

Town of Burke
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Burke Community Building

February 2, 2026 - 5:00 PM Regular Selectboard Meeting

Present: Joe Allard, Jerry Booth, Mark Daigle: Selectboard , Guests: Geoff Boone, Andrea Day (Dufresne Group) Georgia Gould, (Kingdom Trails) Jim Whitton,(Drift Skippers Snowmobile Club) On Zoom Paul Hayes, Kevin Blais.

Linda Hackett-Corey: Town Clerk, Gail Weed: Assistant Town Clerk, Cathi Feeley: Town Treasurer

James Sullivan: Town Administrator, Dave Kaufman: Road Commissioner, Valerie Desmarais: Minutes Clerk

Mark called the meeting to order at 5:05 P.M. There are no agenda amendments or additions. Mark noted that the meeting is being recorded and is available via Zoom.

Approve 01/05/26 regular selectboard meeting minutes: Jerry motioned to accept as written, Mark seconded, so moved.

Approve the 01/09/26 special selectboard meeting minutes: Jerry motioned to accept as written, Mark seconded, so moved.

Approve the 01/28/26 special selectboard meeting minutes; Jerry motioned to accept as written, Mark seconded, so moved.

Approve the 01/30/26 special selectboard meeting minutes, Jerry motioned to accept as written, Mark seconded, so moved.

Andrea Day (Dufresne Engineering) presented the scoping study for sidewalks in West Burke Village.

Mike is the municipal project manager; VTrans provides funding for scoping, final design and construction.

There is no obligation to move on to the next phase. If the design is started and the project is discontinued, the town is responsible to pay the funds back. The study area is around the park and out to RT 5. This is the first phase. The goal is ultimately to improve pedestrian safety, improve access to points of interest, and upgrade the aesthetics. Environmental, archeological and historic impacts and right of way concerns are all addressed.

Alternatives: (1) do nothing, (2) 5' wide sidewalk and crosswalks, (3) add interior loop (both sides of 5A),

Pedestrian count and traffic count data are necessary to construct crosswalks. Alternative 2 has been selected by the committee. This would come in at 1.285 M, there are funding options to supply 80% (VTrans, Northern Borders) with a 20% match from the town. This would have about a 4-year timeline, as it would begin after the wastewater project. Separate funding sources can be combined. Jerry motioned to accept the report as written and presented, Joe seconded.

Georgia Gould, interim director Kingdom Trails came before the board to discuss the Winter Bike Festival. The event runs from 9-3:00 on 02/07/26. Route 114 (in town), East Darkling Hill Road, Burke Hollow Road where the trail crosses are the crossings in discussion, Jerry clarified that they are not utilizing the VAST trails, except for the portion of shared trails. Jim Whitten had questions about the shared trails, KT membership and the education of the cyclists. He expressed concern about new riders on the VAST trails. Ms. Gould committed to

adding more information re: these issues to the ongoing communications prior to February 7th. They are expecting about 250 riders. The Certificate of Insurance is in place; Joe motioned to approve the event, Jerry seconded, so moved.

Dave gave the highway report: the break in the weather is allowing the crew to push the banks back. Dave reiterated that the salt shortage is impacting the roads, the sand does not want to stick to the blacktop in this cold weather. The 10-wheeler is in the shop with a broken leaf spring. Dave is working towards getting the truck inspections moved toward warmer weather; the backhoe has an issue with the axle. This cannot be repaired in house, Jerry mentioned that Dave should get some estimates and present to the board. The ton truck also has a wheel issue; this was repaired in house. Dave is also working on a schedule for road work this summer and is seeking the boards input; Mark asked for him to email what Dave has so far and the board can review and / or edit. Dave noted that there is a water seep on Burke Green, Joe asked about Kirby Road, the guardrails need repair, like many of the guardrails in town. There was discussion regarding the sweeper; it will be in heavy use this spring to clean up after all the sanding being done. There was also discussion regarding the fork lift tilting dumper in use at the recycling center.

Jim gave the Town Administrators report: Burke Hill and The Mountain Road are identified as priority for grant purposes; he is seeking funds for road shimming and asphalt overlay, ditch work and culverts. The town has received \$50,448 disaster relief from the 07/10 storm in 2023. Jim noted that the Planning Commission finished the town plan draft; there was a public hearing 01/20/26. Jim presented a copy of the town plan with the areas that have been updated and edited. The plan now moves to the board for review and a public hearing. This will take place on 03/02/26 as part of the regularly scheduled meeting. Joe clarified that the grant monies are arriving per schedule, Jim confirmed that they are.

Mike Harris presented the Zoning Administrators report: rental permits and registration requests are staying steady. Certified letters were sent to Tom Williamson, Petter Koopman and Andy Bean regarding their violations. Mike shared some concepts for equipment for the park in East Burke. He also had designs for a pavilion with exercise equipment at the town complex in West Burke (that serves the senior meal site). The town garage construction is progressing well and on track with the wastewater project; Mike noted that the Waste Water Ordinance for the system will need to be adopted by April. Gosselin Well Drilling will be drilling the well at the New Town Garage site. This is scheduled for the 2nd week in April. Mike also shared some input about the transition from the old site to the new site later this summer, in preparation for next winter.

Old business: there is none

Correspondence: Letter of Interest from Mikail Tipton to be appointed to the Town Forest Committee. Jerry motioned to accept this appointment, Joe seconded, so moved.

Letter of Interest from Kristen Langlais to join the Conservation Committee; Joe motioned to accept this petition, Jerry second, so moved.

Jerry motioned to adjourn the meeting, Joe second, so moved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted, Valerie Desmarais, Minutes Clerk