Stowe Selectboard
Liquor Commission & Water/Sewer Commission Meeting

Wednesday, September 9, 2026
5:00pm

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

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

Staff: Town Manager Charles Safford, Assistant Town Manager Will Fricke, Public Works Director Harry Shepard, Town Appraiser Tim Morrissey, Town Attorney Matt Bloomberg, SED GM Jackie Pratt, SED Finance Director Sarah Juzek, Library Director Loren Polk

Public: Paul Percy, Larry Lackey, Josi Kytle, Amelia Murphy, Thomas Murphy, Ben Siefert, Mike Puddicombe, Barb Puddicombe, Harry Sacks, Robi Artman-Hodge, Lauren DiVenanzo, Brent McGlynn, Josi Kytle, Paul Sakash (14)

Zoom: Mike Giorgio, Tim Meahan, Don Jones, John Michael Schafer, Michael Miller, Elizabeth Soper, Catherine Crawley, Kelley Spear, Rich Scott, Leslie Adams (10)

Call to Order
Chair Carlson called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Approval of the Agenda
Ms. Gadbois moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Sabel Courtney seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Executive Session
Ms. Sabel Courtney moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues. Ms. Gadbois seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

The Selectboard entered executive session at 5:00pm and left at 5:34pm.

Consent Agenda (Items A-1 through A-5)

1. August 26, 2026 Selectboard Minutes
2. Bid Award – Weeks Hill Bridge
3. Special Event Application – Trapps Oktoberfest
4. Revised Organization Chart
5. Liquor Applications

Ms. Sabel Courtney moved to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Gadbois seconded. Motion carried (5–0).

First Reading Motor Vehicle Amendment – 3 Way Stop School & Pond Street Intersection (Item B-1)
Mr. Safford said that a warrant analysis indicated the that a three way stop at the School & Pond Street intersection is warranted.

Paul Sakash asked if emergency vehicles are limited to speed limits, noting that the ordinance does not specifically exempt them. Mr. Safford said municipal traffic ordinances do not need to exempt emergency services in the course of their duties from speed limits explicitly. Mr. Aumand indicated that the authority for emergency management to exceed the speed limit in the performance of their duties is authorized in State law.

Ms. Sabel Courtney moved to adopt the enclosed Traffic and Vehicles Ordinance for public hearing purposes, and to warn a public hearing for potential final adoption on September 23, 2026. Ms. Gadbois seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Stowe Electric Department VT Bond Bank Renewable Energy Loan & Revenue Borrowing Resolution (Item B-2)

Ms. Pratt explained the loan and bond request, noting that the SED hydro project qualifies for an Investment Tax Credit equal to 40% of the overall project costs, and will utilizing borrowing from the VT bond bank at 2.125% as a bridge loan to cover those costs in the interim.

Mr. Carlson asked what the impact would be on ratepayers. Ms. Pratt said all borrowing has some effect, but this would be minimal. Mr. Lackey added that the electricity generated from the dam would replace some energy they would otherwise have had to purchase.

Mr. Sakash asked about the total project cost. Ms. Pratt said it is just under $6 million, but added that they were required to either remove, repair, or replace the existing dam and that this was the most cost-effective option in the long run.

Mr. Aumand made the motion, having seen and reviewed the Selectboard Resolution and Certificate related to the issuance of the Stowe Electric Department's $2,400,000 Electric System Revenue Bond, Series 2026A, in connection with a Loan Agreement between the Department and the Vermont Bond Bank, I hereby move the adoption and approval of the Resolution and Certificate as presented at this meeting. Ms. Gadbois seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Ms. Gadbois made the motion, having seen and reviewed the Stowe Electric Department Electric System Revenue General Bond Resolution, providing for the issuance from time to time of revenue bonds of the Department in one or more series secured by a pledge of the net revenues of the Department's Electric System, I hereby move the adoption and approval of the General Bond Resolution as presented at this meeting. Ms. Sabel Courtney seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Ms. Sabel Courtney made the motion, having seen and reviewed Supplemental Resolution No. 1 to the Stowe Electric Department Electric System Revenue General Bond Resolution, authorizing the issuance of the Department's $2,400,000 Electric System Revenue Bond, Series 2026A, in connection with a Loan Agreement between the Department and the Vermont Bond Bank, I hereby move the adoption and approval of the Supplemental Resolution as presented at this meeting. Mr. Donza seconded. Motion carried (5-0)

Arts & Culture Update & Charge Amendment (Item B-3)

Don Jones reviewed what the Arts & Culture Council has worked on in the past year, including art submissions for town plan, building out an Arts and Culture action plan, preparing a new directory for art and artists, town plan section updates, reviewing a potential proposal for changes to the art in public places policy, and making plans for supporting declaration of inclusion with messaging.

Mr. Jones presented a draft charge amendment which would replace the seat formerly designated for Stowe Performing Arts with a general seat for an arts or cultural organization in Stowe. Mr. Carlson asked if designated seats were necessary. Mr. Jones said their sense is that because of the arts in Stowe are anchored within certain organizations it is important to ensure those voices are at the table. Ms. Sabel Courtney said the Stowe Theatre Guild should have a designated seat as well.

Mr. Aumand moved to approve the amended Arts and Council Charge, while replacing “An additional seat would be designated for an arts and culture organization that is based in and serves the Town of Stowe” with a seat for the Stowe Theatre Guild. Ms. Sabel Courtney seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Energy Committee Update (Item B-4)

Robi Artman-Hodge gave an overview of what the Energy Committee has worked on recently including town plan

updates and reviewing plans for a new EV charger. She noted they lost several members earlier this year and no longer have a quorum appointed.

Ms. Sabel Courtney said she is in favor of continuing with the committee but has concerns about staff time. Ms. Artman-Hodge said that for example there are grants out there for energy-related work but they are inhibited by the time commitment by staff to seek and manage them.

Mr. Carlson asked why the Energy Committee is run by the Town and not the Electric Department. Ms. Artman-Hodge said they work closely with SED staff on certain initiatives. Mr. Donza asked if being a Town Committee inhibited them in some way, noting that it may be easier to get members and they could be more nimble. He also asked if 7 was the right number, or if it should be reduced to 5. He said they face staff challenges and a lot is put on staff, and asked if there was a way to continue without having to use staff time. Ms. Artman-Hodge said that if they had grants they would need town staff to manage them. Brent McGlynn said it helps with recruiting to be a Town Committee. Catherine Crawley said it should remain a town committee as decisions are related to town policy, provides clear mandate to make recommendations that can be acted on, and gives a body for the committee to be accountable to.

Mr. Aumand said his concern with getting grants is it creates a lot of extra work for staff, and their enthusiasm for initiatives should be balanced against performance measures. He said he is in favor of keeping the Energy Committee if the charge is amended to reference tasks in the Town Plan and balancing cost effectiveness and performance needs long-term. He requested that the Energy Committee bring back the aforementioned suggestions in a revised charge statement for the Selectboard's consideration at a future meeting.

Mr. Fricke said that if the Selectboard reduced the number of Energy Committee members to 5 tonight, the Energy Committee could guarantee a quorum for their next meeting where they can discuss a proposal for charge amendments.

Mr. Aumand moved to lower the number of Energy Committee members to 5. Ms. Sabel Courtney seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Manager's Report (Item C-1)
Mr. Safford said there are events on Friday September 11 at 8:30am and 5:00pm for the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the attacks.

The Selectboard discussed their fall meeting schedule, tentatively agreeing to meet on 10/14, 10/21, 11/4, 11/18, 12/2, and 12/17 (Thursday).

Public to be Heard - Non-Binding (Item C-2)
No public comment.

The Selectboard recessed at 6:55pm and returned at 7:00pm.

Executive Session
Mr. Donza moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel and contracts. Ms. Gadbois seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

The Selectboard entered executive session at 7:00pm and left at 8:26pm.

Mr. Donza moved to appoint Tim Meahan and Amelia Murphy to the Board of Library Trustees. Ms. Sabel Courtney seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Ms. Sabel Courtney moved to appoint Christine Donovan to the Conservation Commission. Ms. Gadbois seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Ms. Gadbois moved to appoint Mike Giorgio, Ben Seifert, John Schafer, Sarah Manes, and Mike Puddicombe to the Housing Task Force, increase the number of members to 9, and to reappoint Ken Braverman, Josi Kytle, Scott Coggins, and Mila Lonetto.

Ms. Sabel Courtney moved to approve *An Agreement by and between the Town of Stowe, Vermont and the Stowe Police Officers Association Local 424 United Federation of Police Officers, 7/1/26 to 6/30/28.* Ms. Gadbois seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Adjournment
The Selectboard adjourned at 8:30pm.

Notes
Minutes submitted by Will Fricke.
The Stowe Selectboard 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