



TOWN OF THOMPSON
Board of Selectmen – Minutes
Tuesday - August 1, 2023
Merrill Seney Room - Town Hall
and via ZOOM Online Meeting Portal

- I. The call to order by First Selectman Amy St Onge was at 7:01 PM
Role call: First Selectman Amy St Onge; Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil.
Marls Butts (Wetlands Agent), Members of the public in person and via Zoom, 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 K. Beausoleil to approve the minutes of the 07-18-2023 BOS Meeting carried unanimously.**
 - B. **Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the Friday, 07-28-2023 BOS Special Meeting carried unanimously.**
- IV. Correspondence
 - A. Chamber of Commerce July Business After Hours -July 24, Windham Golf Course
 - B. After the agenda was posted: A FOIA request from Bill Warner was received today at 4:13
- V. Selectmen Comments:
 - A. St Onge: Weather necessitated rescheduling the Town Wide Yard Sale and the Concert in the Park. *Road-side spraying is being reviewed by Wetlands Agent Marla Butts. DEEP has been contacted for information. These herbicides are effective; the science regarding Roundup does not match up with public perception. The instructions for application must be followed, however. There is no mandate for signage posting or notifications of spraying. The town has been in compliance with all recommendations.
 - K. Beausoleil noted all the work the very active highway department has been doing.
- VI. Citizen Comments:
 - Sally White, E Thompson Road, observed that State regulation may not prohibit the application of Roundup, but that it might not be the right thing to do. * Recommends modifying the Animal Control facility sign on Pasay Road to include that it is a Town facility, more appropriately called a Pound.
 - Valerie Clark, Alm Road, thanked the town for researching and for sharing the DEEP memo about Roundup, with which she disagrees, noting that the spray has not been effective compared to the associated risk. * She asks that citizens be informed about possible Animal Control fees. (A. St Onge: yes, that is the purpose for putting it on tonight's agenda).
 - Al Landry, Randall Road, commented about the proposed VAD Ordinance, especially page 5 c/2. The town may want to re-consider embedding a fee schedule in an Ordinance, which requires a specific sequence of steps for modification. He noted an ambiguity in the time spans for the adjusted assessments. He credits the Planner for this document.
 - Bill Warner, Lowell Davis Road, asked about proposed Ordinances and the Committee.
 - Rob Mann, 15 Meadow Drive, *Spoke about Roundup concerns, including activities of people who utilize the roadsides for various purposes including possibly berry-picking.

* Cited the histories of town involvement with several specific Private Roads.

– James Clark, Labbe Road, offered comments about Roundup

** A technology glitch caused the audio to be temporarily interrupted (minutes 25-27 of the recording) but the video continued uninterrupted.

– Rob Mann, 15 Meadows Drive, discussed access to public beaches from private roads

– Regina Cross, 23 Burnside Ave, noted the situation involving access across private roads

- VII. Appointment of John Nolle as the Assistant Building Official by the First Selectman: Discussion. The BOS has reviewed the candidate's resume and letters of recommendation; he has been studying for the position while volunteering. A. St Onge noted that the Department cannot keep up with the workload; additionally, more office support is needed. K. Beausoleil believes him to be an ideal candidate; he should be officially on-staff and covered by insurance while working. The First Selectman will move ahead to appoint.
- VIII. Public Works Report – Private Roads Annual Evaluation: Director Joseph Tkacik presented a written report; over the month of July, he visited all of the private roads, and per town 2012 policy assessed each, making notes. The Town trucks must be able to perform the work required and turn around without intruding on private property. There must be a location for the stockpiling of snow. He noted that in an emergency, the DPW would respond, even if fewer than the customary 4" of snow had fallen.
- IX. Animal Control Department - Service Charges Discussion: ACO Erin Impellizeri 's memo reviewed the Dog Fund (outside funding) as well as the town Animal Control budget, noting greater outlay than income. She reviewed the feral cat situation, for which veterinarian's fees are high, as well as the costs to euthanize abandoned/ill or injured cats or other animals when no adoption is possible. She asks that fee schedules be reviewed and made public, similar to regional towns. K. Beausoleil: sometimes because the owner can't pay the AC fee, an animal is abandoned; some thought is needed about implementation.
- X. Smoking/Vaping Policy: Society has changed, and Policy modifications are needed. K. Beausoleil: the draft of Policy changes integrating vaping and other modern factors seems clear; he confirmed the Schools policy to be in place and consistent.
Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to adopt the Smoking/Vaping Policy as presented, applicable to all town employees, carried unanimously.
- XI. Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance: The FEMA flood map has changed, and the town must adopt the revision prior to September. DEEP and the town Wetlands Agent (who is present and adds comments) has reviewed it; failure to adopt will prohibit Federal grants and prevent property flood insurance. The revised Ordinance is ready for a Town Meeting. The assessor has added the data to the GIS topographical maps which are widely used. The Building Inspector would be the enforcer; the IWWA would serve if an appeal were desired. Application fees are determined by the BOS.
Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski move the proposed revision to the Thompson FEMA Flood Map in the Flood Damage Ordinance (formerly Ordinance10-0055) to a town meeting carried unanimously.

- XII. The VAD Ordinance proposal was reviewed; it provides for incremental tax increases as a mill building under renovation reaches certain benchmarks. It can apply only in the designated Rehabilitation District structures and specific properties which are Vacant, Abandoned or (tax) Delinquent. Several details and some precise language were reviewed, including those brought forward by a member of the public.
Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to move the proposed Ordinance to a town meeting was, after discussion, motion and second were withdrawn. Discussion: after review of several aspects of the proposed Ordinance, it should be published; members of the public will have time to look at it carefully and bring forward any other sections which should be examined. Then it will be ready for a town meeting.
- XIII. Proposed Town Meeting - August 29, 2023: No action taken
- XIV. Road Use – The Rev3 Triathlon, returning to Thompson, will traverse western Massachusetts to eastern Connecticut utilizing several Thompson roads, 09/16 and 0917
Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the use of Thompson Roads as requested for the Rev3 Triathlon Olympic Bicycle event, pending confirmation of appropriate insurance coverage, carried unanimously.
- XV. Other Business: none
- XVI. Citizen Comments:
 – James Clarke, Labbe Road: Regarding FEMA, asked if insurance companies will reach out to property owners in the floodplains.
 – Valerie Clark, Alm Road noted considerations for any discussion of Animal Control fees.
 * Regarding the proposed VAD Ordinance, requested a list of properties that might apply.
 –Al Landry, Randall Road, recommends publication of the ACO notices and options.
 A. St Onge: WINY facebook is a fast way to find owners of “found” animals and re-unite.
 – Celeste Guimont, Riverside Drive, if people paid for a Cat License it might cause the owner to avoid allowing their pet to roam.
- XVII. Tax Refunds:
Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the Tax Refunds in the amount of \$901.19 as presented carried unanimously.
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|---------------------|----------|--------------------|---------|
| Enterprise FM Trust | \$346.45 | Beshaw, Gary F. Jr | \$72.53 |
| Enterprise FM Trust | \$329.72 | Grenier, Jean P. | \$17.42 |
| Beshaw, Gary F. Jr | \$91.52 | Stephanie A. Mayou | \$43.55 |
- XVI. Adjourn:
Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to adjourn at 8:29 PM carried unanimously.

To view and hear the complete meeting, click or copy/paste to your search bar:

<https://youtu.be/x42jSNFkbnI>

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.