinton has onboarded as our new Communications and Technology Coordinator.
 - * A Fall Job Fair is in the planning stages and expected to be held in October.
 - * A second RFP seeking development proposals for Mountainside Drive has been issued. Responses are due by 9am on September 22, 2023.
 - * Recent meetings with Chief Ciuci have yielded some definitive suggestions to address Main Street parking concerns.
 - * Town Hall staff will be part of a formal Training Exercise on Friday August 11th. Most offices will be closed with the exception of Public Works, Police and the Senior Center.
 - * Negotiations with the Police Union are ongoing.
- Item 8 **Correspondence** - None
- Item 9 **Boards and Commissions** - Sel. Groppo introduced the following actions.
- 1) John Noone (U) is submitted for Consideration as a Member of the Soldiers Monument Commission with a term to expire in 6/2027
 - 2) Esther Dew (R) is submitted for Nomination as a Member of the Soldiers Monument Commission with a term to expire in 6/2027
- * The following groups have position openings. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply!
 - Board of Assessment Appeals - 1 Alternate Seat
 - Arch. Review Committee - 1 Permanent Seats and 2 Alternate Seats
 - Conservation Commission - 1 Permanent Seat
 - Economic Development Commission - 3 Alternate Seats
 - Laurel City Commission - 4 Permanent Seats
 - Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission - 2 Permanent Seats
 - Recreation Board - 1 Permanent Seats
 - Zoning Board of Appeals - 2 Alternate Seats

Item 10

Unfinished Business

A) 23-53b Consider and Possibly Act on removal of Chapter 12 (Civil Service Board) from the Code of Ordinances

* Josh Kelly read a letter addressed to the Town Manager from the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission

* A recap of the proposed elimination of Chapter 12 from the Code of Ordinances was discussed by Board. Town Manager Kelly stood by his recommendation that the Board choose a more nimble and efficient process for hiring new Town employees.

Motion Statement - "I'll move that the Board of Selectmen remove Chapter 12 of the Town Ordinance from the Code of Ordinances as recommended and presented by the Town Manager."

Motion - Sel. Bourque / Second - Sel. Perez

Vote to approve - Yes (5) - No (1) Sel. Morhardt

Motion Statement - "I make a motion to approve the hiring and appointment policies provided by the Town Manager contingent upon the changes, striking the Ethics Commission from Page 13 and replacing it with a 3 member Standing Board made up of Selectmen (Hiring Practice Review Committee) removing all references to the Ethics Commission on pages 15 through 100 and replacing it with Hiring Practice Review Committee."

Motion - Mayor Arcelaschi / Second - Sel. Bouchard

Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 -0)

B) 23-54a Consider and Possibly act on the proposed Historical Commission ordinance

Motion Statement - "I move that the Board of Selectmen formally acknowledge their consideration of adopting the newly proposed ordinance and further consider it in a third instance at the next Regular meeting on August 21, 2023."

C) 23-18 Driveway Ordinance Variance Request for 543 East Wakefield Blvd. (Agenda add on)

Atty. David Torrey representing property owner Mr. Serkey offered a detailed position that the driveway work done at 543 East Wakefield Blvd did NOT meet the threshold of the Towns ordinance requiring a Driveway Permit. Public Works Director Jim Rollins held firmly to his opinion that reconstruction had occurred and a Variance Request must now be filed for approval.

After much discussion this Item was tabled until Board members could personally view the site and be better able to render an informed decision.

Item 11

New Business -

A) Refunds as recommended by Collector of Revenues

Motion Statement - "I move that the Board of Selectmen authorize the refunds recommended by the Collector of Revenue in the amount of \$2,440.75."

Motion - Sel. Bouchard / Second - Sel. Perez

Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)

B) Discussion of Fluoride Survey by Winsted's Water and Sewer Commission (Agenda add on)

Sel. Bourque read a prepared statement questioning the motivation, purpose and cost of the survey.

Item 12 **Executive Session**

A) Concerning the possible Sale of Town-Owned land

Motion Statement - "Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the Sale of Town-Owned land taking the Town Manager to be part of the meeting at 9:35pm

Motion - Mayor Arcelaschi / Second - Sel. Bouchard

Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)

The Board returned from Executive Session at 10:25pm

Item 13 **Post Executive Session Business**

A) Consider and Possibly Act on referring Town owned property at locations to include -

*47 Orchard Street

*508 Main Street

Motion Statement - "I move that the Board of Selectmen authorize the Town Manager to solicit 3 bids for a new roof at 508 Main Street."

Motion - Sel. Bouchard / Second - Sel. Bourque

Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)

Item 14 **Citizens Comments** The following residents addressed the board.

* Stephen Kosinski

* David LaPointe

Item 15 **Selectmen's Comments and Reports** -

Mayor Arcelaschi - Suggested that a Plaque honoring John Wiarda be placed at the new EV Charging Station at Rowley Street once it's been installed.

Sel. Bouchard - Announced that the Fall Foliage Street Festival will be held on September 30th with a rain date of October 1st. This years event will also include a Car Show and remote parking with shuttles to the event.

Item 16 **Adjournment**

* Motion - Sel. Morhardt / Second - Sel. Groppo

To adjourn the meeting at 10:32pm

Vote to approve - Unanimous (6 - 0)

ATTEST:

Glenn Albanesius, Town Clerk

These Minutes are subject to formal approval at the next scheduled meeting. Any amendments, corrections or revisions will be noted in the next Meeting Minutes.