

Municipal Corner – May 2023

**Short-term Rentals:** The Stowe Selectboard has heard considerable input regarding both the benefits and impacts of short-term rentals (STRs) in Stowe. The Board is tentatively scheduled to continue discussions, with the intent of developing a framework to guide their policy decisions relating to short-term rentals at their 6/14/23 meeting.

With this being said, there are several things you can do if you are experiencing an issue with a short-term rental that you rented or is creating a nuisance condition for you and your neighborhood.

Complaints can be made as a user or abutter to the Air BnB: <https://www.airbnb.com/help/article/3290> or VRBO: <https://www.stayneighborly.com/>

If you have a noise complaint you can call Stowe Police non-emergency number 253-7126. If you have a fire and life safety concern, you can reach out to Shawn Goodell, Assistant Fire Marshall with the Vermont Division of Fire Safety at 802-479-7573 or [shawngoodell@vermont.gov](mailto:shawngoodell@vermont.gov).

**Bears:** Vermont Fish & Wildlife and the Stowe Conservation Commission continue to do public education regarding bears to reduce bear/human conflict. You can do your part by ensuring that your trash doesn't become an attractant to bears by properly storing it in a secure building and/or using a bear proof trash container. It is important to reduce bear/human conflict by helping to ensure bears do not become dependent on human waste and continue to forage for natural vegetation. If you witness a bear accessing human-caused foods such as garbage or birdfeeders, you can report the incident on-line at <https://anrweb.vt.gov/FWD/FW/WildlifeBearReport.aspx>. Vermont Fish & Wildlife will follow-up on a priority basis from an education standpoint and enforcement should it become necessary for repeated infractions. You can find more information on living with bears at [www.townofstovevt.org](http://www.townofstovevt.org) or [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)

**Stowe Library Director:** Cindy Weber will be retiring as Stowe's Library Director at the end of June after eleven years in this position. Loren Polk, who is currently the Library Director for the Aldrich Library in Barre City will be replacing her. Please thank Cindy for her service and help us to welcome Loren. The Library Board of Trustees and Town of Stowe will be hosting a farewell reception in the Library Community Room from 3:00pm-5:00pm on June 28<sup>th</sup>. A reception to welcome Loren is also being planned for July.

**Stowe Clerk/Treasurer:** Lisa Walker resigned as Stowe's Town Clerk/Treasurer after nine years of service with the Town, with the last five as Clerk/Treasurer, to focus more of her time on her family business. Penny Davis will be starting as the new Clerk/Treasurer on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Many people know her as the Copley Woodlands Manager and may have gone to school with her at Stowe High School. Please thank Lisa for her service and join us in welcoming Penny.

**Joe Martin:** Joe recently retired as a truck driver with the Stowe highway Department after twenty-eight years of service. If you see Joe around Town, please express your appreciation for his service.

**Labor Shortages:** The Town of Stowe is a great place to work with competitive compensation. Stowe, like many employers, is currently experiencing staff shortages, so it is an excellent time to join our team. We are seeking seasonal and full-time employees for a number of positions in Parks, Arena, Police, and Highway. If you know someone who may be seeking an opportunity in any number of these fields, please have them contact Charleen McFarlane, Stowe Human Resources Director, at [cmcfarleen@stovevt.gov](mailto:cmcfarleen@stovevt.gov)

or obtain a job application on the Town website, [www.townofstowevt.org](http://www.townofstowevt.org). We ask that the public be patient as we continue to try to meet service demands with our current shortages. We continue to address calls for service on a prioritization basis.

**Selectboard Meetings and Agendas:** Selectboard meetings are open to all either in person or virtually. If you missed a meeting you are interested in you can see the minutes posted online and/or review the recording of the meeting as posted on the town website. You can have Selectboard meeting agendas sent directly to you by going to *Stay Connected* on the Town's website and clicking *Selectboard Agendas*. You can also see the packet of information that goes to the Selectboard in advance of their meetings on the Town's website under *Selectboard* and clicking *Agendas*. Meeting minutes from all town committees and commissions are attached to the selectboard packets in the Managers Report section. Planning Commission meetings are also able to be viewed virtually or via recording. Just a reminder that there are many ways to easily engage with your town leaders and volunteers.