



**Stowe Selectboard, Liquor Commission & Water/Sewer Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, May 22, 2024**

**Present:**

Selectboard Members: Paco Aumand, Nick Donza, Jo Sabel Courtney, Ethan Carlson  
Present via Zoom: Billy Adams

**Attendees:**

Town Manager Charles Safford, Assistant Town Manager Will Fricke, Police Chief Don Hull, Finance Director Cindy Fuller, Human Resources Director Charleen McFarlane, Tim Cianciola, Jenny Cianciola, Mila Lonetto, Lisa Hagerty

7 attended via Zoom

**Call to Order**

Selectboard Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

**Approval of the Agenda**

The Selectboard tabled Consent Agenda Item A-3 Stowe Cider Pre-Treatment Grant Agreement and Sub-Grant Agreement.

On a motion by Ms. Sabel Courtney, seconded by Mr. Carlson, the Selectboard approved the agenda. All were in favor.

**Consent Agenda**

1. May 8 2024 Selectboard Minutes
2. Walk & Role Grader Attachment Bid Waiver Award
4. Special Event Application - Roots 2024 Fundraiser
5. Special Event Application - Sound of Music
6. Water Allocation - 1189 Weeks Hill Road
7. Water-Sewer Allocation - 442 Maple Street

8. Water-Sewer Allocation - 4080 Mountain Road
9. Liquor Items

On a motion by Mr. Aumand, seconded by Mr. Donza, the Selectboard approved the consent agenda as amended. All were in favor.

### **Stowe Foliage Arts Festival Traffic Mitigation Discussion**

Mr. Safford said that the Selectboard had approved the Stowe Foliage Arts Festival special event application for 2024, but had asked the organizers to look at ways they may mitigate traffic impacts going forward. He summarized a letter from the organizer, Tim Cianciola. Ms. Sabel Courtney thanked Mr. Cianciola for doing his due diligence. Mr. Donza requested clarification on what Mr. Cianciola researched, specifically whether it was primarily busing people in and out of town, or up and down Mountain Road. Mr. Safford said they looked into both moving people once they are in Stowe and using existing systems like the Waterbury state office complex or the park and ride to avoid people from arriving in their car in the first place. Mr. Cianciola said traffic issues are not isolated to the weekend of the craft fair, according to the Stowe Traffic Study.

Mr. Donza said that while it is the busiest time of the year, the backup stems from going in and out of the show. The number of people in town is a different issue from the traffic backup on the mountain road. Mr. Cianciola said that the entrance to Topnotch Field could be widened to allow for cars to go in and out faster. Chief Hull said Topnotch is limited in what they can do at the entrance because of the drop-off from the highway. Mr. Adams agreed with Mr. Donza that the problem is the stopping of traffic on Mountain Road. He said that the Selectboard needs to look for event fields to provide access for egress in and out that doesn't allow traffic to be stopped. In regards to approving special events, he added they may want to look at certain criteria that events fields allow for not stopping traffic, and maybe prioritize events fields for events that do not require traffic to be stopped.

Ms. Sabel Courtney asked if the Craft Fair had looked into the Mayo Farm. Mr. Cianciola said it had been there in the past, but it floods. Mr. Safford said they did some mitigation work but had difficulties getting permits.

Mr. Safford said that if an events field isn't positioned to accommodate large events, the Selectboard may need to only approve them for smaller events. He added that permits to fix the Topnotch field entrance would be a State issue since it is access to a State highway.

Mr. Carlson asked why shuttling within Stowe is not feasible. Mr. Safford said that it is hard to find a place to park people. Mr. Carlson asked what the parking capacity is at the Topnotch field. Mr. Cianciola said they have 600-700 cars and have never filled the lot or had to turn people away.

Mr. Aumand said the don't need to make a decision tonight but need to figure out what issues need to be addressed. Mr. Donza noted the entrance to topnotch field and getting cars in faster. Mr. Aumand asked how far traffic gets backed up and how long it takes to travel there. Mr. Safford said they can observe it this year. Chief Hull said during peak times in the Fall it may take up to two-and-a-half hours to travel between the Village and the Resort. Mr. Adams asked about the year-over-year numbers on attendance at the Craft Fair. Mr. Cianciola said it tracks with hotel occupancy

Ms. Sabel Courtney asked if the Craft Fair is working with the Farmers Market, noting that the Farmers Market will be held on the Sunday of the Craft Fair at the same location. Mr. Cianciola said they are

encouraging them to not hold it that day, and that they share the field. He added that the Farmers Market tends to start earlier and there is not much overlap during the day.

Chair Adams called for public comment. Lisa Hagerty said they should look at paid parking in combination with a shuttle bus. Mr. Cianciola said the would like to have paid parking, but it would slow down the entrance to the field as people pay.

### **Manager's Report**

Mr. Safford provided the third quarter Local Option Sales tax and Local Option Rooms, Meals & Alcohol Tax results. He said that using the historical quarterly percent of collections data, this could result in an annual rate of \$1,230,428 for Local Sales & Use Tax collections, versus our projected budget of \$700,000. The Local Option Tax Rooms, Meals & Alcohol for the 3rd quarter FY 2024 came in at \$525,011, up 6% from the level for last year, the highest quarter receipt ever.

Mr. Safford provided a summary from VLCT of two bills recently passed by the State Legislature, S.55 – An act relating to authorizing public bodies to meet electronically under Vermont's Open Meeting Law, and H.875 – An act relating to the State Ethics Commission, State and Municipal Ethics. The Selectboard discussed the Ethics bill and noted their concerns about the inclusion of a "perceived conflict of interest."

### **Public to be Heard Non-Binding**

Lisa Hagerty noted that the Selectboard had not yet discussed the Short-Term Rental vote on May 1 and asked what the plan was going forward for implementing the ordinance. Mr. Safford said the tentative plan is to put the RFP before the Selectboard on June 12 before they solicit proposals, as he did not expect a full board tonight.

### **Executive Session**

Ms. Sabel Courtney moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel and real estate. Mr. Carlson seconded the motion. All were in favor. The Selectboard entered executive session at 6:15pm.

On a motion by Ms. Sabel Courtney, seconded by Mr. Donza, the Selectboard left executive session at 6:46pm.

### **Appointment**

Mr. Aumand moved to appoint Andrew Volansky to a regular seat on the Development Review Board. Mr. Carlson seconded. All were in favor.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Adams adjourned the meeting at 6:48pm.