

Stowe Selectboard Liquor Commission & Water/Sewer Commission Meeting



Wednesday, November 20, 2025
5:00pm

Akeley Memorial Building
67 Main Street
Stowe, Vermont

Selectboard Members: Paco Aumand (5:30pm), Ethan Carlson, Beth Gadbois, Jo Sabel Courtney, Nick Donza

In-Person Attendees: Town Manager Charles Safford, Assistant Town Manager Will Fricke, Fire & Rescue Chief Ed Webster, Fire & Rescue Assistant Chief Scott Brinkman, Parks & Recreation Director Matt Frazee, Public Works Director Harry Shepard, Marie Kingsbury, Charles Roscioli-Barran (8)

Zoom Attendees: Mark Vandenberg, Matt Krasnow, Barb Puddicombe (3)

Call to Order

Vice Chair Ethan Carlson called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Sabel Courtney moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Gadbois seconded. Motion carried (4-0).

Executive Session

Ms. Gadbois moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel. Mr. Donza seconded. Motion carried (4-0).

The Selectboard entered executive session and 5:00pm and left at 5:15pm.

The Selectboard recessed the meeting at 5:15pm and returned at 5:30pm. Mr. Aumand joined the meeting at 5:30pm.

Mr. Carlson moved to appoint Marie Kingsbury and Charles Roscioli-Barran to the Recreation Commission. Ms. Gadbois seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Consent Agenda (Items A-1 through A-7)

1. November 5, 2025 Selectboard Minutes
2. Moscow Fields Playground Purchase
3. Moscow Fields Management Plan Amendments
4. Rec & Quiet Path Dog Signs
5. Cape Cod Road Watermain Acceptance
6. Consecutive System Agreement-1613 Mountain Road (Sun and Ski).
7. LCPC Multi-Use Trail Letter of Support
8. Clarification on Housing Reserve Fund Article Language
9. Liquor Licenses

Mr. Carlson moved to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Sabel Courtney seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Quiet Path Hammocks (Item B-1)

Mr. Safford said the Recreation Commission voted unanimously at their November 5, 2025 meeting to recommend to the Selectboard to purchase and install four Duracord Rope Hammocks and Atlas Hammock Straps to be hung in the trees at the designated location on the Quiet Path annually from May 1 – November 1.

Ms. Sabel Courtney moved to approve the purchase and installation of four Hammocks at the designated location on the Quiet Path to be in use from May through October. Ms. Gadbois seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Newspaper Meeting Notices (Item B-2)

Mr. Safford said the Stowe Reporter gave notice to the Town that it would begin charging the Town for ads in the paper

as they do other towns in their service area. The Selectboard discussed which Town board meetings are warned in the newspaper and the specifics of legal requirements for warning meetings. Ms. Sabel Courtney said she has talked to people who want them to support their local paper. Mr. Aumand said from a standpoint of communication and managing overall finances he thinks they should continue doing all of their ads in the newspaper. Mr. Donza said the cost is not significant. He said the newspaper needs the Town and this is one reason why people buy the paper.

Mr. Donza moved to continue to advertise meeting warnings in the Stowe Reporter as the Town historically has. Mr. Gadbois seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Zoning Fee Rate Amendments (Item B-3)

Mr. Safford said that in October the Selectboard discussed raising fees to more accurately reflect the administrative time involved to issue permits, including the idea of raising zoning fees across the board by 20%. He provided an amended zoning fee schedule to the Selectboard and research on zoning fees in other towns.

Ms. Gadbois moved to raise zoning fees by 20% and to approve the amended Zoning Fee Schedule, effective January 1, 2026. Ms. Sabel Courtney seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

EMS Billing Rate Amendments (Item B-4)

Mr. Safford provided a memo Ed Webster, Fire & Rescue Chief, recommending an adjustment in fees to “align with current Vermont averages, and to establish a fair, sustainable rate structure reflective of the true cost of service delivery.” He noted the EMS rate increase take effect January 1, 2026. He also provided research showing EMS fees from other agencies. The Selectboard discussed the addition of fees for treat but no transport and issues with billing. Mr. Donza asked if there is an estimate of the share of transports between residents and visitors. Chief Webster said transports from the mountain and mountain biking accidents are typically visitors. Assistant Chief Brinkman said it is likely still more locals, including workers, than visitors but the ratio is closer to 50/50 than it has been in the past. Mr. Donza asked if there is a difference between those with and without coverage. Assistant Chief Brinkman noted that Stowe has an interesting payer mix. Mr. Safford said the Town doesn’t go to collections if someone doesn’t pay and no one is denied service if they can’t pay. Mr. Aumand requested that the research on fees from other towns and agencies be added to the record on the Town website. The Selectboard further discussed the fee categories and definitions.

Ms. Sabel Courtney moved to amend the EMS fees effective 1/1/26 as outlined in the attached memo. Ms. Gadbois seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Manager’s Report (Item C-1)

Mr. Safford said that this December is the 50th anniversary of Stowe’s adoption of zoning bylaws. He provided an article from 1975 on the topic.

Mr. Carlson moved to reschedule the December 3 Selectboard meeting to December 4. Ms. Sabel Courtney seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Mr. Carlson commended Stowe Mountain Resort for their early Friday opening.

Public to be Heard - Non-Binding (Item C-2)

No public comment.

Adjournment

Ms. Gadbois moved to adjourn. Ms. Sabel Courtney seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

The Selectboard adjourned at 5:55pm..

Notes

Minutes submitted by Will Fricke.

The Selectboard of the Town of Stowe meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm.

A recording of this public meeting is available at: <https://www.stowevt.gov/Government/Selectboard>