

**Town of Wheelock
Special Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday, October 12, 2021, 6:00pm
at Town Hall and via Zoom**

Minutes, draft for distribution

Present: Selectboard: Jim Blackbird, Ann Lawless (chair)
Vanessa Seguin, clerk (via Zoom)
Citizens: "Daffy Duck" (via Zoom), Russ and Lorraine Poulin, Bobbie Jo and Richard Norcross,
Bill and Teresa Stimson, Galen Smith, Tanya and Bradley Brewer, Laurie Warden

Ann opened the meeting at 6:08, as attendees were still trickling in.

She asked for changes to the agenda. There being none, she brought up the sole agenda item:
Allegations of Violation of Open Meeting Law and Public Records Request.

She provided some background explaining the allegations and request were made by Carol Rossi and are included in the meeting packet posted on the town website for the Selectboard meeting on Oct. 5, 2021. The minutes of that meeting indicate that the Board voted to not discuss the allegations at the meeting and to authorize Ann to seek legal counsel. Ann reported that she did so and is following the guidance provided by Attorney Sara Davies Coe.

Ann made this motion, which was seconded by Jim:

We are now more aware of the requirements of open meetings, and that nothing that isn't on the agenda can be discussed, and that we must warn any meeting of the board, whether it takes place at the Town Hall, or at the Town Garage, going forward.

Following discussion, the motion was adopted unanimously.

Discussion included

- complainant should be present
- volunteer committees and the fact that they are subject to the same open meeting rules if authorized or sanctioned by selectboard
- procedures for getting items onto selectboard agenda
- warnings for meetings
- writing letters to selectboard
- importance of citizen's right to transparency
- agendas, minutes, and attending meetings in person as vehicles for transparency

Ann introduced a second motion as follows, but there was no second. Therefore the motion dropped.

I would like to thank Carol for bringing this to the attention of the Board, and advise that the Town will be best served with a Board that is more open, and that we appreciate her push for a more open government.

More discussion ensued on the above-mentioned topics and

- designated email addresses and cell phones for selectboard members to use for town business

- clerk as custodian of records can provide only her records where she is in the to, from, or cc lines.
- vacancy on the Selectboard
- thanks were offered to the board members and meeting attendees

At 7pm, Jim made a motion to adjourn. Ann seconded, so voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Lawless

Selectboard signatures:
