

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

December 22, 2025

Present: Pat Harvey, Chad Richardson (absent), and Mike Teetsel

Guests Present: Kristen LaPell, Julie Smith, Nancy Woolley, Orca Media, Bruce Jones, Deb Moore, Steve Hoffman, Donald & Jean Murray, Jake & Bonnie Wildwood, Ross Jaquith, Tara Murray, Walter Golub, Asia Kennett and Melody Balczon

Guests Present on Microsoft Teams: Orca, Martha Slater, Mary Fratini, and 2 other attendees by phone

Pat called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Pat confirmed the Open Meeting Law conformity.

Prior Meeting Minutes: Pat moved to approve November 24, 2025, Selectboard minute. Mike seconded. All in favor, So, approved.

Additions to the Agenda: Nancy asked to speak about a Tree Grant for the Park.

Library Updates: Melody shared the trustees are working on a large upcoming grant for the library and putting together a team to work on it. The grant is due in March. She thanked Mike for attending their last Library Trustees meeting. She said there are several events upcoming at the library and to keep an eye out for the information on them.

Energy Coordinator Updates: Jeff was not present. Mike shared what he had said with Green Mountain Power and the substation in Rochester has completed its upgrades to allow for more capacity use in Rochester. He also had updated information pertaining to the Resiliency Zone. He said he inquired about the delayed project and a rep will be in touch to see what it will take to get the project moving along.

VHI Management Updates: Asia updated the board that the boiler system is working well. She said Nancy Sanz who was the director for the Youth Center in Rochester for 17 years, has offered to partner with VHI to head up another Youth Center at the HUB. They are working on making that happen and getting volunteers to work with the kids and get kids involved starting in January. There has been a donated pool table, air hockey table and many other things left from the past Youth Center.

Selectboard Updates: Selectboard has been accepting opinions on the cell tower. Pat said that the issue on Jones Mountain Road has been turned over to the Town Attorney and he will be working on this road issue.

Approve the November Treasurers' Report: Pat would like to use the data at an upcoming Budget & Finance meeting. She had questions. Pat moved to approve the November Treasurers' Report. Mike seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Second Class Liquor License for Khalsa Market (Skip Mart): Pat moved to approve the Second-Class liquor license for the Skip Mart. Mike seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Tobacco License for Khalsa Market: Pat moved to approve the Tobacco License for Khalsa Market. Mike seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Tobacco Substitute Endorsement for Khalsa Market: Pat moved to approve the Tobacco Substitute Endorsement for Khalsa Market. Mike seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Driveway Permit for Myron Bowen: Pat moved to approve the driveway permit for Mike Bowen on North Hollow Road. Mike seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Addition to the Agenda: Nancy spoke about the upcoming grant application for the Communities Caring for Canopy Grant. She had submitted grants in the past and last year they decided to wait a year. She explained that this is an opportunity for the town park to receive new beautiful trees and removal of older trees. She said they select their new trees from Cobble Creek and are happy with their selection of choices. She is asking the board if they approve her proceeding with the Grant opportunity. The application is due at the end of January. Nancy said they are interested in planting new trees where the barriers were placed across from Skip mart and removing maybe 2-3 older trees. Pat moved to accept the application for the Communities Caring for Canopy Grant to be submitted on behalf of the town for the Park. Mike seconded. All in favor

Selectboard Letter to the PUC: The attached letter was submitted and read by Mike Teetsel.

Meeting adjourned at 5:22

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Smith

**COMMENTS OF THE ROCHESTER SELECTBOARD TO THE
VERMONT PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION (PUC)
RE: CASE #25-2931-PET**

The Rochester Selectboard is charged with the stability, sustainability, safety and growth of our town and our valley neighbors, as well as visitors from around the globe. We would support a cell tower here as long as it conforms to the Rochester Town Plan. The Rochester Planning Commission (PC) was charged with evaluating the proposed cell tower project for compliance with our Town Plan. The PC's assessment was detailed and comprehensive. It evaluated the proposed project against all relevant sections of the Town Plan. The PC's analysis of the project is attached to this letter.

The Rochester PC has concluded that the proposed cell tower does not comply with the Town Plan in multiple respects. In addition, the project application does not provide sufficient information to allow evaluation of certain other aspects of the Town Plan. As a result, the Selectboard cannot support the proposed cell tower project as currently designed.

Yours sincerely,
Rochester Selectboard

Pat Harvey, Chair

Chad Richardson

Michael Teetsel