

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
SELECT BOARD SPECIAL MEETING
Minutes of June 16, 2025

- I. ROLL CALL.** Chair Charles Morse, Board members K. David Maxwell (absent), Lydia Petty, Merry Shernock (absent), and John Stevens. Also present were Manager Jeff Schulz, Scott Kerner (Good Measure Pub & Brewery), Richard Wobby, Shannon Palone, Carolyn Stevens, and Elroy C. Hill.

Chair Morse called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED):

- a. Scott Kerner, Good Measure Pub & Brewery: East Street Closure Request - Saturday, June 21, 2025. (4:02 p.m.)** Chair Morse said this request was discussed at the last Select Board regular meeting (06/10/25) and the Select Board members had some questions for Mr. Kerner, who was not present then. Chair Morse asked the Select Board members here tonight what they would now like to ask Mr. Kerner. Board member Stevens would like to know when the street will be closed. Mr. Kerner said their event doesn't start until 11:30 a.m. but they would start closing up the street by putting up temporary barriers, etc. around 10:00 a.m. East Street would be reopened by 8:00 p.m. Board member Stevens asked if there would be detour signs in place throughout the event. Mr. Kerner confirmed that there would and they would direct drivers to make use of the Northfield Saving Bank (NSB) parking lot to access King Street, Turkey Hill Road, etc. Board member Stevens noted the municipal pool will be opening for the summer season that day. Mr. Kerner said he would add directional signs for the pool amongst the displayed signage. Board member Petty felt the Select Board members should be clearer in future about what information they might require before authorizing such a street closure. She also felt sufficient advance warning from applicants would be helpful as well. Board member Petty then asked why this particular event required closing the street to vehicular traffic. Mr. Kerner said they will have a live band on hand that is a bit larger than the ones they have engaged previously. He also expects a large crowd (± 200 people) to attend and that is another reason they require larger outside space. The band will play from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and the temporary traffic barriers, etc. will start being removed when the concert ends. Board member Petty is also concerned that such a large crowd might create parking problems in the vicinity of East Street. She thought it might be beneficial to direct event attendees to park further away in designated areas. Mr. Kerner said they could post a map on their social media showing where public parking is recommended. Chair Morse said the current Main Street Water Main Replacement project recently closed East Street down for a couple of days. He asked if there were any problems then with the detour route making use of the NSB parking lot. Manager Schulz said there were no issues and no complaints from the public. Chair Morse noted this past closure was for much longer timeframe than the current request. Manager Schulz said Board member Maxwell could not be here tonight but has asked if requesting that the public to use this particular detour route could create liability issues for the municipality. Manager Schulz did not think so because there are easements in place that allow for use of this detour route when East Street is temporarily closed. Chair Morse said Board member Maxwell also has expressed concerns about private property being used for traffic detours and possible pedestrian and vehicular traffic safety hazards. Board member Maxwell also expressed his view that Memorial Park would be a better venue for this event.

Richard Wobby thinks the planned event sounds good but he also wants to be sure that the municipality doesn't take on too much responsibility in allowing the street closure. He felt the planned detour plan was good provided that approved highway standards are followed. Mr. Kerner said the same standards would be followed as when the East Street was closed earlier for the waterline project. Mr. Wobby also wants to be sure emergency services will have access to King Street, Turkey Hill Road, etc. throughout the event. Mr. Kerner said if emergency vehicles do need this access, the plan is to fold in the temporary walls to allow sufficient clearance. There is no expectation that emergency vehicles would use the detour route. Mr. Wobby said it might be a good idea to have a standby emergency crew on hand due to the large crowd expected. Mr. Kerner looked into this and found that this would be required only if five hundred (500) or more people were expected to attend. He believes the crowd will be about half that size. Mr. Wobby asked if portalets would be brought in. Mr. Kerner believes their own bathrooms and those next door at the coffee shop should be sufficient for the crowd size expected. Mr. Wobby asked if it would be possible to have thirty (30) minute limits temporarily established for parking spaces located by nearby business storefronts. Chair Morse said such signage could be installed but the restriction would be unenforceable. Mr. Wobby is concerned that nearby businesses might be harmed if adjacent parking is unavailable. Shannon Palone is the Pool Director and she also noted that this is the day that the municipal pool opens for the summer. She is concerned that people planning to use the pool that day might be confused by the NSB detour. Mr. Kerner said the detour signage will be worded properly to prevent any such confusion. As he said earlier, it also will include directional signage to the pool. Mr. Kerner said an additional handicapped parking space will be added during the event along with dedicated parking spaces for the nearby laundromat.

Board member Petty asked where event attendees should be encouraged to park that day. Chair Morse felt the parking spaces on Holland Place should be used along the vacant areas along Wall Street beyond the railroad tracks. Mr. Kerner also perform some outreach to see if the parking area at the Gray Building could be used that day. He doesn't expect event attendees to be present all day but rather come and leave in waves throughout the day. They have held similar events in the past three (3) years without problems. The main difference this time is the larger live band. Mr. Kerner said they plan to take photographs of this event in order to further promote their eight (8) years of business at this location. Board member Petty asked if this event would be held rain or shine. Mr. Kerner said it would. However, the current forecast is for sunny weather most of the day this Saturday.

III. DISCUSSION

- a. **East Street Closure Request (Good Measure). (4:20 p.m.)** Motion by Board member Petty, seconded by Board member Stevens, to approve the request from Good Measure to close East Street for a special event from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 21, 2025. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (UNSCHEDULED). There was none.

- V. **ADJOURNMENT.** Motion by Board member Stevens, seconded by Board member Petty, to adjourn. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth L. McCann

Kenneth L. McCann, Acting Clerk

A video recording of this meeting is available at: https://youtu.be/_lpMLbn_DBM

These minutes were approved at the Select Board regular meeting of June 24, 2025.