Stowe Selectboard
Liquor Commission & Water/Sewer Commission Meeting

Wednesday, November 18, 2026
5:00pm

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

Selectboard Members: Ethan Carlson (Zoom), Beth Gadbois, Paco Aumand, 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

Public: Alec Jones, Dean Roy, Scott Reeves, Paul Sakash, Renee Mitchell, Marina Meerburg, Heather Snyder, Jeff Sereni, Josh Hanford, Jed Lipsky (10)

Zoom: Carson Comeau, Rachel Cosby, Scott Jerzak, Barbara Puddicombe, Elizabeth Sherman, Lyn Goldsmith, Michael Miller, and one other (8)

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

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

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

The Selectboard entered executive session at 5:02pm and left at 5:28pm.

Consent Agenda (Items A-1 through A-6)

1. November 4, 2026 Selectboard Minutes
2. Stowe Land Trust Mayo Farm & Hunnewell Meadow Sign
3. Stowe Morrisville Bike Path Grant Letter of Support
4. Interfaith Holiday Display
5. Board of Civil Authority Appointment
6. Liquor Licenses

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

Town Plan Public Hearing (Item B-1)
Vice Chair Gadbois opened the public hearing. There was no public comment.

Mr. Aumand moved to close the public hearing. Mr. Donza seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Mr. Aumand moved to adopt the Town Plan and to seek regional approval and confirmation from LCPC of the Town Plan and Enhanced Energy Plan. Ms. Sabel Courtney seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Traffic & Vehicle Ordinance Proposed Amendment to Lower Speed Limit on North Hollow Road Public Hearing (Item B-2)
Vice Chair Gadbois opened the public hearing. Paul Sakash asked why LCPC helped with the warrant analysis and if it cost anything. Mr. Safford said the Town pays LCPC dues and speed studies used by an engineer as part of a warrant analysis are part of the expert services they provide.

Mr. Aumand moved to close the public hearing. Ms. Sabel Courtney seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Ms. Sabel Courtney moved to adopt the enclosed Traffic & Vehicles Ordinance. Mr. Aumand seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Special Event Permit Application – 29029 Trail Run (Item B-3)
Carson Comeau of 29029 explained the event, which involves three trail marathons over three days over three distinct courses. Mr. Safford said the reason they require a permit is because one of the courses crosses Barrows Rd. and utilizes Cady Hill, which is Town property.

Mr. Donza asked about police presence for crossing Barrows Rd. Mr. Safford said the Chief determined it was not necessary as the runners will be dispersed throughout the day but will work with them on signage to alert drivers of the ongoing race.

Mr. Aumand asked about their experience with visitors and spectators. Ms. Comeau said they don't have spectators and typically run 40 runners per hour, and often share the trails with others. Most participants come and stay at the host resort. Ms. Gadbois asked how many of these events they have done previously. Ms. Comeau said four. Mr. Carlson said he is familiar with the event and noted the volume is not like street races such as the Heady Trotter.

Ms. Sabel Courtney asked about the range of dates of the event. Mr. Fricke said there is just one date where Town property is impacted but the submitted dates include event setup.

Mr. Donza asked about the participant cap for the event. Ms. Comeau said they cap it at 280.

Mr. Aumand moved to approve the special event permit, with the understanding that (1) there will not be exclusive use of the Cady Hill property, (2) the permittee must remediate any trail damage that may arise from the event in Cady Hill and remove leftover temporary trail markers, and that (3) the Chief of Police may require the permittee to install and maintain proper temporary signage on Barrows Rd to alert drivers of the ongoing trail race. Mr. Donza seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Charter Change Regarding Local Option Taxes (Item B-4)
Mr. Safford said this time is set aside to see if the Selectboard desired to request the charter amendment bill be reintroduced in the next legislative session, as well as to give an overview of VLCT's policy priority on local option taxes. He noted that Rep. Jep Lipsky and VLCT Intergovernmental Relations Director Josh Hanford are in attendance.

Ms. Gadbois asked if Shelburne is planning to push for 2% as well. Mr. Safford said it appears likely they are planning to try to vote on it at town meeting 2027 per a recent article.

Mr. Carlson asked if there is any downside to reintroducing it. Mr. Lipsky said there is no downside, and that he is also hearing that a number of towns are going to seek the same authority. He said the town is dealing with a lot of infrastructure challenges in need of investment.

The Selectboard discussed the new legislature. It was noted that Andrew Perchlik, representing Stowe in the Senate, was selected to be Senate Pro Tem.

Mr. Hanford said the 2% LOT made its way into VLCT's policy priorities along with other revenue setting priorities and there is a menu of things to push for. The Selectboard discussed the VLCT policy priority document.

Mr. Aumand asked about the arguments in opposition to raising the LOT. Mr. Lipsky said there was reluctance to have the state give away additional taxing authority, or a perception of it. The Selectboard discussed the process of how the bill was received in the Senate. Mr. Donza said he found it ironic that the bill was amended to have 50% of the additional 1% go to a transportation fund, and months later the Town has a bridge fail that costs $1 million dollars to fix, which should have been a state project. Mr. Hanford said Vermont is the only state in New England which does not have some form of sales tax revenue sharing with towns. In Massachusetts, towns get half of what the state collects in sales taxes, in the town in which it is collected. Also, if they have another shot they would hold

firm at 75% and would push to not have a double fee. Mr. Carlson said the 50% split was a political move, but also said he recalled the thinking was that they had no chance and it went further than they thought it would.

Mr. Aumand said he is encouraged that the voters approved it, and the debate last year was important for VLCT to open the policy direction, as well for other towns to realize it is a worthwhile endeavor for those with the capacity and desire to move forward with this type of revenue generation.

Mr. Donza said he would encourage VLCT to do anything they can for all towns in Vermont to enable more authority at the local level, and that it sometimes feels as though they are making decisions with a big brother looking over their shoulder.

Ms. Sabel Courtney said the Hyde Park Selectboard was lamenting the lack of opportunity for LOT there. Mr. Hanford said there are some extremely small community that adopted LOT. It is all they have the authority to do and the question of how to get more authority to raise revenue. He added that cannabis sales tax is another issue, and if the cannabis industry wants more towns to approve commercial they should advocate to share the tax revenue with towns.

Mr. Hanford said that Becca White is the new majority leader on the senate side, and South Royalton in her district has had a bridge closed for three years, waiting for the state to replace it. Mr. Safford added that she was the lone voice who stroke strongly in favor of the charter in the Senate committee, and that he served with her on the VLCT Board previously.

Ms. Sabel Courtney moved to request that Representative Lipsky reintroduce in the new legislative session the charter amendment legislation as passed by the voters, and to support the VLCT policy priority regarding an additional 1% local option tax authority for all towns. Mr. Carlson seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Manager's Report (Item C-1)
Mr. Safford said with the North Hollow Rd Bridge opening, all projects from the 2024 floods are complete, totaling over $5 million of improvements.

Mr. Donza said a future project should be to turn the pedestrian bridge next to the Weeks Hill Bridge into a covered bridge.

The Selectboard agreed to discuss the January meeting schedule at the next meeting.

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

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