



**Town of Thompson
Board of Selectmen- Minutes
Tuesday- July 18, 2023
Merrill Seney Room - Town Hall
and via ZOOM Online Meeting Portal**

- I. The call to order by Selectman Amy St Onge was at 7:01 PM.
Roll call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil Members of the public in person and via Zoom. DPW Director Joe Tkacik, Finance Director Bill Steglitz, Director of Planning and Development Tyra Penn-Gesek, Human Resources Director Michelle Giammarinaro. Members of Boards & Commissions. Recording Secretary Dotti Durst
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- III. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. **Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the 07-05-2023 BOS Special (Wednesday) Meeting carried unanimously, noting that in #V, First Selectman's Comments, the address was 929 Rivermill.**
- IV. Correspondence
 - A. Thank you from Town Scholarship recipient Aidan Zimmer
 - B. The Troop D Police Report for June, which arrive after the Agenda was posted, was read aloud by First Selectmen Amy St Onge.
- V. Selectmen Comments:
 - K. Beausoleil noted that required Field Inspections by the Building Inspector are so numerous that assistance seems important. The assistant must be covered by insurance. The Belding property fence is down right at the bridge, posing a possible safety concern; perhaps the town should install guardrails at least for the short term.
 - S. Witkowski: none at this time
 - A. St Onge: the grant funding for the Rivermill Brownfield cleanup (\$2M) and the overview of the renovation will be brought to a Public Forum at the Library Community Room tomorrow. EPA and DEEP will be represented as well as local, informed individuals. * Since the DPW Director is present, she asked that an agenda item be added. **Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to add a report from the Director of the DPW as Agenda item # VII carried unanimously.**
- VI. Citizen Comments:
 - Valerie Clark, Alm Road, *sent a letter to the Selectmen Sunday night. * Repeated previous comments: the Town Meetings calendar is not always up to date and conflicts should be avoided, to enable public participation. * An agenda item today includes the subject of neutering/spaying cats, which she opposes. * She requested a copy of the Trails map indicating which will be used for the RiMaConn event. * On Sunday, she issued a letter regarding an 07-12 incident on Alm Road involving a pick-up truck which she observed spraying unknown material; she considered it to be suspicious or even illegal activity. Her letter detailed the steps she took to identify what was taking place. She suggests that the vehicles of contracted individuals who are to spray vegetation along guardrails, where town mowers cannot reach, should be "signed" to inform the public and there should be advance notification to residents. A. St Onge: The Conservation Officer and Director of the DPW will collaborate to determine if a Town Policy can apply here.

- VII. DPW Director Joe Tkacik Report: * Included detailed updates for work being done on specific roads; noting that when the subcontractors have completed their portion of an area, the town workers will come in to finish up the detail work. * Inventory was completed of the private roads, in order to prepare for plowing as is provided for in the 2011 Policy, when snow accumulation meets the stated conditions; some need to be brought up to standard, structurally. * Question from K. Beausoleil regarding portable electronic speed limit signs with radar, which seem to no longer being obeyed. J. Tkacik: the state must approve relocations through “registration” which links to GPS. Perhaps quarterly relocation or seasonally would help, so different people’s drive patterns would encounter them. Resurfaced roads do sometimes result in increased speeds. Question about roadside weed spraying: a map is provided to a contractor, with focus on guardrail locations. The town is also required to keep the areas under powerlines cleared, which could be done by some trimming and some spraying. Thus, the town sprays along some town roadsides. The Director will look once more at specific alternatives. * Reminder: the summer workers’ budget line was cut by ½, yet the regular staff are very busy with their own work on rebuilding roads and their surfaces. The Director was thanked for his report.
- VIII. Bid Award: 65 Main Street Roof- one bid came in; the Committee recommended this contractor, which has been awarded other bids in Thompson and whose work is known. **Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by A. St Onge to award the bid in the amount of \$43,900 to Young Developers, LLC, carried unanimously.**
- IX. RFP– Open Bids:
Five bids were received for the 65 Main Street Abatement & Selective Demolition project:
* Acme Contractors Inc, Beeches Lane, Woodstock
* A Vets Demo LLC, Vernon
* Levy Enterprises Inc, Berlin
* BesTech Environmental, Ellington
* New England Yankee Construction, West Haven
They will be sent to the Committee for review.
- X. Road Use – Noting that the RiMaConn event has taken place for several years successfully and insurance coverage is in place:
Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve use of the listed Thompson roads on Saturday, 08-28-2023, for the RiMaConn Relay Run carried unanimously
- XI. Re-appointments:
Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to renew appointments to the Agriculture Commission for Valerie S. Clark, Jonathan Eddy, and Daniel Kelley through 08-21-2028 carried unanimously.
- XII. Smoking/Vaping Policy: H. R. Director Michelle Giammarinaro created a draft policy for BOS review; there was previously a policy, but it needs to be broadened with the current vaping and legalized marijuana use. This is for staff and visitor safety, and applies to all town structures and properties, inside town vehicles and other locations. All staff will sign off on accepting the Policy. The Schools already have a strict Policy in place, as mandated

by the State. S. Witkowski asked for a copy of the previous policy and the proposed modifications.

- XIII. Cat Spay/Neuter Ordinance: The Animal Control Officer has observed a high number of feral cats in town, which roam and breed, uncontrolled. She provided a model Ordinance which can provide a starting point for discussion in Thompson. When NECCOG handled animal control for Thompson, they had a Trap/Neuter/Release program, in order to control the population. It is recognized that feral cats do result in a negative financial impact to the town. The ACO is setting up a detailed work log, by category of call.
- XIV. Other Business: none
- XV. Citizen Comments:
- Brian Loffredo, Lowell Davis Road: state roadside spraying is an acceptable control mechanism, requests that the public be informed; some people walk along town roads, and others walk their dogs. If the residents know spraying will occur within a given time period, they can plan accordingly.
- Valerie Clark, Alm Road, added details of the road-side spraying incident in which she was involved; she wonders if citizen volunteers could instead address the weed growth near the guardrails. * A cat neutering/spaying ordinance may bring unforeseen consequences.
- XVI. Tax Refunds:
Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to accept the Tax Refunds as presented for a total of \$281.59 carried unanimously.
Ryan Audette \$28.37 Robert P. Pepin \$19.76 CCAP Auto Lease \$233.46
- XVII. Executive Session:
Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to enter into Executive Session at 8:02 PM for discussion of "Salary of Town Hall Employee" with the three members of the Board of Selectmen, HR Director Michelle Giammarinaro, and Finance Director Bill Steglitz carried unanimously.

Executive Session ended at 8:31PM.
Motion by S. Witkowski and seconded by K. Beausoleil to request from the BOF up to \$15,000 for additional salary for the Wetlands and Conservation Departments carried unanimously.
- XVIII. Adjourn:
Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to adjourn at 8:32 PM carried unanimously.

To view the meeting, click or copy/paste to your search bar: <https://youtu.be/wUVJ4cyDryY>

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary *Dorothy Durst*

These minutes have not yet been approved by the Board of Selectmen. Please refer to next month's meeting minutes for approval of and/or amendments to these minutes.