

Town of Woodbury Select Board

April 28, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Select Board (WSB) Members: Lizzy Higgins; Diana Peduzzi; Chris Casey

Town Officials: Robin Durkee –Town Clerk; Lilly Baron–Town Treasurer; John Gordon – Emergency Management Director; Skip Lindsay - Recovery Officer

Members of the Public: Goddard Graves

Media: Jerome Lipani - Hardwick Community Television (Meeting can be viewed at hctv.us or Channel 1080)

Chris called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Adjustments to Agenda: Move “Updates” to 7:00, before the “WSB work” and move the Executive Session 1 VSA 313(a)(3) to the very end.

Meeting Minutes – April 14, 2025 minutes were approved.

Public Comment: Goddard Graves, resident of Sand Hill Road, voiced his on-going (and previously reported) concerns about a residential lot up the road from where he lives with his wife, Sally. The property owner, Todd Walker, and another man (his brother?) each live in campers that may have questionable sanitary facilities. Mr. Graves is concerned that they are dumping their sanitary waste in the woods which is uphill from his spring. He believed that this is a major public health issue that has been going on for some time and asks that the WSB take some action. He asked how this mess was allowed to exist without zoning permits. (A check in the records shows that a permit was issued to Todd Walker for construction of a pole barn, on a pre-existing 2.6-acre lot he purchased in 2019 - and no permits since then.) Graves stated that Walker has accumulated a large collection of waste metal and other junk. He insisted that the town should be able to do something about this. The state and police seem to be powerless. There have also been complaints about open burning. Chris Casey, as Health Officer, and Paul Cerutti, Fire Warden, will be making a site visit in the near future to investigate and will report back at the next meeting.

Robin mentioned another complaint has come in regarding the state of the Gosbee property on Upper Herricks Cove Road. Diana visited the property last year when she was Health Officer and observed a lot of junk but no evidence of garbage. It looked like they had had a yard sale, under a tent, and left without cleaning it up, the tent collapsed. The owner hasn't been seen at the property for some time and his mother is paying the taxes to hold on to the property for him. This will also be visited by Chris, the new Health Officer and the owner's mother will be contacted by letter.

John Gordon, Emergency Management Director, reported having difficulties with filing federal forms without the “sam.gov” number. Lilly and Skip Lindsay have been working on that problem for weeks. Skip says that the office of sam.gov can't understand that the Town Office building does not receive mail at the Route 14 address. And that the building location and the post office location are at different zip codes. These problems with sam.gov are new – we have had a number that has worked for years. Regarding the buy-outs that John is working on – Diana reported that she was able to hire Sargent Law Office, from Morrisville, to do the title search required by VEM. They want proof of who owns the land under the original Fire Station. Diana and

Robin have done some research in the land records. One deed seems clear – in 1962, Edwin Burke granted “for one dollar and other good and valuable considerations” a piece of land to the Town of Woodbury for the use of the Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department , for their exclusive use “as long as said fire department shall be in existence.” The land is described as starting from the southerly side of the Town Hall, south for a distance of 50 feet, between two parallel lines running from the Kingsbury Branch to the Woodbury Common. The title search should confirm this, and thus the grant for the buy-out will not include the cost of the land, and no subdivision should be necessary.

Town Clerk’s Report: Robin attended a training by the Secretary of State’s Office, which is introducing a new elections system. She listed the other open volunteer positions still unfilled - including Health Officer, Tree Warden, Solid Waste District Board representative, Energy Coordinator and at least two Planning Commission seats. A Front Porch Forum post will be prepared.

Town Treasurer’s Report: For the previous two weeks – 4/15/2025 to 4/28/2025 - total cash received was \$6,892. Payroll came to \$17,293 and accounts payable totaled \$40,515. She and Brandy have been discussing whether some of the un-spent funds (like the reappraisal fund, the excess bridge funds) could be invested in CD’s to earn some interest.

Lilly plans to take vacation leave July 3-21, and Brandy has agreed to fill in.

Recovery Officer’s Report: with Skip Lindsay – Skip reported on the “Scoping Committee” study on how best to spend the FEMA funds remaining after the bridges on TH 23 and TH 24 are completed, There may be as much as \$500,000 that can be spent on approved flood mitigation projects. Four large culvert replacement projects top the list, three on County Road and one on Dog Pond Road. Two “Road Work and Bank Stabilization” projects made the list – One on East Hill Road and one on Cabot Road. Clean-up of in-stream debris on Buck Lake Brook, behind the Shattuck property, is also recommended. The next steps will be to request review by Jaron Borg, ANR Stream Engineer, and then Hydrology and Hydraulics studies by Vtrans at each site will determine the size and types of culverts needed.

Mowing Contract – Brandy has recovered the documents used last year and has edited them for use this year. Three local mowing contractors will be solicited and it will be posted locally. Requests for proposals will be sent with a response date of May 8 and the Board will review and make a choice at our meeting on May 12.

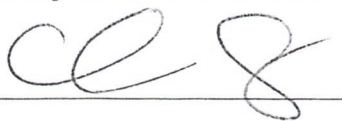
WSB Work – The board worked on some correspondence.

Other Business: The bills and payroll orders were reviewed and signed.

Executive Session: At 8:00 the board voted to enter Executive session to discuss an employee/employment issue as allowed in 1 VSA 313(a)(3). The Executive session was closed at 8:15. No action was taken.

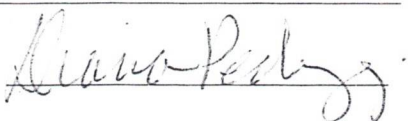
The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Chris Casey



Lizzy Higgins

Diana Peduzzi



Date Approved

5/12/25