

Stowe Selectboard Liquor Commission & Water/Sewer Commission Meeting

**Wednesday, April 8, 2026
5:30pm**

**Stowe Town Hall – Akeley Soldiers Memorial Building
67 Main Street
Stowe, Vermont**



Selectboard Members: Paco Aumand, Ethan Carlson, Beth Gadbois, Jo Sabel Courtney, Nick Donza

Staff: Town Manager Charles Safford, Assistant Town Manager Will Fricke, Public Works Director Harry Shepard, Planning & Zoning Director Sarah McShane, SED General Manager Jackie Pratt, Town Attorney David Rugh (6)

Public: Graham Mink, Paul Sakash, Tif Donza, Catherine Gott, Tom Rogers (5)

Zoom: Elizabeth Sherman, Michael (last unk.), Josi Kytle, Alex Eiser, Erica Loomis, Jonathan (last unk.), Mila Lonetto, Sheri Baraw Smith, Terrie Wehse, Deb Drinkwater (10)

Call to Order

Chair Ethan Carlson called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Consent Agenda (Items A-1 through A-3)

1. Selectboard Minutes – March 25, 2026
2. Stowe Electric USDA Pace Loan
3. Stowe Nordic Cooperative Agreement Renewal
4. Special Event Application – July 4th Field Event
5. Stowe Hollow/Cross Road Culvert Bid Award
6. Stowe Hollow/Cross Road Easement
7. Public Works Development Agreement – Union Bank Project
8. Drinking Water PFAS Response Plan – Well Drilling, Construction, Development and Testing
9. Liquor Licenses

Paul Sakash asked for clarification about the time between the vote on the SED borrowing and the loan agreement, and how long the vote is good for. Ms. Pratt said the change in administration and government shutdown delayed the loan process. Mr. Safford said the vote on the borrowing does not expire.

Mr. Sakash asked about the discrepancy between the amount received from FEMA for the Stowe Hollow culvert and the cost of the contractor. Mr. Shepard said there are also costs associated with the easement.

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

Stowe's Charter Change Legislative Discussion – Representative Lipsky (Item C-B)

Mr. Carlson said Representative Lipsky ended up having a conflict, but said that he, Ms. Sabel Courtney, Mr. Safford, and Mr. Fricke had testified at 3pm today before House Government and Military Affairs about the Town Charter amended to increase local option taxes to 2%. It was noted the testimony went well.

Mr. Carlson went through the slideshow presentation they had presented to the Committee.

Mr. Carlson said going in they did not have hope it would go through, but there seems like there could be a chance for it to get out of the Committee at least. Ms. Sabel Courtney said if it did not, it would be for reasons out of their control related to larger issues before the legislature. Mr. Safford said that they had at least painted a good face to Stowe. Mr. Carlson said the feedback was that it went as well as it could have, but it will be difficult to get through all of the necessary layers this year due to time constraints. Mr. Aumand said that if communities have the economic elasticity to make it happen, why should they not be able to?

Mayo Farm Discussion with Conservation Commission (Item B-2)

Planning & Zoning Director Sarah McShane and Conservation Commission Chair Catherine Gott gave a presentation about the Mayo Farm conservation easement and associated potential renewal process. The Conservation Commission has begun the process by conducting a community survey and meeting with key stakeholders. A kickoff event is scheduled for June 8th for community engagement efforts.

It was noted that there are three options regarding the easement – remain as-is, amend, or terminate. The Selectboard could act on its own initiative and place an article on the Town Meeting ballot in 2028 regarding the easement, or a petition could advance an article. The Selectboard agreed to request both findings from the community engagement efforts and a recommendation from the Conservation Commission. It was noted that the Selectboard may not necessarily agree with the recommendation.

Manager's Report (Item C-1)

Mr. Safford said the Conservation Commission gave a Conservationist of the Year award to Stowe Elementary teachers. Also, the Town has released an RFQ for an inclusionary zoning consultant.

Mr. Donza asked if they could step up the July 4th celebrations this year in recognition of the 250th. The Selectboard discussed increased fireworks and a drone show. Mr. Safford said he will see what Parks & Rec may be able to do regarding fireworks.

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

No public comment.

Executive Session

Ms. Gadbois moved to find that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage, to enter executive session to discuss legal issues and contracts, and to invite the Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Planning & Zoning Director, and Town Attorney. Mr. Aumand seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

The Selectboard entered executive session at 6:40pm and left at 8:30pm.

Adjournment

The Selectboard adjourned at 8:30pm.

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>