

**Village of Woodstock
Board of Trustees Meeting
August 24th, 2026
8:30 AM
Town Hall & Zoom
Minutes**

Draft minutes are subject to approval.

Present: Chair Lisa Lawlor, Brenda Blakeman, Jeffrey Kahn

Staff: Stephanie Appelfeller, Kitty Mears Koar

Public: Nicholas Seldon, Gary Smith, Matt Bloomer, Alison Taylor

A. Call to order

Chair Lisa Lawlor called the August 24th, 2026 of the Village Board of Trustees meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

B. Additions and Deletions- None

C. Potential Executive Session 1 V.S.A 313

Chair Lisa Lawlor stated that the purpose of the special meeting was to review the written notice of alleged violations of Vermont Open Meeting Law received from Nicholas Seldon.

Motion: by Chair Lisa Lawlor to find the premature general public knowledge regarding the Village counsel's analysis of a legal matter will clearly place the Trustees at a substantial disadvantage because the discussion will include confidential attorney client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal counsel to the Trustees. (8:31 AM)

Seconded: Brenda Blakeman

Vote: 3-0-0 passed

Motion: by Chair Lisa Lawlor to enter into the executive session with the inclusion of village counsel and Stephanie Appelfeller to discuss Village counsel's analysis of a legal matter as allowed under title 1 section 313 A1F (8:32 AM)

Seconded: Brenda Blakeman

Vote: 3-0-0 passed

Motion: by Chair Lisa Lawlor to exit executive session (9:02 AM)

Seconded: Vice Chair Jeffrey Kahn

Vote: 3-0-0 passed

Open Meeting Law Complaint

Chair Lisa Lawlor outlined the background of the complaint. Nicholas Seldon had submitted two written notices alleging violations of Vermont Open Meeting Law:

1. A notice dated June 6, 2026, alleging that his virtual hand was raised via Zoom following the Manager's report at the June 9, 2026, meeting but that he was not unmuted and was therefore denied the opportunity to participate. Mr. Seldon also requested that meeting participants be granted the ability to unmute themselves.
2. A notice dated August 12, 2026, alleging that at the August 11, 2026, meeting, Chair Lisa Lawlor instructed Eric Duffy to ignore his virtual raised hand on Zoom, and that the Chair refused to recognize him when he came forward in person, despite having called on another resident beforehand.

Chair Lisa Lawlor acknowledged that, to the extent the portions of those meetings in which Mr. Seldon sought to participate could qualify as matters being considered by the Village Trustees, inadvertent violations occurred at both meetings. Chair Lisa Lawlor noted that the

intent at the August 11th meeting had been to keep the meeting moving, as the room was needed for election activities at a set time, rather than any deliberate attempt to suppress public comment.

Prior to the vote, the public was invited to comment.

Mr. Seldon thanked the Board for meeting with legal counsel and acknowledged the Board's concession, noting that while the Board characterized the violations as inadvertent, he reserved the right to disagree with that characterization.

Motion: by Vice Chair Jeffrey Kahn to find that inadvertent Open Meeting Law violations occurred at the August 11, 2026, and June 9, 2026 meetings, and that the Village Trustees intend to cure said violations within 14 calendar days (9:08 AM)

Seconded: Brenda Blakeman

Vote: 3-0-0 passed

Chair Lisa Lawlor then asked whether the Trustees wished to cure the violations at this meeting or at a separately called special meeting within 14 days. The Trustees agreed to proceed at the current meeting.

Discussion of Preventive Measures

Chair Lisa Lawlor opened the floor for Trustees discussion on specific measures to prevent future violations. Mr. Seldon's request that virtual meeting participants be given the ability to unmute themselves was raised for consideration. The Trustees expressed concern that allowing participants to self-unmute would make it difficult to maintain order during meetings.

No motion was adopted on this specific request.

Chair Lisa Lawlor then introduced a policy motion to address the time-management issue that contributed to the August 11th violation.

Mr. Seldon argued that granting participants control over their own microphones was a reasonable measure analogous to allowing in-person attendees to speak, noting that disruptive participants could still be muted or removed from the Zoom session by the host.

The Village Trustees did not alter their position on self-unmuting but proceeded to vote on the adjournment policy.

Motion: by Chair Lisa Lawlor to adopt a policy that meetings will be adjourned and resumed at a later date if the full agenda cannot be accomplished in the time allotted (9:14 AM)

Seconded: Vice Chair Jeffrey Kahn

Vote: 3-0-0 passed

D. Citizens' Comments

Mr. Nicholas Seldon addressed the Board. He raised the following concerns.

Residency Comment: Mr. Seldon objected to a remark made by Chair Lisa Lawlor at a prior meeting in which the record was asked to reflect that he is a Town resident rather than a Village resident. He further noted what he described as a contradiction in the Board's position — that the Village and Town are treated as unified when it comes to financial matters between the two entities, but as separate when a Town resident offers feedback to the Village Board.

Financial Dispute: Mr. Seldon alleged that the Village is currently holding \$150,000 in Town funds to which it is not entitled, referencing an ongoing legal matter.

Manager's Conduct: Mr. Seldon alleged that Eric Duffy has been making statements to members of the public, characterizing Mr. Swanson as having rejected a settlement offer and as seeking an excessive amount of money. No Trustee responses were recorded. The Chair noted the three-minute limit had expired.

E. Adjournment

Motion: by Chair Lisa Lawlor adjourn the meeting (9:17 AM)

Seconded: Vice Chair Jeffrey Kahn

Vote: 3-0-0 passed

Respectfully submitted,
Kitty Mears Koar