

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
SELECT BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Minutes of October 24, 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, Ronald Lyon (Norwich University), Bizhan Yahyazadeh (Norwich University), Shawn Brennan (Freeman French Freeman), Mary Nadon Scott (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), Fred Nadon (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), Carolyn Stevens (Accessibility, Walkability, and Pedestrian Safety Task Force), Mark Fournier, Gerard LaVarnway, Moses Tefe, and Elroy Hill.

Chair Maxwell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Those persons present were asked to rise and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. The remote contingent also participated as much as possible.

- III. SET/ADJUST AGENDA.** There were no changes to the posted agenda.

- IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED):**

- a. Ronald Lyon and Bizhan Yahyazadeh (Norwich University): Cyber Fusion Center Project Overview.** Mr. Yahyazadeh, who is the Norwich University (NU) Vice-President for Facilities Operations & Conference Services, said Mr. Lyon should be a familiar face to the Select Board members as he has many times provided engineering services for municipality as well as for university projects while serving as Vice President and Director of Site and Land Development Division for the engineering firm DuBois & King. Mr. Yahyazadeh said the university received \$16,400,000 in federal funding for construction of this new building. He added that former US Senator Patrick Leahy had been largely responsible for helping NU secure these funds. However, since this project does involve federal funds, this means very specific rules need to be followed and all the necessary paperwork properly filed before the construction phase can commence. The Cyber Fusion Center will be used primarily for studies related to cyber security but also will be available to students and researchers from other disciplines including law enforcement, nursing, engineering, etc. Mr. Yahyazadeh said the proposed building site was designed to be at the center of campus and near Kreitzberg Library as well as the buildings hosting the various academic disciplines making most use of the new facility. In addition, the new building will have high visibility from Vermont Route 12 and will serve as a gateway to the campus interior. The proposed construction site on Park Avenue is now occupied by the Communications Department (including radio station WNUB) and the historic Hasset House, which hosts the Public Safety and Veterans Affairs departments. Mr. Yahyazadeh said Mr. Lyon is now working on the Act 250 paperwork as well as any local permitting issues. He will be assisted in this by Shawn Brennan, who is a graduate of the NU school of Architecture + Art and currently Vice-President of the architectural firm Freeman French Freeman. Mr. Yahyazadeh added that about half of the project's schematic design has been completed and he expected the remainder to be completed by the end of next month. The project groundbreaking is now scheduled for June 2024 with building completion the following November. Mr. Lyon provided the Select Board members beforehand with a short project description as well as a map showing the proposed work site. He added that this initial public presentation is intended to provide a general overview before the project plans are finalized and to answer any questions. This will be a 24,000 square foot two-story building and its construction will necessitate the discontinuance of a public road. The nearby central park will not be affected and any future development in the area probably will create some additional green space. Any future projects might require discontinuance of Park Avenue and/or road enhancements on University Drive.

Mr. Lyon said any existing structures that have historic value, such as the Hassett House, will be reviewed for possible relocation. It was noted that although a section of the Communications Department building has an installed placard stating “1853 Northfield Town House 1873,” this building actually has no original features and probably will be demolished rather than moved. It has been reconstructed a number of times and hosted several businesses including a service station, car dealership, grocery store, etc. before NU purchased the site. Mr. Lyon then asked if there were any questions.

Board member Morse thought this was an exciting project. Speaking as a member of the Utility Commissions, he believes the public utilities now in place would be sufficient for the new structure and no new easements would be required. Board member Stevens asked if there are any plans to install solar panels on the building. Mr. Yahyazadeh said that would be a condition of the federal grant award. Provided the cost is not prohibitive, there also are plans to use geothermic heating. Board member Petty congratulated the university for securing the federal funding for this project. As she has often worked on local projects to improve pedestrian connectivity in the Northfield community, Board member Petty sees this as a good opportunity to improve campus walkability. Mr. Lyon confirmed improving on-campus pedestrian circulation is one of the project’s goals. Chair Maxwell asked how University Drive would be affected by this project. Mr. Yahyazadeh said it would be straightened from its entrance on Vermont Route 12.

Mr. Brennan said this new building is intended to be the public face of the university and also designed to stimulate activity on the NU campus and the neighboring community. There will be efforts to design the building so it will fit in with the existing nearby buildings while also including features illustrating how NU looks forward towards the future. Mr. Brennan said the building design would try to make use of natural lighting, employ solar panels, etc. to make the building more energy efficient. Traditional building materials will be used but there also will be an attempt to incorporate a modernist look to the structure. Mr. Brennan said the project is still in its initial design stages and the Select Board members and the general public will be kept informed as more information becomes available. Board member Shernock asked if the building plans include a designated community space. Mr. Brennan said the building will include open space for special events. In addition, the nearby vehicle parking and improved pedestrian access will make this an attractive meeting place. Chair Maxwell looks forward to the next project presentation as the plans develop. Mr. Lyon said he will be working with Manager Schulz to make sure all local zoning and other requirements are met. Mark Fournier noted the NU campus has expanded over time but there never seems to be enough on-campus parking so students and visitors don’t park on nearby streets, especially Central Street. He asked if there was any thought of building a multi-level parking garage to prevent this overflow. Mr. Yahyazadeh confirmed that the 2035 NU master plan does include plans to add about five hundred (500) new parking spaces on campus. He added that parking is a problem at most colleges and universities as students often choose to park on public streets closer to their dormitories rather than at more distant designated on-campus parking locations. In addition, some commuter students opt to save money by parking on nearby streets rather than purchasing on-campus parking passes through the Public Safety office. Chair Maxwell then thanked Messieurs Yahyazadeh, Lyon, and Brennan for tonight’s presentation.

- b. Mary Nadon Scott (Accessibility, Walkability, and Pedestrian Safety Task Force): American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund Request (Sidewalk Improvements).** Ms. Scott and several other task force members are present tonight to further clarify the ARPA funds request form that was submitted last week. The request is for \$190,000 to finance a scoping study to improve existing sidewalks and to install new sidewalk where needed. There is a special emphasis on providing safe routes to and from Northfield Elementary School and Northfield Middle/High School (located on Cross Street). Board member Morse noted the submission included a detailed description of the planned scoping study as well as large maps indicating the conditions of sidewalk (or where it is missing) focusing on the downtown area.

Board member Morse agrees that there are a number of bad sidewalks in this town and he suggested that the \$190,000 requested might be better spent on sidewalk installation itself rather than a planning study that might only tell us what we already know. Ms. Scott thought that was a good notion but also felt that having solid plans in place could help create a priority list and would allow the installation contractor to create a reasonable timeline for the project. Ms. Scott thought getting to work right away would be nice but also felt long-term solutions to the sidewalk problems would require proper planning, such as focusing on the main pedestrian routes, i.e., “arteries,” before turning attention to side streets. Board member Morse is concerned that, given the current political situation in the nation’s capital, it is quite possible that federal grant opportunities will be sharply reduced in the near future. Therefore, he thought it might be best to use existing ARPA funds to make practical upgrades now rather than wait for another planning document, of which we already have quite a few and almost all of them strongly recommend sidewalk improvements. Task force member Tim Schwartz said that in addition to repairing existing sidewalk, there also is a need to eliminate missing segments that require pedestrians to walk along busy roads, especially Vermont Route 12 southward of the NU campus and northward of Cumberland Farms. Task force member Bill Clements said where sidewalk is now missing, a planning study is needed to determine where new sidewalk should be installed and where new crosswalks might be best located to improve accessibility to local businesses, etc. Board member Shernock believes this proposal has clearly identified severe problems in our sidewalk system, especially along the school walking routes. She did ask if this proposal could be separated into individual components in order to address the more serious concerns first. The task force members present indicated that approach would be acceptable. Board member Petty noted that grant-funded pedestrian safety scoping projects have been authorized here before such as along Wall Street/Water Street in order to create more downtown accessibility to the Dog River Park. That is another location where the sidewalk sometimes disappears, forcing pedestrians to walk along the roadway. She added that it is important to have public input regarding which pedestrian safety options should be considered so that engineering plans can be developed. Board member Petty said the likelihood of a successful grant application for sidewalk construction is increased when there are scoping plans already in place. Cost estimates are also very necessary to have beforehand as well as consideration of any environmental, historic preservation, or other concerns that might have to be thoroughly researched.

Manager Schulz said there are limitations along certain narrow stretches of Vermont Route 12 due to roadside ledge and/or private property concerns. This could significantly impact whether sidewalk could be installed at certain locations and these factors would require an engineering study to determine feasibility. Board member Shernock suggested collaborating with Norwich University on the possibility of installing some roadside sidewalks or alternate on-campus paths in order to improve walkability along Vermont Route 12 South. Ms. Scott noted that the task force submitted their proposal at this time in order to meet ARPA fund designation deadlines, which is December 31, 2024. Board member Shernock said \$190,000 is a large ARPA funds request but the sidewalks definitely need attention and this was a very popular topic when the ARPA fund community outreach meetings she helped organize were held last year. Task force member Ginny Kunkel believes the missing sidewalks along the state highway north of Cumberland Farms create a real problem for persons wanting safe pedestrian access to the Dogwood Glen Apartments and the Tops Market/Dollar Tree shopping center. A new sidewalk on one side of the road and an appropriately located new crosswalk would provide much better access. Board member Shernock said since this is a state highway, any work in this area would require some coordination with the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans). Ms. Scott fears that pedestrian safety along Vermont Route 12 might not be a VTrans priority at this time. She is aware that VTrans will be repaving Route 12 north of Cumberland Farms but the initial plans for this don’t seem to include installing new sidewalk.

Board member Petty thanked Ms. Scott for all the work she and the task force members put into this ARPA funds request. There will need to be interaction with VTrans about pedestrian safety improvement along the state highway. If there is no interest on their part for new sidewalk, dedicated bike lanes, etc., it might be necessary for the municipality to explore the possibility of assuming control over this section of state highway. In any case, a scoping study will be needed to perform the work on Route 12 North in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Manager Schulz said he would get in touch with VTrans and the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) about this request for installing new sidewalk and a new crosswalk on this stretch of state highway. Board member Petty thought there might be some old municipal sidewalks studies that could be reviewed and updated so that we don't have to start from scratch.

Board member Petty asked if the task force members wanted new sidewalk installed near the schools or just to have the existing ones fixed. Ms. Scott said there are some roads along the popular walking routes that have no sidewalk at all or the existing sidewalk is in very poor condition. She felt new sidewalk should be installed along the main walking routes where there none at this time. Board member Petty believes perhaps some of the ARPA funds requested for the scoping study should instead be used to fix already identified sidewalk problems on streets located near the schools, such as Cross Street, Vine Street, etc. She believes students should have a continuous walking path to school that is problem free. Ms. Scott thought it might be helpful if the task force members worked with school administrators to best determine what steps the affected students and their parents would like taken to address this problem. Board member Petty noted the Select Board already has budgeted funds for sidewalk work so perhaps some of those existing funds could be allocated for this. Chair Maxwell said he has stated at the last two (2) Town Meetings that the community needs to consider significant future investments in infrastructure improvements including our sidewalks. He noted that the voters in the City of St. Albans approved a bond vote to fix their entire sidewalk system. The results have been very impressive and have contributed to the economic revitalization of the community. The current fiscal year budget has \$23,000 allocated for sidewalk work and this amount probably will be increased when the next fiscal year budget is developed. Chair Maxwell would prefer to focus first on fixing existing sidewalks before looking at expanding the current system. He would like to use ARPA funds to ensure that every street has one good sidewalk, as is the situation now on Central Street and South Main Street. This is a major infrastructure concern so perhaps the Select Board members should consider the possibility of bonding for a major sidewalk upgrade project. Chair Maxwell felt a comprehensive plan with public support and a practical funding mechanism is vital before embarking on any major project of this nature. He then thanked Ms. Scott and the task force members who contributed to this ARPA request presentation. The Select Board members will be further discussing and considering this specific ARPA fund request at length soon. Chair Maxwell noted there will be tough decisions coming regarding ARPA fund awards that will be based on community priorities and how much can be accomplished with available funding.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. October 10, 2023 (Regular Meeting).** Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Stevens, to approve the minutes. A couple of errors were found that will be corrected. **The motion to approve the amended minutes passed 3-0-2, with Board members Maxwell and Stevens abstaining.**

VI. APPROVAL OF BILLS

- a. Approval of Warrant #08-24.** Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Stevens, to approve Warrant #08-24 in the amount of \$153,878.02. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- b. Approval of Warrant #08-24A.** Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Stevens, to approve Warrant #08-24A in the amount of \$21,656.67. Board member Morse noted this was a bond payment for the Depot Square roadway reconstruction project. Manager Schulz said there are ten (10) years of payments still due on this bank note **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

- c. **Approval of Biweekly Payroll through October 15, 2023.** Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Stevens, to approve the biweekly payroll in the amount of \$108,348.49. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

VII. SELECT BOARD

- a. **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund Requests.** Chair Maxwell noted that the Select Board members now have two (2) separate lists of potential ARPA funded projects. These lists should be consolidated with cost estimates provided for the projects that appear to have the most community support. Board member Morse also would like a single list that includes the most recently submitted requests for ARPA funds, i.e., Senior Center expansion, Rustic Restaurant rehabilitation, etc. Chair Maxwell thought that was a good idea. Board member Morse noted Economic Development Director Tom Davis has submitted a formal request that \$200,000 in ARPA funds be set aside as local match funds for future grant applications. These set-aside funds perhaps could be used for scoping studies, such as requested tonight for sidewalk improvements. Chair Maxwell is concerned that the federal government has set a firm deadline of December 31, 2026 for when all ARPA funds must be expended. He is concerned that the municipality might lose some of these ARPA funds should these set-aside funds not be fully spent by that deadline should envisioned grant opportunities not surface in time. Chair Maxwell felt with the aforementioned deadlines approaching, the Select Board members need to start making some hard decisions regarding the prioritization of local projects that could make use of ARPA funding. Board member Morse believes the Senior Center expansion project should be on this priority list as there is potential for the expanded building to become a much needed community center. Board member Shernock would like a master list of all the submitted ARPA fund requests to date. It might be possible to split some of these requests into subcomponents should some parts of the request seem more feasible than others. She would include on this list the \$66,000 in ARPA funds the Northfield Ambulance Service (NAS) has requested to fully equip a third ambulance unit. Board member Stevens would like to see some commitment to an engineering study for the previously discussed need for sidewalk improvements along Vermont Route 12 North. Chair Maxwell asked about the status of the task force looking into the creation of a community center for Northfield. Board member Shernock said they circulated an online survey to obtain local feedback on this. The deadline for submissions was last week (10/15/23) and the results will be forwarded to a consultant for compilation and analysis. This is needed as there were many open-ended questions on the survey. The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) will pay for this. Chair Maxwell is unsure whether this particular project will be able to meet the deadlines for ARPA funding.

Board member Shernock believes the NAS ARPA fund request should be prioritized along with the Vermont Route 12 North sidewalk improvements. Board member Stevens would like to allocate \$500,000 for the Senior Center expansion project. He also would favor the NAS request if suitable indoor storage space could be found for the third ambulance unit. Board member Morse said given the recent increase in demand for NAS services, both in emergency callouts and non-emergency patient transfers, it is clear that something needs to be done to address this situation. This could either be an expansion of the department or a reduction in the amount of its supplemental services. Board member Petty would prefer that the Select Board members start making some decisions regarding which already submitted ARPA fund requests will be granted rather than just focus on compiling new lists of potential projects. Petty would favor using ARPA funds to finance a number of smaller community projects, such as improved riverside access, rather sink the bulk into major infrastructure projects. With the upcoming Cross Brothers Dam removal project and the Main Street Bridge replacement, this is a good time to look into improving public access to the Dog River at that location, which might include creating a riverside “parklet.” Board member Morse agrees that Northfield has not taken full advantage of our extensive waterfront capabilities. He also feels that there perhaps should be more focus on “shovel-ready” projects that have already been engineered.

Chair Maxwell would like this status indicated on the master list of potential local projects. Those suggested projects that would require extensive engineering perhaps should be removed from the list due to time constraints. Board member Morse thought it might be a good idea to purchase the materials needed for future projects, such as sidewalk curbing, new waterlines, etc. to be stockpiled until needed. The Select Board members then went through the proposed ARPA-funded project list to remove those items that have already been addressed, such as broadband internet access expansion, as well as those that could be funded through the regular municipal budget process. Chair Maxwell tasked Manager Schulz to create a comprehensive master list that includes updated cost estimates. He also would like the Town Common and Fountain rehabilitation project included on this list since DuBois & King engineers are now preparing a tentative work schedule with cost estimates. Chair Maxwell feels using ARPA funds to complete this project would be an appropriate usage of these funds. He felt tonight's discussion is a good start and when the Select Board members discuss this matter further next month (11/28/23), the additional information to be provided by management will allow for the Select Board members to start making hard decisions.

- b. State Revolving Loan Funding Application: Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Engineering Evaluation.** Manager Schulz said the Northfield WWTF requires a twenty (20) year engineering evaluation, which is expected to cost about \$80,000. The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will pay half of this amount provided the municipality approves and submits this revolving loan application. Motion by Board member Morse, seconded by Board member Shernock, to approve the State Revolving Loan Funding Application in the amount of \$41,200. Chair Maxwell noted once the engineering phase has been completed, it is very likely DEC will require significant WWTF renovations in order to meet new federal and state regulations. This will be a major project that probably will require bonding. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- c. Cox Brook Road Covered Bridges and Rabbit Hollow Road Bridge Community Surveys.** Manager Schulz said VTrans has committed to financing the rehabilitation/replacement of four (4) of Northfield's historic bridges: the three (3) covered bridges on Cox Brook Road and the bridge on Rabbit Hollow Road that spans the railroad tracks. VTrans will perform scoping of each of the bridges as part of the process. VTrans also asked the municipality to fill out questionnaires covering local concerns regarding the bridges including how temporary closures would affect the community. These questionnaires were distributed to residents living near the bridges but very few of these surveys have yet been returned. Manager Schulz did include relevant contributions in the surveys to be returned to VTrans. He noted the covered bridges most likely will be rehabilitated but the Rabbit Hollow Bridge probably be replaced with an entirely new structure. He then asked if the Select Board members had any questions or comments. Board member Shernock asked how school buses would be rerouted when the Cox Brook Road covered bridges are temporarily closed for repairs. Manager Schulz said VTrans would have to develop detour routes in consultation with the municipality. Manager Schulz will be forwarding these surveys to VTrans soon so he asked the Select Board members to contact him soon if they would like additional information added.

VIII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. July 2023 Flooding Storm update.** Manager Schulz has continued to meet with FEMA representatives on a regular basis. He specifically thanked Financial Director Laurie Baroffio for her assistance in preparing the flood-damage reimbursement forms.
- b. Highway Paving update.** Manager Schulz reported that the paving work on Cherry Street, West Hill Road, and Mill Street has been completed. Some patching work will be done on North Main Street as residents have complained about potholes, etc.
- c. FY 2024/2025 Municipal Budget.** Manager Schulz is working on developing this budget with Ms. Baroffio and the various department heads. He hopes to have a draft budget available to the Budget & Financial Review Subcommittee (Board members Maxwell and Morse) within the next couple of weeks.

- d. **Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers.** Manager Schulz said the EV charger installation is underway and should be completed within the next few weeks. Chair Maxwell asked if the EV chargers would be handicapped accessible. Manager Schulz said the adjacent parking spaces would have striped lines and would be extra wide like the usual handicapped parking spaces. Chair Maxwell would like to see curb cuts installed so that wheelchair occupants can fully use them. Manager Schulz said that was not part of the original installation plans but he will contact the contractor to have it done. The new EV chargers will definitely meet all ADA compliance requirements.
- e. **Brown Public Library (BPL) Accessibility update.** At a previous meeting, Ms. Scott noted that the BPL lower entrance near the Community Room was difficult to negotiate due to an uneven paved surface outside the doors. Manager Schulz said a paving contractor will be pouring new concrete at this location next week to eliminate this.

IX. BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS, CONCERNS, QUESTIONS

- a. **Policy Review Process.** Board member Stevens noted the Select Board members committed to reviewing/revising all municipal policies over the next couple of years. He asked what the status of this was. Chair Maxwell said the Select Board members had been reviewing the municipal personnel policies in recent months. Several revisions had been made due to Select Board member and management suggestions but the matter had been referred to the Policy Review Subcommittee (Board members Morse and Stevens) for further consideration. If the document is ready for additional full board discussion and/or approval, this matter will be put on a future regular meeting agenda. Board member Morse felt the personnel policy needs to be updated and approved before the union employee contracts are renegotiated in the coming months.
- b. **Zoning Bylaws Revisions update.** Board member Stevens is aware that the Planning Commission (PC) members have been meeting in recent months to revise the local zoning bylaws and he asked what the status of their efforts was. Manager Schulz said he has spoken with Zoning Administrator Mitch Osiecki about this. The revised bylaws draft document is now being finalized so that the PC members can hold at least two (2) public hearings over the next few months. Once that part of the process has been completed, the Select Board members will hold their own public hearings in anticipation of their formal approval of the document. Board member Stevens would like a copy of the draft document when it becomes available. Manager Schulz will make sure that all the Select Board members receive copies before the public hearings commence.
- c. **Prospect Street Sidewalk Project.** Board member Stevens asked if the new concrete sidewalk would still be installed this year. Manager Schulz said the new curbing contractor was supposed to have been in town a couple of weeks ago but had been delayed due to projects in other towns related to the July 2023 floods. Manager Schulz has been assured that the curbing will be installed within the next couple of weeks.
- d. **Wall Street Scoping Project.** Board member Petty said that the engineering firm (DuBois & King) performing this scoping project will be holding a public input meeting here in the Community Room on Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will be widely advertised beforehand and there will be remote meeting access.

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (UNSCHEDULED)

- a. **Mary Nadon Scott: Appreciation to Paine Mountain Boys Soccer Team.** Ms. Scott, who serves as an ambassador for Friedreich's Ataxia (FA) awareness, wanted to thank the Paine Mountain Boys soccer team for holding a benefit game on their Senior Night (10/18/23) to raise funds for FA awareness and research. She is very grateful for their efforts and thoughtfulness.

b. Dan Anderson, Accessibility, Walkability, and Pedestrian Safety Task Force.

Mr. Anderson serves as the task force co-chair and he asked what actions the task force members can take at their future meetings to help facilitate the sidewalk improvement process. Board member Morse believes ARPA funds definitely will be used for a sidewalk improvement project. The only questions remaining will be the amount of ARPA funds allocated for this and project priority locations. Board member Morse himself will recommend purchasing with ARPA funds a sufficient amount of new curbing so that the worst sections of sidewalk, especially those near the schools, can be addressed as soon as possible. He added that it would be helpful if the task forces members could document the worst sidewalk sections with photographs as this would help inform the general public of the great need for this project. Chair Maxwell noted the municipality currently is conducting a sidewalk condition inventory so perhaps the task force members could coordinate with management on providing some assistance with this. The next task force meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at the Northfield Senior Center and Manager Schulz plans to attend. In the interim, he will contact CVRPC and VTrans about the aforementioned Vermont Route 12 North situation. Board member Petty would be willing to help with any survey of local students to determine what sidewalk and other walkability enhancements they would like to see done. Board member Shernock suggested speaking to Mike Gonneville, who organizes and leads the weekly Wednesday morning group student walk to the schools originating at Norwich University. It also might be useful to talk to the crossing guard about how the situation could be improved. Mr. Anderson then asked for an update on the new walking path from the NU campus to Freight Yard Way. Carolyn Stevens said this was a Northfield Community Development Network (NCDN) project. Soon NCDN will be presenting the Select Board members with a formal request for ARPA funds in order to repair the damage done to the new trailway during the July 2023 flooding storm. This included replacing a new footbridge designed and built by NU students that was washed out and carried some distance down the Dog River. Mr. Anderson, who lives on White Road in Northfield Falls, then noted that the section of state highway near his residence is in very poor condition. As indicated earlier, VTrans plans to repave Vermont Route 12 from Cumberland Farms to Montpelier next year. However, Manager Schulz will contact them soon to see if they can perform any needed patching work this year.

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

The Board adjourned at 10:22 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 revised and approved at the Select Board regular meeting of November 14, 2023.