

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 2, 2025, 4:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common and Zoom

Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker and Christopher Whalen; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Assistant Town Clerk Brittany Chouinard; James Brimblecombe (Building Manager); Visitors Charley Burbank; Evan Fitzgerald and Rodrigue Spinette (Fitzgerald Environmental), Steve Libby (Vermont Emergency Management); Keith Cubbon (Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission; Michelle Braun (Friends of the Winooski); Roy Schiff (SLR Consulting); Rose Watts (Vermont DEC Floodplain Manager), Steve Fiske (Marshfield Conservation Commission); Vicky Arthur (Vermont Emergency Management)

At 4:30 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Rich Baker

Changes or additions to the agenda: none

Minutes: Approved the minutes of October 21 and November 12

Public Comment: Charley Burbank asked about the status of the Jerusalem Rd. Rich explained that the town is interested in helping him with his subdivision but the town can not change the zoning regulations for one person. Rich explained that when he talked to the owner's attorney, he told them the town is working on zoning regulations but it might take several months, and he was told that there was no hurry. Charley indicated that the judge has given him 30 days. Rich explained that we can't change the regulations for one person. The Planning Commission is undertaking a comprehensive review of the regulations and will present the amendments when they are ready. The next planning commission meeting is on December 17th. Dina Bookmyer-Baker is helping them with the review. Rich explained that the process has to start with the Planning Commission.

Lathrop Curb Cut: Bobbi has checked the town records and there doesn't appear to be a survey showing exactly where the road right of way is. Chris feels that the town should leave it up to the landowners to work something out. Rich feels that the landowners will not come to an agreement and the Board's action can be appealed. The Board asked Bobbi to contact the Town Attorney and ask what should be done.

Safety and Security: Rich moved to enter executive session to discuss a security issue. Chris seconded – all in favor.

Park & Ride Grant: Rich moved to go forward with the light project, to pay for it with the park & ride grant, and to pay any extra expense from the Old Schoolhouse Common Building Fund. Chris seconded – all in favor. Jim Brimblecombe will oversee the project.

Old Schoolhouse Common: Jim suggested that even though the entire building needs gutters, we should at least put a gutter over the gym entrance. Rich moved to authorize Jim to spend up to \$2,000 from the building fund to have a gutter installed there, to stop water entering the building. Chris seconded – all in favor. Bobbi explained some of the projects that we are working on with

FEMA.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and approved reports for General Expenses and Payroll.

Winooski River Project: Evan Fitzgerald introduced the project. Steve Libby explained the goals of the project – to develop flood modeling and test strategies. The project is funded by the BRIC program with the understanding that there will be mitigation projects identified for further funding. This is a community-driven effort and the community is invited to weigh in. Evan explained that they want to hear about vulnerable areas that they should be considering.

Evan discussed the project timeline. There will be data collection, hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, and alternatives analysis. The analysis will look at several possible projects. After the analysis, a short list of projects will be identified for further study. This stage will include doing a benefit/cost analysis to identify which projects may be eligible for hazard mitigation funding in the future.

As an example of the type of projects to be considered, Rodrigue explained a project that was developed at the bottom of John Folwer Rd, where the Vermont Land Trust holds an easement. For that project, a berm was removed to allow the river to spread out and slow down. As the water slows down, it will drop sediment and that will keep phosphorus from continuing downstream. That project was funded by the Clean Water Service Provider fund because it was designed to improve water quality.

Evan reviewed a project in southern Vermont where the floodplain was lowered to protect a town fire station.

Steve Fiske suggested that lowering the floodplain at the Martin Covered Bridge property would be beneficial. He feels that this should be explored. He also suggested that there is potential to do something similar at the Old Schoolhouse Common. He also wondered if it is feasible to lower the level on some of the local ponds, to allow for flood storage, much in the same way that Marshfield Reservoir held back water during the last flood.

Michelle Braun stated that she has been contacted about the possibility of removing the dam at Bailey Pond and perhaps that could be investigated.

There were discussions of the town's buyout properties. Michelle asked to have coordination so that they don't do plantings that then get dug up.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the December 2, 2025 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
