Stowe Selectboard
Liquor Commission & Water/Sewer Commission Meeting

Wednesday, September 23, 2026
5:30pm

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

Selectboard Members: Beth Gadbois, Jo Sabel Courtney, Nick Donza

Absent: Ethan Carlson, Paco Aumand

Staff: Town Manager Charles Safford, Assistant Town Manager Will Fricke, Public Works Director Harry Shepard, Planning and Zoning Director Sarah McShane

Public: Mila Lonetto, Paul Sakash, Susie O'Connor, Lynn LaFleur, and one other (5)

Zoom: Walter Frame, Leslie Adams, Billy Adams, Adrianne Johnson, Michael Miller, Missy Merrell Burgess, Nicolas Roscioli Barran (7)

Call to Order
Vice Chair Gadbois 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 (3-0).

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

1. September 13, 2026 Selectboard Minutes
2. Police Special Event Fee Schedule
3. Halloween Road Closures – Maple Street
4. Liquor Licenses
5. PACIF/VERB Meeting voting designee

Ms. Sabel Courtney moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Donza seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

First Public Hearing – Stowe Town Plan (Item B-1)
Vice Chair Gadbois opened the public hearing.

Leslie Adams Recreation Action Task 4, *Amend the zoning and/or subdivision regulations to require recreation facilities, including but not limited to, trails, pathways, playgrounds, conservation areas, water access, etc., to be incorporated as features of new multi-family development and subdivision projects. Such facilities should remain open to the public*, should be modified or removed. The Selectboard discussed the task, and it was noted that it has been included as a policy with generally the same language in previous town plans.

Billy Adams noted an error on page 21 in the description of the General Fund Capital Reserve Fund which incorrectly described LOT Sales as going to that fund rather than the General Fund.

There being no further public comment, Ms. Sabel Courtney moved to close the public hearing. Mr. Donza seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

Public Hearing – Traffic and Vehicles Ordinance Amendment 3-Way Stop at School & Pond St Intersection and Crosswalk (Item B-2)
Vice Chair Gadbois opened the public hearing.

Ms. Sabel Courtney said she appreciated the support heard from stakeholders and businesses.

Lynn LaFleur said it would be an inconvenience to have a stop sign at that location on School Street. Paul Sakash said there is no reason for a stop sign going up School Street.

Mr. Safford said the Selectboard could amend the ordinance the remove the stop sign if they feel it is necessary later. Mr. Donza said they heard from parents of kids let out of school and there are close calls with crossing the street. Ms. Sabel Courtney said that with the new development there will be more pedestrians at that location. Ms. Gadbois said it has always been uncomfortable crossing with kids there and there is a library and elementary school. She added that seniors walk there for the library and their safety is a priority. People in the neighborhood have expressed concerns about speed on School Street as well, putting out signs.

Mr. Donza said it is unlikely to add much time getting down to the village, but asked if it will back up traffic towards Main Street. Mr. Safford said if the Selectboard finds that to be occurring they can amend the ordinance, but the intent is that this intersection is going to get busier, and the stop sign will cause people to stop and look around at the intersection with lots of activity. The intent of the bulb outs is to calm it down. Mr. Shepard added that the warrant analysis specifically studied the possibility of traffic getting backed up to Main Street and found it to be unlikely.

Susan O'Connor asked if it could be done step-by-step instead. Ms. Gadbois said it is easier and less expensive to do when the area is already under construction. She added that the reality is that downtown pedestrian safety is a focus and you have to balance inconvenience with safety.

Mr. Shepard further explained the plans for the intersection improvements.

Mr. Donza said that sometimes the stop sign wouldn't be needed, but sometimes it is and it signals to drivers that you are in the village and need to slow down.

There being no further public comment, Ms. Sabel Courtney moved to close the public hearing. Mr. Donza second. Motion carried (3-0).

Ms. Sabel Courtney moved to adopt the enclosed Traffic & Vehicles Ordinance, with the understanding that the changes to the intersection will not be effective until the construction is completed. Mr. Donza seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

Manager's Report (Item C-1)
Mr. Safford said the Town conducted a successful yield test at the Barrows Road waterworks project site, and that water quality tests are still remaining.

Mr. Safford said the Town received 1,850 STR registrations prior to the cap implementation, including some 300 +/- commercial lodging facility units that will not be renewed next year due to ordinance changes.

Mr. Safford provided General, Water, and Wastewater fund actuals.

Mr. Safford said the Town Clerk's office will temporarily not provide passport services due to not having a staff person to conduct them.

Public to be Heard - Non-Binding (Item C-2)
Ms. Gadbois asked when the budget process will begin. Mr. Safford said on 10/21 he will provide a big-picture overview and the formal presentation will be on 12/17.

Ms. Gadbois asked that staff gather information on STR fees in other municipalities.

Paul Sakash said there are a few street signs that are crooked in the Cape Cod / Weeks Hill area. He also said the Town's ATV is driving on the road without the visibility triangle.

Leslie Adams asked that staff show how much money has been generated from STR fees and how much has been paid for software and related staff time.

Executive Session
Ms. Sabel Courtney moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues. Mr. Donza seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

The Selectboard entered executive session at 6:28pm and left at 6:33pm.

Mr. Donza moved to authorize the Town Manager to execute the Settlement Agreement in Stowe Country Club, LLC v. Town of Stowe, Case No. 24-CV-04625, in substantially the form presented to the Board, and authorize Town Counsel and staff to take the steps necessary to carry it out. Ms. Sabel Courtney seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

Adjournment
The Selectboard adjourned at 6:35pm.

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