



# TOWN OF WARNER

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Selectboard:  
Harry Seidel, Chair  
Faith Minton

Town Administrator, Diane Ricciardelli  
administrator@warnernh.gov

## Selectboard Meeting DRAFT Minutes

August 25, 2023

Friday, 9:00 am Warner Town Hall 5 E. Main Street

### I. Open Meeting/ Roll Call

9:00 am: Chair Harry Seidel opened the meeting.

**Present:** Chair Seidel, Selectperson Faith Minton

**Also present:** Town Administrator Diane Ricciardelli

### II. Deliberation

#### A. Selectperson Minton read the following into the record:

"With guidance from NH Municipal Association legal department, we worked to create a fair and transparent system to appoint the interim Select Board member who will serve until the March 2024 town election.

It was announced several weeks ago that interested residents could submit volunteer forms. We created interview questions, created a schedule for disseminating and receiving questions, and set up a public meeting for interviews and deliberating. The process took four weeks and we had a great response with seven volunteers coming forward.

I reviewed all the forms, listened to the volunteers at the interview and reviewed the answers they provided to us in writing.

My vote for the appointee is based on experience with the select board role as well as years of experience on boards and committees in the town of Warner. I vote for Allan Brown and feel he is a standout volunteer appointee and uniquely qualified at this time. I look forward to working with him and know he will be instrumental in helping us to move forward.

It's my hope that the other six volunteers will choose to get and stay involved in our community. There is an opening on the budget committee which would be very helpful for someone who might choose to run for this position in the March 2024 town election. There will be two seats open at the election in 6 1/2 months. I hope some of these volunteers might choose to be candidates then. Thank you all for your interest. As I said on Tuesday, we need all the help and support for our town. Faith Minton"

#### B. Volunteer Form for Selectperson withdrawn by Sara Colson

Chair Seidel suggested that the Selectboard respond to Sara's letter. There are more applicants that have institution qualities but Sara had other great qualities. There was honesty and thoughtfulness in her manner, a breath of fresh air; very friendly; I thought she was a great person who I hope will be volunteering in the Town.

Selectperson Minton will write a letter to Sara.

### **C. Review of Selectboard Interviews**

Selectperson Minton: We received the questions, interviewed everyone, is there anything else?

Chair Seidel: Review the candidates:

#### **Karen Coyne:**

Chair Seidel: I see she is here. Thank you for coming. I agree that trust is a major issue. I liked her views on active listening. Some other candidates mentioned this. She has a strong business background but did not mention that in her discussion of the Selectboard position.

Selectperson Minton: I thought how she answered about collaboration was good.

Chair Seidel: I could work with Karen.

#### **Romeo Dubreuil:**

Chair Seidel: A strong selection for selectman. I believe he is sincere and capable of doing the job.

Selectperson Minton: Agree. I hope that some of the candidates will run in March.

Chair Seidel: Many would be great selectmen.

#### **Krista Chamberlain:**

Chair Seidel: Krista has much to offer. She loves Warner and has the right temperament for the job. She is younger and has experience in state government, that kind of experience is helpful.

Selectperson Minton: Agree.

#### **Michael Smith:**

Chair Seidel: Michael has all the qualities. He is accomplished, and polished, and Warner is his Town. He bought a house when he was 17.

#### **Derek Narducci:**

Chair Seidel: I have worked with Derek on the (BA (Zoning Board of Adjustment). He is a very strong individual, has passion and vision. The story he told about living in Massachusetts, and I's growth was too fast for the town. That resonated with me. His story about his grandfather and the two children. He brings a pragmatic element to his decision. I think he speaks for the blue collar, but I think it is more than that. He would be a great selectman.

Selectperson Minton: I thought he was great too.

#### **Allan N. Brown:**

Chair Seidel: His institutional experience is actually in Warner. He has no agenda except to serve the Town now; he is not running; he sees the town and is stepping forward; he will serve with ease. I think that right now, the chapter we have gone through, Warner needs an Allan Brown. For me that makes a big difference. Of all the great candidates, and they are all good, Allan, Brown is the right person in my opinion.

Selectperson Minton: Truthfully Allan is the most appropriate person for me, based on his experience as SB (Selectboard Member), and EM (Emergency Management), Road Agent, DPW (Director of Public Works); he will be a standout volunteer appointee. Many candidates will run in March, and they can have the opportunity. Whomever we appoint now, they can run again, or maybe it will be just this period of time, especially with his experience in budgeting, and experience with the roads.

Chair Seidel: He knows the Fire Department, the Public Works Department

Selectperson Minton: I have known him for 35 years.

Chair Seidel: I just met him.

Selectperson Minton: I vote for Allan Brown.

Chair Seidel: I agree. How will we not lose these great candidates? All of these candidates, I hope that they stay involved. Planning, Zoning, or run for Selectboard.

Selectperson Minton: Budget Committee has an opening. And we talked about communication. There may be a way to draw some of these people in.

Chair Seidel: Maybe we can do this on our own – consider what positions they would be good for. I think Krista would be great on Planning Board.

Selectperson Minton: This was a unique situation where we had resignations. Hopefully this will not happen again. This set us back 4-6 weeks, but I don't think we could have rushed this process. The process gave people enough time to get in their volunteer form, work with NHMA (New Hampshire Municipal Association), all of our meetings have been public, and minutes taken.

**Selectperson Minton: Motion to appoint Allan Brown Selectperson until 2024 Town Election in March. Second by Chair Seidel. Passed – All were in Favor.**

Selectperson Minton will draft an email for the 6 other candidates, and hopefully Allan can be sworn in on Monday (with Michele Courser, Town Clerk).

Chair Seidel asked Town Administrator Diane Ricciardelli to contact Allan Brown.

Chair Seidel said he agrees that this is unprecedented in Warner, and the town has suffered; we have to build trust, and we can only do it one step at a time. Following in this process, coherently is helpful. Every time we run a meeting without something coming off the rails.

#### **D. Any Other Business**

Chair Seidel to Selectperson Minton: Did you want to talk about Zoom?

Selectperson Minton: It is not always possible to zoom every meeting. There is our regular Tuesday nights, and the Planning Board, and many meetings in the community.

Chair Seidel: Zoom is something that the Town's people want. Maybe when we have Allan. Some towns don't zoom at all. The issue I have with Zoom, is the minutes, we cannot afford to do verbatim minutes of Zoom. If the town's people want it, then it is a budget buster. We can talk about it. We can talk about it at the next meeting; add it to the agenda for next Tuesday with Allan.

### **III. Adjourn**

**Selectperson Minton: Motion to Adjourn. Second by Chair Seidel. All in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Ricciardelli, Town Administrator

Edits,  
Judith A. Newman-Rogers,  
Selectboard Administrative Assistant