

Agenda
Warren Selectboard
January 25, 2022
In Person or Via Zoom
6:30 PM

6:30 PM – Public Comment

6:35 PM – Capital Budget Approval/FY 22 Budget Approval

7:00 PM – Warren Energy Committee – Lexi Leacock

7:15 PM – Approval of the Warren Down Town Designation Application Renewal

7:30 PM – Approval of Minutes for January 11, 2022

7:35 PM – Approval of Accounts Payable & Payroll Warrants
\$ 65,301.22 515,302.14

7:37 PM – Approval of Town Meeting Warning

7:40 PM – Other Business

Liquor License Renewal - Jiffy mart - Second Class

Ongoing Items:

Town Garage

VHB Project – Down Town Village Speeding/Parking

Covered Bridge

Pitcher Inn/Warren Store Parking

Warren Falls

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86807234751?pwd=NHUxWStuYWlvTW1WSnNIWVhOUXAzdz09>

Meeting ID: 868 0723 4751

Passcode: 188681

One tap mobile

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+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

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Minutes of January 25, 2022

Warren Selectboard
VIA Zoom & In Person
6:30PM

Members Present: Andrew Cunningham, Chair, Luke Youmell, Vice Chair, Bob Ackland, Camilla Behn & Devin Klein Corrigan.

Others Present: Ben (MRVTV), Lexi Leacock, Reta Goss, Erika (VR) & Cindi Jones.

6:30 PM – Public Comment – Mr. Cunningham commented that he has read through all the 100+ comments on the new Land Use Regulations. He commented the process was good and that the PC did a good job addressing all the questions.

6:34 PM – Capital Budget Approval - The board reviewed each line item in the Capital Budget. Most of the items were addressed earlier in the budget process. The Fire Dept had increased the Fire Protection/Stand Pipes from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for hydrant work, Fire Fighting Training & Personal Equipment from \$25,000-\$30,000, and lowered Fire department equipment by \$10,000. The Warren Wastewater increased due to the IDP 5-year renewal of the permit requirement and the Covered Bridge/Blueberry Dam increased to \$75,000 for the Covered Bridge Abutment Rehabilitation Project. Warren Public Safety Equipment Fund increased to \$2,000 with new changes on frequencies and radios.

Mr. Ackland commented that current paving plans are to pave the Sugarbush Access Road and German Flats. Mr. Ackland calculated the amount at \$80/Ton for a total of \$659,000. He did comment that Pike has been out to look at the roads and could go as low as \$75/Ton.

Mr. Cunningham commented that Town Planning allocation is at \$55,000 and with that allocation added to the balance of \$146,889.08 at year end, it gives the Town a good start on the planning process of a new Town Garage.

On the Highway Equipment Replacement Schedule, Mr. Ackland and Mr. Youmell commented that it has been a challenge in ordering trucks as there is only one supplier in the State of Vermont. He commented that the new truck that was ordered last year is due to arrive in March/April.

6:53 PM – Motion by Mr. Ackland to approve the Capital Budget Allocation request of \$834,000 as presented, seconded by Ms. Behn. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

6:55 PM – Approval of the Town of Warren FY 2022 Budget – Final changes were made to the Warren Highway Department Salary/Benefits line, Town Clerk Salary/Benefits Line, and the HRA Expense line. Mr. Cunningham commented that the Gross Budget is up 21.47%, however this budget falls in line with the 2019 budget request. Due to the pandemic years 2020/2021 the budget spending was lower than expected due to changes of spending.

Motion by Mr. Ackland to approve the FY 2022 Town of Warren Budget for \$3,977,734.00, seconded by Mr. Youmell. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

6:57 PM – Energy Committee Check In – Lexi Leacock – Ms. Leacock wanted to thank the board for granting a Conditional Use Permit for the KPAS program during the pandemic at the Warren Church. She has been meeting with the other Valley Energy Coordinators concerning the Energy initiatives that were passed by the State that are pretty aggressive. Last year Efficiency Vermont targeted the Valley for projects. Some of the things they did were:

- 1) Business and Home Visits for Energy Initiatives were successful.
- 2) They created an energy survey that 107 people responded to from the 4 towns.
- 3) Window Dressers Builds – Volunteers from the Rotary and others put window inserts together for homes. These are window inserts that are made for the window to fit into the window to keep cold weather out to reduce the energy consumption. They made 71 window inserts and the East Warren Community Market received 8. The Inter Faith Counsel provided money to provide to low-income households these inserts for free. There were 2 homes in Warren that benefited.
- 4) Create a strategic plan for 1-, 3- and 5-years receiving input from the Planning Commission and the Selectboard.
- 5) They partnered with the Warren Conservation Commission on a smart growth Grant through the VNRC. One is a rolling grant of \$1,500 and a \$5,000 grant to do studies and out reach on the wild life corridors. They have not heard back yet on that grant.

Ms. Leacock commented that the MRVP would be a good point of contact for finding information on grants for energy projects. She is currently getting data on where the Town is on energy use. She also asked how the Selectboard was going to use the ARPA funds. Mr. Cunningham commented that they are still in the thought process but have been looking at 2 HVAC systems for the Town Hall and Muni building, The Housing Coalition will be asking for money from the 3 towns to fund a coordinator. The funds are now not restricted as the treasury had first announced. The money can be used for anything at this point and the board is looking at long term beneficial needs of the Town. Mr. Ackland commented that he would like to see a proposal from Ms. Leacock on how to work on this, suggest areas in the Town, assist and provide guidance to the Town. Ms. Leacock commented that one take away from the work as been how to help weatherized, install renewal energy systems in homes with old heating systems. Ms. Leacock also suggested having a list serv where people can put in their information for assistance. She commented that Fayston has one and it works very well. Mr. Youmell will research this.

7:25 PM – Approval of the Warren Village Center Designation Renewal Application – The board reviewed the information sent over by the Mad River Planning District. The application is to renew the Warren Village Center Designation, originally approved by the Vermont Downtown Board on April 27, 2009, and renewed on April 28, 2014. There is grant money available for Village Projects, however, this is the first step to renew the designation and then apply for a project grant. (Complete Application is Attached)

7:40 PM – Motion by Mr. Youmell to approve the Village Center Designation Renewal Application for the Town of Warren VT, seconded by Mr. Ackland. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

7:42 PM – Town Meeting Discussion – The board discussed some options to consider: 1) In Person at the School, 2) In Person at the Warren Town Hall, 3) Moving the meeting to In Person in April, 4) Voting all articles by Australian Ballot. There was much mixed emotion about having Town Meeting as usual to restore the governmental process. The board came to the following: 1) In Person Informational Meeting, Sunday February 20, 2022 at 5:00 PM at the Warren Town Hall, 2) A Zoom Virtual Informational Meeting on February 22, 2022 at 6:30PM, 3) Vote all articles as Australian Ballot, 4) Send Information cards out to voters. It was also discussed of investing in audio equipment for the meeting. Mr. Youmell is working on that.

Motion By Mr. Cunningham to Vote all articles by Australian Ballot, Informational Meeting on Sunday, Feb 20, at 5:00 PM, Warren Town Hall and have a Zoom Virtual Informational meeting on February 22, 2022 at 6:30PM, Seconded by Mr. Ackland. All In Favor: VOTE: 5-0. The budget will also be posted on the Warren Website and informational cards will be sent out.

8:11 PM – Approval of the Town Meeting Warning – Mr. Cunningham read the warning containing all the articles for Town Meeting. All of the articles were the same boiler plate articles with no new articles. (Warning Attached).

Motion by Mr. Youmell to approve the 2022 Town Meeting Warning as presented, seconded by Ms. Behn. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

8:12 PM – Approval of Liquor License for Global Montello Group (Jiffy Mart) – Motion by Mr. Ackland to approve the Third-Class Liquor License for Global Montello Group (Jiffy Mart), seconded by Mr. Youmell. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

8:13 PM – Approval of Accounts Payable – Motion by Mr. Ackland to approve the Accounts Payable Warrants as presented for \$65,301.22, seconded by Mr. Youmell. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

8:14 PM – Approval of Payroll Warrants – Motion by Mr. Ackland to approve the Payroll Warrant as presented for \$15,302.14, seconded by Ms. Behn. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

8:16 PM – Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2022 – Motion by Mr. Youmell to approve the Minutes of January 11, 2022, seconded by Mr. Ackland. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

8:17 PM – Other Business – Letter of Support for Waitsfield Fayston Telecom – Roger Nishi, Vice President – Industry Relations of Waitsfield and Champlain Telcom is asking the Town to write a letter of support for their grant request to the State of Vermont on behalf of Waitsfield and Champlain Telcom. The letter is in support of broadband building fiber-to-home network in rural areas is quite expensive, and takes time to engineer, construct and build. They are seeking broadband grant funding from the State of Vermont's Community Broadband Board for \$1,173,522 to complement their investments and help to accelerate fiber expansion in the Town.

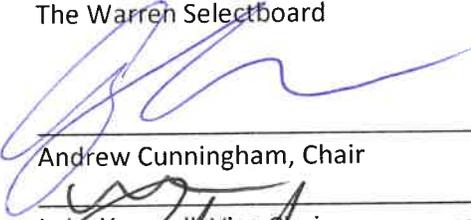
The board talked about how it would benefit the Town, local small business owners, and this also encourages home occupations. During Covid it has been challenging with virtual learning for many students and businesses in far reaching rural remote locations. (Letter Attached)

Motion by Ms. Klein Corrigan to approve a letter of support for the Waitsfield and Champlain Telecom for their Broadband Grant Application, seconded by Mr. Youmell. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

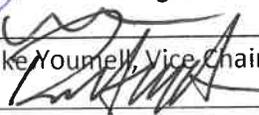
8:18 PM – Motion by Mr. Youmell to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Behn. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,
Cindi Jones, Warren Town Administrator

The Warren Selectboard



Andrew Cunningham, Chair



Luke Youmell, Vice Chair



Bob Ackland



Camilla Behn



Devin Klein Corrigan

From: Nishi, Roger
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 4:21 PM
To: Reta Goss <clerk@warrenvt.org>; Andrew Cunningham <propertymanagement@madriver.com>
Subject: Letter of Support For Fiber-optic Internet Grant Funding Warren

Hi Reta and Andrew,

Happy New Year! As you know, Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom has been making considerable progress expanding high-speed fiber-optic internet availability in the communities we serve. We are also applying for state grant funding to accelerate our fiber builds and need your assistance.

Building a fiber-to-the-home network in rural areas is extremely expensive, and takes time to engineer, construct and build. In 2022, we are spending almost \$10 million to convert as many customers to fiber as we can. We are currently seeking broadband grant funding from the State of Vermont's Community Broadband Board (VCBB) for \$1,173,522 that would complement our investments and help to accelerate fiber expansion in your town. In addition, the VCBB has created a community match that has a budget of \$16 Million. If Warren has State Fiscal Recovery Funds that it would like to contribute to assist in the building of fiber in your community, the VCBB will match up to \$187,763.

We are asking your help in sending a letter of support of our grant request to the State of Vermont on behalf of Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom. Attached is a draft template for your letter.

At Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom, we understand the critical role we play in connecting your community to high-speed Internet. The pandemic has certainly elevated the importance of rural broadband and the critical role it plays for our customers and the communities we serve. As a 118-year old, local Vermont, family-owned business, we take the obligation to serve our customers seriously.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions you have. We truly appreciate your support as we work together to build fiber-optic broadband throughout your community.
Sincerely,

Roger Nishi
Vice President – Industry Relations
Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom
(802)496-8336
rnishi@corp.wcvt.com

Your Letterhead

TOWN OF WARREN

**Municipal Building
P.O. Box 337
Warren, Vermont
05674-0337**

Copy

Office of:

Town Clerk
Town Treasurer
Assessor-Listers
Collector of Delinquent Taxes
Administrative Assistant
Zoning Administrator
Selectmen

Hours:

9:00-4:30 p.m.

Monday-Friday

Telephone: 802-496-2709

January 21, 2021

Christine Hallquist
Executive Director
Vermont Community Broadband Board

112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

Subject: Letter in Support of Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom Grant Application

Dear Ms. Hallquist:

Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT) will be applying for grant funding from the Vermont Community Broadband Board to complete additional fiber-optic internet conversions to the underserved and unserved residents in our community. On behalf of the town of Warren, I am writing this letter in support of their application.

Faster Internet would help our community immensely. For example, uploading large files, having reliable access to internet services including phone service for phones without adequate cell service.

With the expansion of home occupied businesses having access to speedy internet is essential. With the advent of Covid, both working from home and virtual schooling has become increasingly necessary and useful. Being a rural community, having access to quality internet service is crucial to support our equity goals.

Our long relationship with Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom has demonstrated that they have the history, expertise and capability to continue to serve our community. We request that the Vermont Community Broadband Board fully support the grant application and efforts of WCVT by fully funding their grant applications to expand their high-speed fiber network to the unserved and underserved residents in our community.

Sincerely,

Andrew Cunningham

Warren Selectboard Chair

CC: Robert Fish, Deputy Director, Vermont Community Broadband Board

COVID-19 Report for January 25, 2022

Total Cases: 100,092

Cases statewide in the last 14 days: 23,419

Breakthrough Cases Total: **29,993** since Jan. of 2021 as of

Breakthrough Cases per Week: **9,307** for the last 2 weeks

Currently Hospitalized: 101 with 22 in the ICU

Recent Cases in Washington County in the last 14 days: 1,012

Total Cases in Washington County since the beginning: 7,593

Deaths: 523

Death from Breakthrough Cases: **132** since Jan of 2021

Total Tests: 3,156,484

Tested in the last 14 days: 213,484

Total Completely Vaccinated: 475,200 80% of Vermonters age 5+

Total Vaccinated: 545,000 Ages 12+

Overall Progress w/ at least One Dose: 12+ is 99.0%

Washington County Progress w/ at least One Dose: 91% of the population 5+

Regional Numbers

- NY has 4,714,000 cases an increase of 487,000 cases
- MA has 1,563,000 cases an increase of 219,000 cases
- NH has 265,100 cases an increase of 41,500 cases
- Maine has 168,500 cases an increase of 13,300 cases

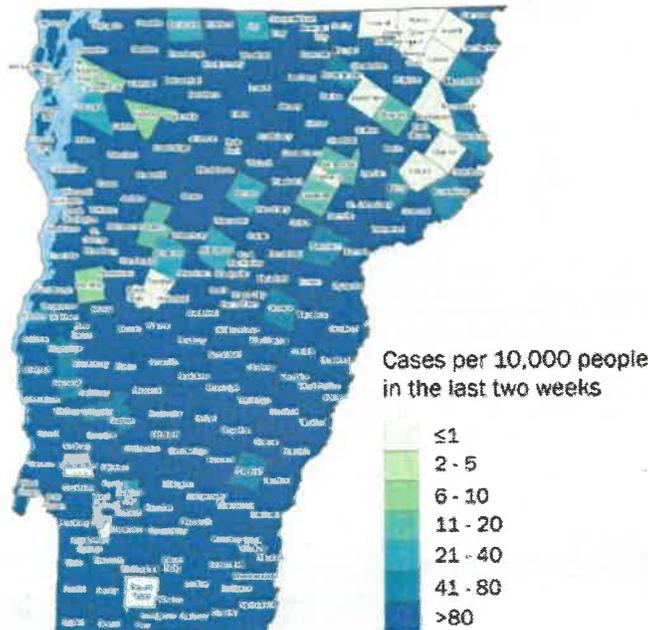
Regional Vaccination Numbers as of 1.21.22 5+ Population

- NY
 - Fully Vaccinated: 14,295,000
 - % of Population fully vaccinated: 73.5%
- MA
 - Fully Vaccinated: 5,234,000
 - % of Population fully vaccinated: 75.9%
- NH
 - Fully Vaccinated: 930,300
 - % of Population fully vaccinated: 68.4%
- ME
 - Fully Vaccinated: 1,037,000
 - % of Population fully vaccinated: 77.2%

Local Area

- Current cases counts in the area as of 1.19.22 (weeks)
 - Warren 134, an increase of 34
 - Waitsfield 268, an increase of 85
 - Moretown 169, an increase of 29
 - Fayston less than 5,
 - Waterbury 1,260, an increase of 479

Rate of Vermonters with COVID-19 by Town in the Last Two Weeks
Data from 01/06/2022 to 01/19/2022



Cases per 10,000 people in the last two weeks

- ≤1
- 2 - 5
- 6 - 10
- 11 - 20
- 21 - 40
- 41 - 80
- >80

Rates are used because they allow us to compare recent activity across towns with different populations.



Town Counts from 03/05/2020 to 01/19/2022

To protect the identity of individuals, towns with fewer than 6 cases are not included in this table.

Adirondack	10	Canaan	136	W. Ferrisburgh	7	Windsor	225	Wilmington	81
Albany	35	Canton	83	W. Ferrisburgh	628	Windsor	47	Windsor	275
Albany	156	Canaan	1	W. Ferrisburgh	52	Windsor	44	Windsor	142
Andover	22	Castleton	143	W. Ferrisburgh	11	Windsor	33	Windsor	384
Andover	451	Castleton	214	W. Ferrisburgh	7	Windsor	41	Windsor	539
Andover	25	Castleton	347	W. Ferrisburgh	8	Windsor	384	Windsor	334
Andover	154	Castleton	672	W. Ferrisburgh	63	Windsor	35	Windsor	371
Andover	18	Castleton	221	W. Ferrisburgh	8	Windsor	353	Windsor	287
Andover	85	Castleton	124	W. Ferrisburgh	61	Windsor	81	Windsor	79
Andover	1847	Castleton	78	W. Ferrisburgh	288	Windsor	93	Windsor	288
Andover	2,417	Castleton	4	W. Ferrisburgh	143	Windsor	34	Windsor	7
Andover	495	Castleton	53	W. Ferrisburgh	338	Windsor	49	Windsor	350
Andover	488	Castleton	130	W. Ferrisburgh	10	Windsor	23	Windsor	113
Andover	45	Castleton	174	W. Ferrisburgh	1,388	Windsor	54	Windsor	46
Andover	3,178	Castleton	21	W. Ferrisburgh	11	Windsor	177	Windsor	149
Andover	113	Castleton	681	W. Ferrisburgh	227	Windsor	48	Windsor	143
Andover	42	Castleton	1,212	W. Ferrisburgh	11	Windsor	14	Windsor	1,481
Andover	113	Castleton	342	W. Ferrisburgh	158	Windsor	34	Windsor	99
Andover	242	Castleton	470	W. Ferrisburgh	110	Windsor	14	Windsor	41
Andover	15	Castleton	363	W. Ferrisburgh	98	Windsor	1,294	Windsor	238
Andover	22	Castleton	151	W. Ferrisburgh	45	Windsor	17	Windsor	177
Andover	425	Castleton	5	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	139	Windsor	34
Andover	58	Castleton	781	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	17	Windsor	81
Andover	584	Castleton	4	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	11	Windsor	192
Andover	1,817	Castleton	124	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	36	Windsor	132
Andover	303	Castleton	148	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	11	Windsor	171
Andover	159	Castleton	148	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	11	Windsor	145
Andover	353	Castleton	8	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	11	Windsor	36
Andover	295	Castleton	14	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	11	Windsor	11
Andover	150	Castleton	363	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	11	Windsor	11
Andover	40	Castleton	148	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	11	Windsor	11
Andover	11	Castleton	148	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	11	Windsor	11
Andover	389	Castleton	98	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	11	Windsor	11
Andover	7,174	Castleton	29	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	11	Windsor	11
Andover	82	Castleton	98	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	11	Windsor	11
Andover	81	Castleton	14	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	11	Windsor	11
Andover	45	Castleton	14	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	11	Windsor	11
Andover	456	Castleton	478	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	11	Windsor	11
Andover	122	Castleton	1,114	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	11	Windsor	11
Andover	674	Castleton	190	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	11	Windsor	11
Andover	173	Castleton	148	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	11	Windsor	11
Andover	186	Castleton	488	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	11	Windsor	11
Andover	117	Castleton	148	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	11	Windsor	11
Andover	148	Castleton	147	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	11	Windsor	11
Andover	153	Castleton	148	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	11	Windsor	11
Andover	191	Castleton	14	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	11	Windsor	11
Andover	26	Castleton	78	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	11	Windsor	11
Andover	2,325	Castleton	14	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	11	Windsor	11
Andover	21	Castleton	14	W. Ferrisburgh	1,146	Windsor	11	Windsor	11