

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
SELECT BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Minutes of November 28, 2023

- I. ROLL CALL.** Select Board Chair K. David Maxwell, Board members Charles Morse, Lydia Petty, Merry Shernock, and John Stevens. Also present were Manager Jeff Schulz, Acting Clerk Kenneth McCann, Naomi Johnson (Dufresne Group), Deborah Zuaro (VOREC Grant Implementation Committee), Lucas Herring (VOREC Grant Implementation Committee), Jason Endres (VOREC Grant Implementation Committee), Emily Lewis (DuBois & King), Mary Nadon Scott (Accessibility, Walkability, and Pedestrian Safety Task Force), Delane McIlvene (Accessibility, Walkability, and Pedestrian Safety Task Force), Dan Anderson (Accessibility, Walkability, and Pedestrian Safety Task Force), Ginny Kunkel (Accessibility, Walkability, and Pedestrian Safety Task Force), Bill Clements (Accessibility, Walkability, and Pedestrian Safety Task Force), Tim Schwartz (Accessibility, Walkability, and Pedestrian Safety Task Force), Kaitlyn Keating (Accessibility, Walkability, and Pedestrian Safety Task Force), Carolyn Stevens (Accessibility, Walkability, and Pedestrian Safety Task Force), Gerald LaVarnway, Susan Stillinger, Jeanne Bright, and Elroy Hill.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Those present were asked to join the Select Board members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. SET/ADJUST AGENDA.** There were no changes to the posted agenda.
- IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED):**
- a. Naomi Johnson (Dufresne Group): Main Street Waterline and Cheney Farm Tank Replacement Project.** Ms. Johnson has been working with the municipality on a water improvement project that would replace water mains along main street and construct new water storage tanks on Cheney Farm. The design phase for this project is now ninety percent (90%) complete and will be funded through the State Revolving Loan Fund. The total project cost is estimated at \$7,000,000 and the State of Vermont will provide forgivable loans that will cover half of that amount. Ms. Johnson added that this project is currently number six on the priority list of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR). In order to keep that position, the municipality must hold a bond vote for this project no later than May 1, 2024. Ms. Johnson said the median household income in Northfield is below the state average and that makes it available for the fifty percent (50%) funding. The bond that would cover the remaining expenses would have a zero percent (0%) interest rate and would be paid over a forty (40) year period. The ANR does have stipulations that would limit the amount that household water rates could be raised in order to repay the bond. As a result, Ms. Johnson estimates the increased monthly cost for the average household user at about \$4.00. Commercial and industrial users would see a more substantial increase. Board member Morse would like our major water users to be kept aware of how much more than they might be paying per month should the bond vote pass. As for the need for this project, Ms. Johnson said both the water mains and storage tanks that would be replaced have been in service for over one hundred (100) years and have definitely passed their expected service lives. In fact, this project has been anticipated for the last twenty (20) years. Board member Morse noted that the storage tanks were relined about twenty (20) years ago when he was Town Manager and that was seen as only a temporary action. The storage tanks definitely need replacement at this time. Board member Morse added that their usage dropped considerably when the storage tank on Garvey Hill was on online soon thereafter. Ms. Johnson said the Cheney Farm storage tanks are needed to meet ANR minimum community water supply standards that are based not only on daily usage but also providing a sufficient amount for fire suppression. Board member Petty asked if the bond vote deadline is missed and Northfield drops from the priority list, it is possible to regain that position at a later date. Ms. Johnson said that would depend on a number of factors but probably would be unlikely. She added that she would be willing to attend and provide information at the public hearing that would be held prior to the bond vote. At that time, Ms. Johnson would be able to explain the necessity for this project, the impact on local water rates, etc. She added that if the bond vote did pass, that did not obligate the municipality to this project should the bid submissions prove too high, etc.

Ms. Johnson said the state funds for this project would come out of its general fund as well as a separate fund for lead pipe removal. Due to a recent EPA ruling, eligibility criteria for the latter funds have been changed but any funds lost from the lead pipe removal fund would be replaced by additional general fund monies. Board member Morse asked if all Northfield voters, including those not on municipal water, would be eligible to vote on the bond. Ms. Johnson confirmed that was the case. Board member Morse said we will need to make clear to Northfield residents living on the backroads, etc., that they will not be fiscally responsible for repaying this water bond. Board member Stevens asked if copper pipes with lead soldering need to be replaced as part of this project. Ms. Johnson said the water mains in the project target area are mainly lead pipes; copper pipes with lead soldering probably should be replaced but there is no state and/or federal requirement to do so. She added that if there are plans to hold the bond vote in conjunction with the 2024 Northfield Town Meeting (03/05/24), the wording of the bond vote article(s) should be finalized before the end of January 2024. Board member Petty noted that the project has two (2) separate components and asked if this required separate votes. Ms. Johnson said that was possible but not necessary. The next step for the municipality is to decide if and when to schedule the bond vote next year. Chair Maxwell asked why all Northfield residents can vote on the water bond when only municipal water customers are fiscally responsible for its repayment. Board member Morse noted the Town Charter approved in conjunction with Town-Village merger a decade ago provides for this. Ms. Johnson said it would be possible for the municipality to have mass mailings, etc. to Northfield voters that explained the situation. Ms. Johnson also recommends filing the Step III application for this project next month as this would allow project bid proposals to be solicited over the winter. Chair Maxwell then thanked Ms. Johnson for the valuable information provided tonight.

- b. Deborah Zuaro (VOREC Grant Implementation Committee) & Emily Lewis (DuBois & King): VOREC Grant Update.** In the spring of 2022, through the efforts of the Northfield Conservation Commission, the municipality was awarded a \$121,965 grant from the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) for the purpose of improving the Town Forest by “restoring a trail that was damaged during Hurricane Irene, removing invasive species, developing and implementing a wayfinding masterplan that will connect the trail to town, installing trailhead kiosks with maps, designating nearby parking spaces for trail users, and expanding outdoor gear lending at the local public library.” Soon thereafter, the VOREC Grant Implementation Committee was formed with Ms. Zuaro as Chair in order to achieve these goals with the provided state grant funds. Ms. Zuaro said the committee has been focusing most of its efforts recently to the task of developing a wayfinding masterplan that would include the drafting of Town Forest trail system maps, a townwide map, and the design and installation of informational signage to be located in the downtown area and along the trail system. In order to achieve this, the committee engaged the engineering firm DuBois & King and their consultant Emily Lewis has been working closely with the committee members over the past few months to produce the draft maps and signage designs that are being presented tonight for the Select Board members’ review. Ms. Lewis then showed the townwide map that would be displayed in the downtown area and would provide Northfield residents and visitors with information about the community’s recreational opportunities. This would include depictions of the forest trail system in the Town Forest and adjoining Norwich University (NU) lands. The map also provides directional information and map inserts for Memorial Park, Northfield Falls Park, and the Dog River Park. This map also shows the trail system on Garvey Hill adjacent to the Northfield public schools. In addition to the printed map put on public display, a digitalized map will be available online and this map will be updated whenever circumstances arise. Ms. Lewis added that this map also emphasizes the forest trail access points and preferred public parking areas. Ms. Zuaro noted that combining the Town Forest with the adjacent NU forested properties provides 17,000 acres of contiguous forested lands. It is hoped that having this map available online will attract visitors to the Northfield community who wish to make use of our excellent outdoor recreational opportunities. As indicated above, the digitalized version of this map will change over time as more public parking options become available, etc.

Ms. Lewis then turned to the wayfinding plan map that provides a detail of the downtown area showing where the new information signs will be located. The current plan is to site a kiosk with large maps on the Common. There also was a handout showing how the directional and informational signs will look when constructed. Ms. Zuaro said that providing there is no objection for the Select Board members, their next step is to send the finalized maps to the state grant administrators for their review and approval. The committee now is contacting local sign manufacturers for quotes to build the signage, kiosks, etc. Depending on the cost estimates, it might be necessary to phase in the sign purchases and installations over the next few years. In that case, the initial signs would be sited at priority locations. Ms. Zuaro noted the municipality could be applying for additional VOREC grant funds in the near future that could cover any potential budgetary shortfalls in this or other remaining projects. She added that part of the grant requirements is to produce an economic impact study showing how the use of these grant funds has benefited the community. As part of this study, trail counters have been installed in the Town Forest that (hopefully) will demonstrate how these grant-related projects have improved public usage over time. In addition, it might be necessary to hire a consultant to assist with drafting the study itself. Ms. Zuaro said the grant funds near to be expended before the end of 2024 and the committee remains on track to meet this deadline. She then asked if there were any questions.

Board member Morse believes that the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) trails indicated on the map may not be entirely accurate. He suggested contacting Steve Korrow, who is the trail master for Northfield Snowmobilers, Inc., for more information on this. Board member Petty, who also serves on the VOREC Grant Implementation Committee, said only the VAST trails located on public lands are indicated on the new maps. Board member Morse also felt that the VAST trails should have special signage for safety reasons in case people attempt to snowshoe on them. Board member Petty said the current maps are more geared towards non-winter months usage. Committee member Lucas Herring said the VAST trails do have their own signage with contact information should snowmobilers require more information about the trail system, proper use of it, etc. Board member Morse has concerns about snowmobilers operating on the hiking trails. Ms. Lewis noted that powered recreational vehicles are not allowed in the Town Forest. A kiosk will be sited at the NU Shaw outdoor Center that can provide information about the VAST trails located on NU and other private property. Board member Petty noted the VAST trails have a unique color scheme on the trail maps. Board member Morse said he is very impressed with what the committee has been able to accomplish with these grant funds. Ms. Lewis specifically commended committee member Jason Endres for his assistance in providing local branding and other suggestions for the signage. This includes using the community logo he designed for the Northfield Community Development Network (NCDN). Board member Shernock wanted to thank the committee members for the recreational equipment lending library now operating in the Brown Public Library (BPL). It was noted that Northfield resident Joseph Zuaro was responsible to designing and building the storage rack for the snowshoes, walking poles, etc. Anyone with a BPL library card can borrow the equipment. These library cards are free for Northfield residents and available to non-residents for a small fee. Board member Stevens was very impressed with the committee's accomplishments. The new trail maps will make it easier for him and other hikers to reach the Paine Mountain summit (and other points-of-interest).

Ms. Zuaro said an upcoming project is to add additional parking spaces at the NU Shaw Outdoor Center. This project came from the results of the feedback received when the Town Forest Access Feasibility Study was drafted in 2022. The timing is dependent on whether Act 250 and/or other permits are needed for this project. If this can be cleared up over this winter, new parking spaces will be created next spring. Board member Petty noted that the current parking area near the NU Shaw Outdoor Center often fills up during the weekends. Chair Maxwell is very grateful to Ms. Lewis, Ms. Zuaro, and the other committee members for their efforts. He remembers a few years ago when Ms. Zuaro and the Northfield Conservation Commission led the successful effort to get voted approval at the 2018 Town Meeting for the municipal purchase of a fifty (50) acre parcel of forested land near the Paine Mountain summit. Chair Maxwell is grateful to Ms. Zuaro for this and her more recent efforts on behalf of the Northfield community. Ms. Lewis said once the maps have been finalized and digitalized, they will be provided to outdoor recreational websites (e.g., www.trailfinder.info) that host local trail maps.

Several members of the Accessibility, Walkability, and Pedestrian Safety Task Force, which formed as a result of the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) community visit earlier this year, were present tonight. Task force member Ginny Kunkel asked if Northfield residents now had permanent access to NU property for recreation purposes, parking, etc. Ms. Zuaro said the municipality will be working on a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the university that it will clarify this with an initial five (5) year full public access period. Ms. Kunkel then asked if the new signage would have QR codes that would help direct out-of-town visitors to local restaurants, businesses, etc. Task force member Dan Anderson thought this would be useful on the printed maps as well. Board member Petty said that was a possibility. In addition, the www.trailfinder.info website does allow local businesses to advertise on the map webpages. Elroy Hill would like to see the possibility of additional parking spaces created within the Town Forest in order to assist less abled individuals reach the higher elevations. He suggested one location near the top of Byam Hill Road where a daytime gate could be installed. Ms. Zuaro said this might be a good future project should additional VOREC grant funds become available. Board member Morse noted should the Cheney Farm reservoir replacement project come to fruition, the construction phase would require new parking spaces to be created for the heavy machinery that will be used. Perhaps those parking spaces could be converted for public usage after the project has been completed. Board member Petty said providing greater access to the Town Forest has been a longtime goal and adding the additional parking areas at the Shaw Outdoor Center would only be the first step. Carolyn Stevens said that the NCDN has been working to create a downtown trail that would link the NU campus with the downtown area by way of Freight Yard Way. That trail is probably a year or two away and she asked if this future trail could be added to the wayfinding maps. Ms. Lewis said the new trail certainly could be added to the digitalized map when completed. Board member Petty thought the printed and display maps also could be updated periodically. Ms. Zuaro said the feedback received tonight will be discussed at the next VOREC Grant Implementation Committee meeting (12/11/23) and, where feasible, incorporated into the finalized maps.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. November 14, 2023 (Regular Meeting).** Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Petty, to approve the minutes. One minor typo was corrected. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

VI. APPROVAL OF BILLS

- a. Approval of Warrant #10-24.** Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Stevens, to approve Warrant #10-24 in the amount of \$789,058.84. Board member Morse noted that of the total warrant amount, \$251,490 represented power purchase for the Northfield Electric Department (NED). In addition, the warrant containing large purchase of road gravel that was used to repair the backroads damaged by the July 2023 flooding and to perform the annual resurfacing of certain backroads. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- b. Approval of Biweekly Payroll through November 12, 2023.** Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Stevens, to approve the biweekly payroll in the amount of \$105,537.65. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

VII. SELECT BOARD

- a. Authorization to Sign Loan Agreement (Lead Service Line Inventory).** Manager Schulz said this is the actual loan agreement for the lead service line inventory that the State of Vermont is requiring municipal water department to conduct. The State of Vermont will provide up to \$69,190 in forgiven loan monies in order to complete this project. Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Stevens, to approve and sign the loan agreement for an amount not to exceed \$69,190. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- b. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund Requests.** Chair Maxwell noted that Manager Schulz has provided the Select Board members with an updated list of ARPA fund requests to date with cost estimates. Board member Morse said having this document gives the Select Board members something they can work with. Chair Maxwell noted that since this list was compiled, an additional ARPA funds request has been received from Bob Keeley, who is the current chair of the Northfield Energy Committee (NEC).

This request is for an internet service that allows local governments to create inventories of their infrastructure assets while also allowing residents to provide real-time communication to municipal governments regarding problems with local infrastructure, i.e., roads, utilities, etc. Those seeking more information about this should go to the website <https://seeclickfix.com/>. Chair Maxwell asked if there was an estimated cost for this. Manager Schulz said Mr. Keeley left that to the Select Board members to determine. Manager Schulz has contacted some of the larger Vermont cities that use this but he is still developing cost estimates. Board member Morse asked if we now have an inventory system. Manager Schulz said we do for all the higher priced items but not for every hammer, wrench, etc. As for residents reporting real-time infrastructure problems, Manager Schulz said that service probably would be more useful in larger municipalities where there is a less clear chain of command for complaints than there is in Northfield. Board member Morse thought it might be useful to have an electronic record of all resident complaints about certain municipal services or issues. Board member Petty thought we should contact the municipalities that use this service to see how useful it is and whether the cost is justified. She felt Northfield residents usually don't have problems contacting the Municipal Building when they have concerns. Board member Morse noted that residents also post their concerns on local social media, i.e., Front Porch Forum, Facebook, etc. on a regular basis. Chair Maxwell said this new request will be reviewed and considered. There should be a new ARPA funds request from NCDN at the next regular meeting (12/12/23).

Board member Petty said the Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) maintains an ARPA newsletter and their most recent issue recommends that Vermont municipalities complete their ARPA fund designations by March 2024 rather than waiting for the federal deadline at the end of December 2024. This is to make sure the latter deadline is not missed, which would require the forfeiture of all non-designated ARPA funds if the federal deadline is missed. Board member Petty added that one VLCT suggestion was to put all non-designated ARPA funds into a reserve fund, which would protect them from forfeiture. Manager Schulz believes that this suggestion was intended primarily for smaller municipalities that might not have the proper staffing, etc. to make these decisions in time. He and Finance Director Laurie Baroffio will look into the possibility of creating a reserve fund but only as a backup option. Board member Morse believes the current process the Select Board members have created for designating ARPA funds is working well. Chair Maxwell feels the Select Board members do have to start making decisions regarding which ARPA requests do have merit and should be reviewed further and which are impractical, too expensive, don't meet the set criteria, etc. and should not be pursued. Board member Shernock asked if it was permissible to site a community garden on FEMA buyout property. Manager Schulz said it was provided no fences or other permanent fixtures were installed. Board member Shernock asked if there has been any recent contact with NU officials regarding improved pedestrian safety along the stretch of Vermont Route 12 that juxtaposes the campus. This had been considered as a possible feature when the new Cyber Fusion Center building plans were discussed at a recent Select Board meeting (10/24/23). Manager Schulz said the building plans presented that night were in a very preliminary stage. We probably will hear more about the proposed improved pedestrian connectivity when the next presentation is made in a few months. Chair Maxwell said NU will be looking for some considerations from the municipality regarding this project, i.e., public road alterations, etc., so perhaps that could be a starting point for negotiation on items that would benefit the whole community. Board member Shernock said some of the ARPA fund request applications had incomplete information. Chair Maxwell said Manager Schulz could contact the applicants directly should more information be required to properly evaluate the request itself. Perhaps the format for such outreach could be drafted first so that all applicants are treated the same in this. Board member Petty noted that many of the ARPA funds requests originated from the municipality, which solicited ideas from municipal department heads, board members, etc. Perhaps the list should differentiate these requests from those that came from the general public. In addition, in creating a priority list of ARPA fund requests, perhaps the amount of additional information required to make a decision should be a factor. Chair Maxwell said the amount of further inquiry should be proportional to the dollar amount of the request.

Chair Maxwell also felt the Select Board members should base their decisions based on which projects would provide the most benefits to the community. Board member Shernock felt the list of requests should be prioritized based on which proposals would benefit the whole community rather than just certain interests. For example, she felt a community garden would be open to all interested residents and provide benefits for all taking part. Board member Petty thought it might be time to go through the updated list and remove items that don't appear to have Select Board support at this time. She also felt the list should include the ARPA funds that will be included in the proposed FY 2024/2024 municipal budget. That way the Select Board members can keep track of the ARPA funds that have already been designated. Chair Maxwell thought an updated report on ARPA funds designated to date and the current balance of undesignated funds would be useful. Board member Stevens would like to remove from the list the request from Vershire Development for \$200,000 ARPA funds to help fund renovations at the Rustic Restaurant and Gould Mansion. There was no objection from the other Select Board members. Board member Petty thought it would be better for the developer to work with Economic Development Director Tom Davis on potential state programs that could provide some grant funds or other assistance. Board member Shernock remembers that at the initial ARPA community outreach meetings, there appeared to be a preference for a number of smaller projects, those that would benefit all segments of the community, and would provide improved public access to Northfield's natural resources. Chair Maxwell would like to create a short list of prioritized ARPA grant requests. He would include on this list the purchase of emergency generators for the Fire Station and Police Station as this would help better protect the whole community in case of a regional natural or man-made disaster. Manager Schulz said the original quote for the purchase of two (2) emergency generators was set at \$150,000 but he is looking for updated quotes. He is also looking to submit a state grant application next month that could provide some funds for this purpose. After some discussion, the Select Board members decided to focus on six (6) specific ARPA fund requests at this time: 1. Sidewalks; 2. Emergency Services Generators; 3. Freight Yard Way Waterline Upgrade; 4. Community Garden; 5. Senior Center Expansion; and 6. North Main Street Pedestrian Safety Improvements. Since the regular Select Board meeting of December 26, 2023 has been cancelled, Board member Maxwell said these items would be discussed at the next regular meeting (12/12/23). An additional request from the Northfield Community Development Network (NCDN) probably will be submitted then.

VIII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. FY 2022/2023 Audit Report.** Manager Schulz said the auditing firm that reviews the financial statement from the previous fiscal year will be at the next Select Board meeting to present their findings.
- b. Planning Commission Public Hearing.** Manager Schulz said the Planning Commission will be holding a public hearing on Wednesday, December 6, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room in order to obtain public comment on proposed revisions to local zoning regulations. Board member Morse has read the draft document and has a number of concerns about some of the proposed changes. Manager Schulz suggested he could either attend the public hearing and state his concerns directly or forward them to the Planning Commission by way of Zoning Administrator Mitch Osiecki. The Select Board members will be holding at least one public hearing on this matter themselves but it would be good for members of the public to provide feedback as early in the process as possible. That way, it might be possible to incorporate them into an updated draft document. Board member Morse also wished the current document showed tracked changes from the zoning regulations now in place. Manager Schulz said the paid consultant for this project, Juli Beth Hinds, had reported to the Select Board members some time ago that due to the extensive reformatting needed to make Northfield's zoning bylaws more coherent and more compliant with state law, the normal practice of tracking changes in the document would not be possible.
- c. Recent Snowstorm update.** Manager Schulz the region was hit hard by a heavy snowstorm this past Sunday night and Monday morning. He commended the Highway crew for clearing the roads as soon as possible and Green Mountain Power (GMP) for responding to local power outages as quickly as they did.
- d. Highway Department update.** Manager Schulz said the new snowplow is now in service. He added that we are back to a full Highway crew with the hiring of Damien Stewart as an equipment operator.

IX. BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS, CONCERNS, QUESTIONS

- a. **Town Common Rehabilitation Study.** Board member Morse noted that at the previous Select Board meeting (11/28/23), the Select Board members authorized a \$40,000 engineering study of Town Common rehabilitation project. However, since then Board member Morse has received additional information that makes him believe this project might not be necessary. In addition, he has spoken to Depot Square business owners and many believe this study to be a waste of money. Board member Petty said the previous Depot Square projects did not address concerns with the interior of the Common. Chair Maxwell said the Town Common is an asset for the community that has been allowed to get into poor condition in recent years. In addition, there are significant concerns that ADA compliance for public access needs serious attention. This study would include provisions for substantial public input into the situation and Chair Maxwell this was import to find solution that would have widespread community support. \$40,000 may be a lot of money but something needs to be done to restore this community treasure to its former glory.
- b. **Dog River Park.** Board member Shernock said a recent edition of the Friends of the Winooski River newsletter cited the establishment of the Dog River Park as a successful example of what Vermont communities can do to address protentional flooding concerns. The article noted that the establishment of stormwater retention at the park kept Water Street and other nearby residential areas from flooding during the July 2023 storm event.
- c. **Regional Recreational Committee.** Board member Stevens asked if there has been any progress in establishing a regional recreational committee that would include Northfield, Roxbury, Berlin, etc. Manager Schulz has done some outreach to neighboring communities but despite some initial interest there has been no real action taken to achieve this. He will make additional contact to see if the situation has changed. Chair Maxwell thought forming this committee could be added to the list of community goals.
- d. **Rabbit Hollow Road Bridge.** Board member Petty remembered that there was a question recently regarding whether any municipal vehicles were unable to use this bridge due to weight restrictions, etc. Has this been answered. Manager Schulz has spoken to the Highway Foreman and Fire Department Chief and both said they prefer to detour their heavier trucks around this bridge. Board member Petty though VTrans should be informed of this while they are completing their assessment regarding whether this bridge should be rehabilitated or replaced. Chair Maxwell also would like the issue about who actually owns this bridge (municipality or railroad) resolved once and for all.
- e. **NAVI Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale.** Chair Maxwell noted Northfield Ambulance Volunteers, Inc. (NAVI) will be holding its annual tree and wreath sale at the Ambulance Bay from Saturday, November 25, 2023 through Christmas Eve. Trees and wreaths are available for sale from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. during the week and from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekends. Free delivery is available.

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (UNSCHEDULED)

- a. **Elroy Hill: Winter Sidewalk Maintenance.** Mr. Hill would like the sidewalks to be cleared of snow earlier in the day than has been the recent practice. Also, when the sidewalk in front of Post Office is plowed, berms should not be left in front of the building. Manager Schulz will contact the Highway Foreman about these concerns. Mr. Hill believes that there should be more priority for clearing the sidewalks after a major snowstorm rather than just focus on the roads. Also, he felt the snow should be removed instead of just being pushed around.

XI. ADJOURNMENT. Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Stevens, to adjourn. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth L. McCann

Kenneth L. McCann, Acting Clerk

An audio recording of this meeting is available in the Town Manager's Office.

These minutes were approved at the Select Board regular meeting of December 12, 2023.