

**Town of Bristol, VT
Selectboard
Minutes of Meeting
Monday, August 6, 2025**

Members Present: Ian Albinson, Joel Bouvier, Peeker Heffernan (Chair), Michelle Perlee
Staff Present: Gregory Faust (Town Administrator)
Others Present: Jill Marsano (VTUMS), Cyrus Marsano (VTUMS)

I. Call to Order. Peeker Heffernan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. Review agenda for addition, removal, or adjustment of any items per 1 VSA 312(d)(3)(A).

No changes.

II. Regular Business

1. Water Commission: Discussion on non-approved construction materials for an emergency service line repair for 21 South St.

The Water Commission discussed updating construction materials for emergency service line repairs, focusing on a specific repair needed at 21 South Street. They reviewed a draft policy allowing the use of plastic pipes with specific requirements, including tracer wire and compression couplings, to reduce costs compared to copper. Jill Marsano (VTUMS) emphasized that for this particular repair, she would only approve the use of plastic if all specified requirements were met, otherwise copper would be required.

The discussion focused on a water line installation project where the current line runs through a crawl space near a septic tank, making it difficult to replace. Jill explained that a new 70-foot run would need to be installed on the opposite side of the house to avoid the septic system. The Town inquired about the material specifications for the new line, which Jill confirmed was CTG (not rubber) with stainless steel inserts for copper tube size fittings. Peeker proposed bringing samples on Monday for review and entertained a motion to allow the South Street homeowner to use the specified material for the water line installation.

Cyrus Marsano (VTUMS) expressed concerns about using a petroleum-based product for water lines instead of copper, citing potential long-term health risks and unknown durability compared to established copper infrastructure. The Town acknowledged these concerns but emphasized the cost advantage of the alternative material, suggesting that copper is no longer commonly used in new construction. They agreed to further discuss the issue on Monday, with Jill reiterating the importance of including a tracer wire, access box, and sand bedding to ensure the line's future locate-ability, particularly given its non-linear path.

The meeting discussed a water line installation project near a septic tank. Jill explained that the current installation is too close to the septic tank, violating state regulations requiring a 10-foot separation. The Town proposed approving the project on Monday night, but emphasized that the homeowner, not the town, is responsible for complying with septic tank regulations. Jill confirmed that a contractor is scheduled for Friday, and she will be on site to witness the installation.

MOTION: *Michelle moved to allow the use of 3/4" CTS NSF Approved piping and related waterline materials, per the water operator's recommendations, for an emergency service line repair for 21 South St.. The motion was seconded by Joel and passed unanimously.*

III. Public Forum.

Fred Schroeder, a resident of Notch Road in Bristol, raised two concerns during the meeting. First, he inquired about the town's plans for a town-wide police department vote in the upcoming town meeting in 2026, suggesting that only non-village residents should have a say since the impact would primarily affect them. He argued that a town-wide police service would likely be more expensive due to increased staffing and equipment needs.

Second, Fred mentioned a previous discussion about Notch Road. He focused on a property owner's repeated non-compliance with zoning regulations, including unauthorized driveway cuts, illegal living arrangements, and potential plans for a new garage. Town officials expressed concerns about the property owner's history of disregarding permits and regulations, particularly given the property's proximity to a river and existing environmental constraints. The group discussed the possibility of approving a new driveway permit but emphasized the need for stricter oversight and compliance. They agreed to revisit the issue at the next meeting, with plans to address the property owner directly about his ongoing violations.

IV. Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ian Albinson, Selectboard Member