

**TOWN OF WILTON**  
**May 6, 2025**  
**SELECTBOARD MINUTES**

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Members Present: David Leavitt, Tiffany Maiuri, Keith Swett, Phil Hilton, Mike Wells, Maria Greeley (Town Manager).

**(FULL RECORDING IS AVAILABLE AT [www.mtbluetv.org](http://www.mtbluetv.org))**

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**Public Hearing- Gilbert Street Discontinuance – 6:00 PM**

**Item #1: Pledge of Allegiance**

**Item #2: To hold a Public Hearing on the Gilbert Street South Discontinuance**

Tiffany states there will be two public hearings taking place, the discontinuation of Gilbert Street South and ATV Access Routes. Tiffany reviewed the public hearing rules and received the consensus from the Select Board to proceed forward.

John stated in 2022 the road was paved and rebuilt with the intention of discontinuing the last one hundred feet of the road.

Charles Lord stated his property doesn't touch Gilbert Street South and is not an abutter.

Kathleen Mills stated the letter was unclear and is happy that she came to understand that it is just the last one hundred feet and not the whole road.

Tiffany closed the public hearing on Gilbert Street South at 6:04 PM.

**Public Hearing- ATV Route Access**

Public Hearing ATV Access Routes opened by Tiffany at 6:04 PM

Tiffany clarified it was the request of ATV Access Routes.

Sarah Baker, President of the Chesterville Ridge Riders ATV Club, and Scott Currier, Trail Master, stated they came in April to ask permission from the town to use McCrillis Corner Road to connect Wilton and Chesterville together. They have requested access of 156 to connect us all from the state. This request is contingent on state approval.

Debbie Joseph stated the public hearing was not posted in the newspaper or on the town's website, Facebook, or electronic sign. She mentioned how COVID shut down public events and caused less interactions. However, she stated we need to get back up and get feedback from citizens who are paying taxes in the town. She is asking for transparency and the opportunity to address changes that affect her neighborhood and herself.

Nathan Hiltz stated the subject matter introduced on the April 15, 2025, the meeting did not outline the specifics of the route being discussed. Nathan stated he went to the Town Office to request details of the proposed roads but has not received a response. He states the public hearing is being held without the public having been informed of the details of the proposed routes.

Carl Wegner stated he was not aware of the public hearing. He states McCrillis Corner Road gets lots of traffic and it isn't in good shape. Carl states he doesn't trust them, and they are noisy. He states it would be nice to be able to see how the proposal is written and find out what the process is to be more informed about what's going to happen. Carl asked how this request got acted upon.

Tiffany states we have an ATV policy on how to apply and then they follow the procedure of bringing it to the Select Board and then hold a public hearing. After the public hearing, the Select Board can take action on whether to open up the ATV route if they choose.

Tiffany stated in 2023 the town was asked if they wanted to allow the Select Board to hold that decision making authority. Coming up at the next town meeting in June, there is a citizen petition to put the power back in the citizens' hands.

Nancy Merrow stated she is disappointed she knew nothing of ATV access on McCrillis Corner Road. It is a great concern to her, she states she is already dodging speeding cars. She states she used to enjoy walking around Wilton, but she is now scared to do that. Nancy states she is concerned about noise pollution. She also stated it is her understanding there is an insurance issue. She states her uninsured motorist clause on her own car will have to protect her if she gets hit by an ATV that's uninsured.

Marge Russo states she lives on the most dangerous bend and there are a lot of accidents in front of her house. She states it's dangerous to put them on the road. Marge states there are a lot of young people doing crazy things. She states she cannot imagine the noise level.

Michael Haney stated he learned of this meeting from a private citizen. He states he is disappointed, and the government does not work well in darkness.

Kathleen Masterman states she is disappointed with the transparency around public hearings. She stated she has evidence that the original proposal for ATV access was introduced by private ATV clubs from outside the town. She states it was a big surprise when they found out what was going on during the lockdown. She states there is a lack of policing. She has stated she's called dispatch on the noise level and it doesn't seem like there is much they can do. Kathleen states it would be lovely if there was a way to be more transparent with the town affairs so residents can have some input in these decisions.

Bruce Parker states there are three major danger points. He states there is a narrow steep incline, a curve with a high dome, and a narrow road that is dangerous. He states ATVs aren't designed to be used on pavement. He states he has nearly been hit himself by people driving near the middle of the road. Bruce asked if this would allow them to go up Webster Rd. He states he doesn't want the noise.

Nick Santora suggested taking a video or picture with a date stamp. He states you can protect yourself by a video.

Richard Corey states he is very much opposed to this. He states the volume of the traffic has

increased and if it is opened up it creates more congestion and more problems. Richard stated he would like notices sent out to adjacent landowners. He states he feels it is the wrong decision to move forward with this.

Lynn Buchheit brings up the safety issues on McCrillis Corner Road.

Louise Hiltz stated she feels the town has not been transparent and hasn't notified public hearing.

Steve Barker states McCrillis Corner Rd is not safe at night. He asked the Chesterville Ridge Riders why they wanted to go on the road.

Scott Currier stated they have tried to get permission from landowners but cannot.

Nick Santora stated in regard to the speeding, he has a radar gun he is willing to lend out. Tiffany closed the public hearing at 6:31 PM.

### **Selectboard Agenda**

#### **Item #1: Action following Gilbert Street South Public Hearing, if applicable**

Motion by David/Second by Mike- to approve the order of discontinuance of the last one hundred feet of Gilbert Street South.

Keith clarified it was being moved forward to the town meeting.

Motion amended to include Keith's clarification.

Vote: 5-0

#### **Item #2: Action following ATV Access Route Public Hearing, if applicable**

Motion by Keith/Second by David- if public hearing not advertised, advertised and hold another public hearing.

Maria stated there was a discussion and would need time to verify the postings.

Tiffany stated hearing from the residents there was a lack of transparency and apologies if it was not posted.

Tiffany stated another public hearing for June 3rd will be held.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

Nancy Merrow stated she would like to receive letters.

David stated to follow the policy for notices required.

#### **Item #3: Minutes from the April 14, 2025 Select Board Meeting**

Motion by David/Second Keith: to approve minutes from the April 14, 2025 Select Board Meeting.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

#### **Item # 4: Minutes from the April 15, 2025 Select Board Meeting**

Motion by Keith/Second by David- to approve minutes from April 15, 2025 Select Board Meeting

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

#### **Item #5 Public to speak on a non-agenda item**

Nathan Hiltz stated the Town of Wilton was able to come into existence because a foundation had already been built here. Over time, the development of other institutions was even more advanced. These included schools and police. They were formed by being layered on top of foundational elements like family and community. Nate stated in the 1942 Wiltons annual report, academy principal explained "that it would never be possible for school to do its job unless the family does there job first". Nate stated it has been 60 years since there have been messages from schools and how long it's been since the school started the process of abandoning the community it had been built on. Nate states if we attempt to assess their situations just by focusing on the institutions rather than considering their foundations, we will not be able to diagnose the problems, let alone develop any solutions.

Maxine Brown stated the Vietnam Memorial traveling wall is coming to Farmington in July and they have asked for volunteers and donations from the community.

Mike asked Maxine to share the website with Maria.

#### **Item #6. AVCOG Community Resilience Discussion – Catharine Mardosa**

Catharine Mardosa, the Community Resilience Coordinator at AVCOG, stated through enrolling it made the town eligible for funding for different projects around resilience to climate change.

The town has received two grants for heat pumps.

Catharine passed around the original list of community actions and self-evaluations.

Catharine stated in the next few weeks it will be updated. She stated in going through these documents it's important to think about if your priorities as a community have changed and how we are showing we are making changes towards resilience.

Catharine suggests the community have input on what the priorities are.

Cindy and Catharine suggested holding a workshop at a public event such as the June Summer concert series.

Cindy stated she would like to get more input from the community. She states she would like to have a community garden but would need land and volunteers.

Maria stated Catharine is looking to have input regarding what our action steps for the next round.

Tiffany stated she would like to see some details on having it at the summer concert series to discuss further.

David asked what the timeline was for reapplying.

Catharine states after two years before the next round of funding opens up.

Motion by David/Second by Phil- to re-enroll in the Community Resilience Partnership.

Vote: 4-1 Passes

#### **Item #7: FOWL – Robert Rogers – Request for Town to be Grant Sponsor for 319 Grant**

Robert Rogers stated the Friends of Wilson Lake in conjunction with Ecological Instincts with support from the Town of Wilton, conducted a watershed survey of the Wilson Lake Watershed, the Pease Pond Watershed and the Varnum Pond Watershed last fall. The report identified roughly 129 sites that had non-point source erosion and pollution. The report is now available on the Friends of Wilson Lake website and at the Town Office. A watershed-based protection plan has also been completed. This plan is needed to qualify for grant money. The program is called the Non-Point Source Pollution Remediation Program. It is EPA Clean Water Act section 19 funding that's administered by Maine DEP. On the local end, a grant sponsor is needed. A letter was sent asking the Town of Wilton to act as the sponsor for the grant application. If the grant is awarded, the Town would act as a financial clearing house for the projects identified in

the grant. The role of the sponsor is to take care of small administrative tasks such as writing checks and submitting invoices. 174 hours for project management, 254 hours for technical consultation, and at the town's end 58 hours over two years. It's a two-year window starting in January of 2026.

There is a minimum match of 40%.

Motion by David/Second by Tiffany - support the town being the grant sponsor for the 319 grant.

David asked if there was going to be any payroll with this.

Robert states there might be invoices sent, but not payroll.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

#### **Item #8: Town Meeting Warrant Article Approval**

Motion by David/Second by Keith- to move as presented.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

Nathan Hiltz asked when copies will be available

Maria stated copies will be available on Wednesday or Thursday.

#### **Item #9: RHR Smith & Company- FY 2025 Audit Retainer**

Motion by David/ Second by Tiffany- to approve the 50% audit retainer.

Maria states this retainer is from the FY 25 Audit.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

#### **Item #10: Next Select Board Meetings**

May 20, 2025 – 6:00 PM

#### **Item #11: Other**

David states Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has a municipal grant program called the ATV program. David states he would like to work with the Town Manager to submit a grant application to improve the park and ride on Munson Road. The deadline is May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Motion by Mike /Second by Keith: to allow David to work with Maria in the grant application process.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

#### **10. Manager's report**

Maria appreciates everybody's patience as we are down a superintendent and finance director. Maria acknowledged National Clerks Week.

Election day is June 10<sup>th</sup> 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM for the June general and referendum election.

Absentee ballot applications may be requested at any time. Ballots are available May 12<sup>th</sup>. The deadline to request absentee ballots without providing a special circumstance or reason why you cannot be present at the polls is June 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Town Office will be closed on Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup> for Memorial Day.

#### **13. Adjourn**

Motion by David/Second by Mike- To Adjourn

7:18