

Town of Londonderry, Vermont

Special Selectboard Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, April 20, 2022 – 6:00 PM

Town Hall - 139 Middletown Road, South Londonderry, VT 05155

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda [1 VSA 312(d)(3)(A)]
3. Amend the Selectboard Rules of Procedure to expand public participation for informational meeting
4. **Informational Meeting on the Williams Dam**
5. Adjourn

Revised April 19, 2022

Posted and distributed on April 19, 2022

Town of Londonderry, Vermont
Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 20, 2022
Town Hall – 139 Middletown Road, South Londonderry, VT

Board Members Present: Thomas Cavanagh, Vincent Annunziata Taylor Prouty, James Fleming and Melissa Brown.

Board Members Absent: None.

Others in Attendance: Town Officials – Town Moderator Doug Friant and Town Administrator Shane O’Keefe. Others – Charles Johnston and Jeff Tucker of DuBois & King, Inc., Marie Levesque Caduto of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Ron Rhodes of the Connecticut River Conservancy, and Erin Rodgers of Trout Unlimited, Bruce Frauman and Andrew McKeever of GNAT, Cynthia Prairie of the Chester Telegraph, and those citizens noted below and on the meeting sign-in sheet, which is attached to these minutes.

1. Call meeting to order

Thomas Cavanagh called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

2. Additions or deletions to the agenda

[1 VSA 312(d)(3)(A)]

None.

3. Amend the Selectboard Rules of Procedure to expand public participation for informational meeting

Taylor Prouty moved to amend the Selectboard Rules of Procedure to provide as follows for this informational meeting:

- 1. Interested Parties will be permitted to ask one question of the Town’s engineer, Selectboard or Town staff, and then have up to three minutes of dedicated follow-up discussion after having been provided with an answer,*
- 2. A second such round of questions, answers, and follow-up will take place after all interested parties have participated in the first round, and*
- 3. The Chair may at any time increase the question follow-up time, seconded by Jim Fleming. The motion passed unanimously.*

4. Informational Meeting on the Williams Dam

Town Moderator Doug Friant welcomed those attending and noted that the purpose of this portion of the meeting was for citizens to be better informed for the vote on Town Meeting Article #22, which is “*Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 for engineering costs for the removal of the Williams Dam*”. He stated that the vote is about engineering costs, and he mentioned that there are several experts presents, who he introduced as follows: Charles Johnston and Jeff Tucker of DuBois & King, Inc., the Town’s engineering consultants; Marie Levesque Caduto of the Vermont DEC Watershed Planning Program; Ron Rhodes of the Connecticut River Conservancy; and Erin Rodgers of Trout Unlimited

Friant stated that the audience should be aware that the pandemic is not over and to continue to take appropriate precautions.

Cavanagh read the following opening statement on behalf of the Board:

“Good evening. We are here tonight to hear from the Town’s consulting engineer about the study conducted on Williams Dam and to allow you to ask any questions you may have to become better informed. The board in no way are experts on the dam. That is why, in keeping with the 2021 Town Meeting vote, Dubois and King was hired to conduct the engineering study to evaluate the condition of the dam and determine the comparative costs of its removal, repair, or replacement. After carefully looking at the results from the study the board has unanimously recommended that the dam be removed. The future of Williams dam is in you the voter’s hands, no decision has been made yet. I ask that everyone please be kind and act in a civil manner. Most if not all of us here tonight call Londonderry home and deeply care about our great town and its future.

I also need to inform the voters that while the board's intent was to have an article that could be amended to include any of the three options for the future of the dam, I regret to inform you that the wording of the article as it is written cannot be amended to say repair or replacement. After consulting with Town Moderator Doug Friant and the towns legal counsel the way the article is written does not allow for it to be amended, since amending it would change the meaning of the article entirely. On behalf of the board, I apologize for our mistake in crafting the wording of the article in such a way that it cannot be amended. That leaves two options for the voters to consider on Town Meeting Day. You can vote on the article as it is written or, if you choose, you can table or pass over the article until we can hold a special meeting where all options can be voted on at a future date. Again, I apologize and would like to reiterate that the boards intention was to have an article that could have been amended to include any of the three options for the dam”.

Engineer Charles Johnston gave an overview of the Williams Dam study to the meeting attendees.

Friant went over the rules of procedure again for those attending.

Individual questions and comments were posed by the following attendees: Patty Eisenhour, Fire Chief Jim Ameden, Larry Gubb, Cynthia Gubb, Rachel Febbie, Bob Wells, Bob Forbes, Pete Cobb, Steve Swinburne, Tom Platt, Conservation Commissioner Irwin Kuperberg, Hubert Schriebl, Fire Chief Jeff Duda, Gary Barton, Margot Wright, Vincent Annunziata, Kathy Mosenthal, Stephen Twitchell, and Conservation Commissioner Gary Hedman.

Questions and comments were posed and responded to by the engineer and others, including the following:

- What repair work might be required by the State of Vermont.
- The status of State new dam safety design rules.
- The extent to which the dam study considered impacts to surrounding area and firefighting water supplies.
- Criticality of the mill pond dry hydrant.
- Potential for use of the dam for hydroelectric generation.
- Interest in maintaining wildlife usage of the existing mill pond and wetlands.
- Concern about loss of another historic structure in the village.
- Whether dam removal would be beneficial to flooding impacts.
- Possibilities for fixing the slide gate to make the low-level intake structure operational.

- Local availability of older dam plans and reports.
- What would happen with the silt in the mill pond.
- Environmental impacts of dam removal vs. keeping the dam.
- Whether channel and bank erosion is increased by dam removal, and could it negatively impact the downtown district, particularly with septic systems.
- Ownership of lands exposed at the edge of the mill pond if the dam is removed.
- Impacts on flooding of Utley Brook.
- Amount of extra pressure that existing silt is applying to the dam.
- Cost of maintaining the mill pond.
- How the riverbank is replanted if dam is removed.
- Reliability and maintenance of dry hydrants within rivers.
- The extent to which dams slow water speeds.
- Example of dam removal on West River in South Londonderry.
- Wish to take more time for the community to decide on the alternative.
- Availability of funding for the various alternatives, other than through property taxes.
- The cost of engineering for the dam removal alternative.
- The propriety of voting for engineering funds for dam removal before a vote on which alternative is chosen.
- Whether to vote on the article or to pass over it.
- Whether the article can be amended at all.
- Whether there be greater availability of repair funding if the dam were considered a high-hazard dam.
- Possible impacts of dam removal on tourism and business.
- Dam access/safety restrictions for dam repair or replacement alternatives.
- Lack of municipal liability insurance for all but the dam removal option.
- Whether State rules will come into effect anytime soon.
- Financial burden to Town for failure to act by choosing the no-action option.
- Whether the State is considering removal of high-hazard State dams in Londonderry.
- Aesthetic change to the community if mill pond is removed.

5. Adjourn

Jim Fleming moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vincent Annunziata. The motion passed unanimously.

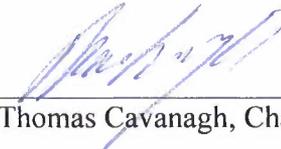
The Moderator and Board members thanked the attendees, and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM. The next regular meeting of the Selectboard is scheduled for May 9, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,


Shane P. O'Keefe
Town Administrator

Approved May 9, 2022.

LONDONDERRY SELECTBOARD



Thomas Cavanagh, Chair

Town of Londonderry, Vermont
Meeting sign-in Sheet

1/4

Meeting of: Selectboard
SPECIAL meeting

Date: 4/20/2022

Name

Affiliation

Shane O'Keefe

Town Administrator

TAYLOR PROUTY

SELECTBOARD

JAMES FLEMING

SELECT BOARD

Marty Trombetta/Phil Cloutman

Brian & Daniel Cobb

asst clerk & hobby

Bruce Frauman

GA AT

DAVE FRIANT

MODERATOR

Jon Rhodes

CT River Conservancy

Cynthia & Pamie

Christa Seligson

Julie Charlotz

Londonderry

Peter & Judy Platt

Woods AT

Cindy & Larry Gubb

One Londonderry
Resident/Planning Comm

Robert Priebel

SOUTH LONDONDERRY

Ryan HART

LONDONDERRY

R Korzun

Londonderry

Town of Londonderry, Vermont
Meeting sign-in Sheet

2/4

Meeting of: Selectboard
Special Meeting

Date: 4/20/2022

Name

Affiliation

Pamela Ameden

Londonderry

James Ameden

Londonderry Fire

Troy Maynard

S. Londonderry Fire

GEORGE MORA

S. LONDONDERRY RESIDENT

Lisa Scotte

Londonderry Resident A

Ken Alberti

u u u

Pete + Judy Cobb

So. Londonderry LURS

Jerr Do

S. Londonderry

Emily Underwood

S. Londonderry, VT

Roger Belliveau

Powder Mill

John W. Jones Jr

Cydney Glenn Underwood

Jeff Merrill

Londonderry

Chris + Andrea Leach

S. Londonderry

Irwin Kuperberg

S. Londonderry

TOM METCALFE

So. Londonderry

Town of Londonderry, Vermont
Meeting sign-in Sheet

3/A

Meeting of: Selectboard
Special Meeting

Date: 9/20/2022

Name

Affiliation

Bill + Esie Smith

Londonderry

GARY HERMAN

LONDONDERRY

Gary Barton

Londonderry

Dan McFenna

Londonderry

Patt Eisenhauer

Londonderry

STEPHEN L. TWITCHELL

SO. LONDONDERRY

Margot Wright

S. Derry

Marge Fish

Londonderry

Allen Korman

Londonderry

Bob + Bobbie Wells

So Londonderry

Neddy Cagen

So. Londonderry

Heather Swenson

So. Londonderry

Sp W Brown III

Londonderry

Esther Fishman

Kathy Meserole

Londonderry

Town of Londonderry, Vermont
Meeting sign-in Sheet

A/A

Meeting of: Selectboard
special meeting

Date: 4/20/2022

Name

Affiliation

Don Dawson

50. Londonderry, VT

Julie Sindle

Edgehill Rd Londonderry VT

Marilyn Pan

Edgehill Londonderry

Rachel Feltre

Adams Drive

Peter Dae

Pond Rd.

ROBERT FORDS

GREEN MT TRAIL
