

Town of Burke  
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Email:burke@burkevermont.org  
Regular Selectboard Meeting  
Burke Community Building  
September 14,2026 - 5:00 PM

Present: Joe Allard, Jerry Booth, Mark Daigle: Selectboard  
Linda Hackett-Corey: Town Clerk  
Gail Weed: Assistant Town Clerk  
Cathi Feeley: Town Treasurer  
Mike Harris: Zoning Administrator  
Dave Kaufman: Road Foreman  
Jim Sullivan: Town Administrator  
Valerie Desmarais: Minutes Clerk  
Guests: Clarke Atwell, Geoff Boone, John Kasenska, Denny Newland, Cliff Pierce, Susan Pierce, Brice Simon, Robert Ware, Diane Wells  
Paul Hayes (Caledonian Record) via Zoom

Mark opened the meeting at 5:00 with the public hearing on the updated town plan. Jim Sullivan presented as Chair of the Planning Commission. The PC had their public meeting last month where good feedback was heard. There were grammatical changes and map enhancements, but the essential content was not modified. Mark asked for public comments or questions; there were none. Joe noted that this was a lot of work and was very thorough. Jim noted that the efforts of the PC and the conservation committee were integral to the completion.

Joe motioned to accept the town plan as written. Jerry seconded, so moved.

Jerry motioned to end the hearing portion of the meeting motion, Joe seconded, so moved.

Regular SB meeting opened, Mark asked for agenda additions, there are none.

Mark noted the meeting is being recorded.

Jerry motioned to accept the 08/02/26 regular selectboard meeting minutes as written, Joe seconded, so moved.

Jerry motioned to accept the 08/10/26 special meeting minutes as written, Joe seconded, so moved.

Joe motioned to accept the 08/26/26 special meeting minutes as written, Jerry second, so moved.

Diane Wells came before the board and introduced Cliff Pierce to address the North Pasture parking lot topic; he asked about getting an independent contractor to begin clearing the brush on either side of the road in. The abutters have been notified and support the project; the Conservation Committee have gotten (2) bids. The funds for this are in the town forest plan; Joe clarified that there are sufficient funds. The board approves of this, but the tree warden needs to be alerted and then a public notice would be required. Cathi asked if there are shade trees involved; Mike clarified if this is second growth or if there is a canopy: there is a formal process for cutting trees.

Diane then addressed the board re: Willy Woods Phase 2 habitat work. This would be in accordance with the management plan; the estimate for the work is \$5500. The Forest Subcommittee has a policy that expenditures over \$1500 needs approval from the committee and the selectboard. Diane is seeking

clarification of the expectations re: approval and expenditures. Cathi noted that the committee has a budget; and \$15,000 is the threshold for approval from the board.

Diane also shared a notice on public presentations scheduled for the future.

Jerry asked about parking from the Newark Street (north) side, Elise Lawson has flagged the wetlands, and the Conservation Committee has identified a potential area for parking.

Dave Kaufman: presented the highway report: Culverts at Mountain Road and Hayden Crossing have been replaced and upsized. The spring on Burke Hollow Road has been addressed and now drains into the ditch, which has been extended. Brook Road tree cutting has been completed and ready for ditching. A week was spent on crack sealing, Jim Sullivan pitched in to assist.

Pike should start paving next week. The 10-wheeler is due back next week. Dave and the crew are scheduled to attend the New England Public Works expo on Thursday.

Tree trimming to improve the sight line in Burke Hollow is on the agenda; Jim did send a letter to the landowners, and they understood the need to have this cut back. Dave asked about bonusing current employees that are working as fill-ins without the benefits of full-time employees. He would like them to receive holiday pay for the Labor Day holiday. Jerry motioned and Joe seconded a day of holiday pay. Linda will add to next payroll. The board and Dave will be addressing the shortage in manpower as we go into winter.

Joe asked about Kevin Surridge who requested the culvert near his home Bugbee Crossing be cleared out. Dave noted that he has a list of culverts to conduct ongoing maintenance.

Jim gave the Town Administrators report; White School Road grant project was completed. Grime Landscaping replaced the tree at the Meeting House; they honored their guarantee and there was no charge. The scope of work for the Brook Road Bank Stabilization Project from Nate Sicard and Ruggles Engineering has been received and submitted to FEMA. Some tree work on Brook Road could be completed this fall, but the major work will need to wait until next spring.

Mike Harris presented the Zoning Administrators report. There are roads in West Burke that need to have ROWs attached to them for the water treatment pipes to be installed. Clark gave an overview of the process: to install the system under the public roads, they must be identified as such. There is accumulated and anecdotal evidence describing the roads in question; there is a procedure for dedicating the roads that only have historical evidence of being a public highway. The 50' span is problematic on many of the streets so that would need to be addressed during the process. This is time sensitive; this will be addressed via public hearing at the October 5<sup>th</sup> SB meeting.

Permit and Subdivision activity as well as inquiry into rental registration has been increasing in volume.

East Burke fire hydrant will be installed soon. There is an area of high erosion that would benefit from bank stabilization; this will require engineering. There is a 10k grant for this with a contribution from the town of 20%. This includes "in-kind" services.

Town Garage update: we are close to completion. Harris Heating and Plumbing will be on site this week; the generator is installed, Vermont Mechanical and Pike (final lift asphalt) are scheduled over the 2 weeks. Morton has completed the requirements of their contract. Sand Salt Shed blocks are set, support straps are installed and ready for the building to arrive.

Waste Water Project: need final approval to move forward with the bid. Mike clarified that all permitting is in place for the project. Jerry asked about gating the town facility; this is a shared access point but some kind of gate will be necessary. There is a monitoring and security system in place covering 360 degrees, but a gate is a good deterrent. Fuel tanks should be filled soon as diesel continues to rise in price.

Attorney Simon came before the board to give an overview of the public auction of the Bailey property. The estate is selling the property, and the town must set the value for what the town is owed; there are expenses

involved with the auction itself. This is scheduled for 09/26/26 at 10:00 at the community building. Cathi clarified that if someone buys it, they will pay what is owed to the town.

Open sidewalk plowing / snow blowing bids: there are 3.

Baker and Sons: \$370 per includes plow and salt.

The Grounds Guy (did this last year): \$427.38 per did not specify salting.

D&D Landscapes: \$425 snow blow. Denny Newland clarified that the sand/ salt application would be a judgement call. He would sand or salt with that charge and on the last go-thru. This pricing would apply during an ice storm that does not require snow blowing or plowing of the sidewalk.

Cathi noted that the sidewalks in East Burke are often in very poor shape, Mark noted that there were a lot of complaints in the last year. Cathi addressed the budget for this year; there is funding for 12 treatments.

Jerry motioned that D&D be awarded the bid for this year 2026 & 2026. Joe seconded, so moved.

Town Garage Open House is set for 10/03/26 at 10-2:00. There will be refreshments provided. Linda is coordinating this.

Cathi noted that she and Linda are due in court this week at 8:30 on Wednesday. Kevin Blais is alleging stalking by them, and the town attorney, Sarah Buxton. Cathi added that last year, \$41,266.61 was spent on legal fees in response to Kevin Blais assertions against the town and staff.

This year that total is \$31, 288.41 to date.

Linda asked about a Trunk or Treat at the Community Building on Halloween, 10/31/26. This was supported by the board.

Mark asked for a motion to adjourn, all in favor, so moved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Desmarais

Minutes Clerk