

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 1, 2026

6pm

Board Members in Attendance: Harry Williams, Nancy Benoit, Nate Brown

Attendees: 10

Via Zoom: 1

Any items to add to the agenda: James Abbruscato ask to have the Junk Ordinance added to the agenda. Board Chair Harry suggested we discuss this during the Community Concerns section of the meeting.

Nancy made a motion to approve the minutes from the May meeting as written. Nate seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Better Connections Grant Update: Clerk Gary updated people on the Better Connections work in the Village of Gilman. On Thursday, June 4th there will be a stormwater walkthrough of the Village to begin that portion of the project. Community engagement meetings should begin in July/August.

KESD Budget Remove: School Board member Desmond reminded people of the revote on Thursday, June 11th at the Lunenburg Elementary School. Desmond reported that information is available on the KESD website addressing what happens if the budget fails this time around. Desmond reported that failing to pass the budget would result in limitations for the District to draw funds from the State. In addition, the District would have to borrow money from the State which would cost additional interest. If this budget fails, there will have to be another vote which means an additional cost to administer a 4th vote process. It will be very difficult to schedule a revote during the summer because the expected turnout would be very low so the setting of the education tax rate would most likely be affected. Residents should understand that if the budget fails, the education tax will be temporarily set, and education property taxes will still be part of your property tax bill in 2026. In that instance, once the budget is approved, a reconciliation would happen that would either result in an additional amount due or a refund received. Summer camp would be cancelled.

What won't happen if the budget doesn't pass: High School students would still have school choice and their tuition paid. All teachers have already signed a 3-year contract and will get paid regardless of whether the budget passes or not, although were a teacher

person or administrator resign during this period, it's quite possible the position would not be filled until the budget was passed. Schools will still open, and all currently employed administrative staff will continue their employment.

Questions were asked about the contracting of teachers and why harder negotiations were not carried out knowing that there were concerns about expenses. KESD has had the long-term problem of teacher recruitment due to salaries. Concern was expressed about the segmenting of our school students with grades K-5 in Lunenburg and then Middle School students going off to Concord. Our forced reappraisal resulted in a large jump in home values which is also part of the problem. Also, important to remember that a lot of the KESD employees live within the District so their affected the same that we are. Concerns were raised about results versus cost. Desmond reported that educational performance across the country has declined and reminded people that those school districts that are performing well are spending more, not cutting costs.

If the budget passes, the amount of increase in your property taxes will be a low monthly amount.

Overall confidence was expressed in the KESD school system. Lunenburg does not fund our District 100%. We are a receiving Town, meaning the share we pay into the KESD budget is disproportional to what the other Towns in the District pay.

Folks were reminded that all KESD meetings are open to the public and recorded.

Act 181/NVDA Update: RTT Task Force Chair Kate reported that the draft of NVDA's new Regional Plan has been submitted to the Land Use Review Board (LURB). Public hearing will be held on July 29th at 6pm as a Zoom and in-person meeting at 930 Broad Street in Lyndonville. The new plan does not include action on the Road Rule and Tier 3 as NVDA assumed that would not be part of the final Act 181 bill. The deadline for full adoption of the Regional Plan is December 31, 2026. If the Plan is not adopted by that time, there are consequences. The new Plan does include housing targets for Lunenburg, although the Town is not beholden to those numbers. Towns are expected to include in their Municipal Plan revisions information on what work is being done to help address housing and work toward those targets.

Chair Harry reminded people that Act 181 was a good idea of what can happen when the people become engaged because the changes made to Act 181 can be primarily attributed to those people.

Opportunities exist for the public to respond on permitting processes through the Agency of Natural Resources. Feedback is requested by June 18th on how State lands are planned and managed for the future. NVDA's revolving loan plan is currently available to private businesses.

Library Building Renovates Update: Librarian Deb reported on renovations occurring at the Library. All these renovations are being paid for through the MERP Grant. New energy splits have been installed. Lighting has been updated. The old insulation has been removed from the attic. The contractors doing the week did not want to proceed further due to a primary sagging beam which needs to be replaced. The company doing the insulation project is available to do the beam replacement project. Projected cost is \$57,000. The Library hired a structural engineer to assure the beam replacement will last a lifetime. The Library does have a building account and some grant money, including ARPA funds, so they have about \$30,000 in reserves to cover part of this cost. A roof has been built over the compressor installed to run the new heating splits as well. Deb invited everyone to stop by the Library.

Town-Owned Vermont Statute Books Disposition: Clerk Gary showed examples of the Vermont Statute Books which used to be obtained on a subscription basis. The Town owns a vast number of volumes. All this material is now available online and Gary asked the Board to vote to allow the disposal (by whatever means possible) of these books. The State does not require retention of these books. Board Member Nate made a motion that the Town discard the books. Board Member Nancy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Highway: Foreman Gregg reported that we bought a roller for \$700 which will allow us to do some paving and dirt road packing. Value is estimated at \$3000 - \$4000.

A contractor has looked at a new pellet boiler for the entire building. Estimated cost is \$84,000. Over the long run, this would save money in heating costs. MERP funding will pay for some of this. We're looking at other ways to augment the money available so this project can happen.

Lister Linda asked for the status of chloride. Gregg reported that the chloride tank was put into the truck today and the plan is to do chloride treatments as needed this summer.

Community Concerns: Resident James asked about the Town's Litter Ordinance and the status of enforcement. Gary reported that our Ordinance needs to be revised because it doesn't really address piles of trash in your yard, unless it's considered a health violation. Health Officer Luke has looked at some properties from a health hazard standpoint. He acknowledges very limited options from a health standpoint as well. Reality is that it's very difficult to address the issue because although we have a Litter Ordinance, failure to abide only results in a fine. If the property owner doesn't pay than about the Town can do is put a lien on the property. But property owners in this situation aren't usually concerned about a lien being placed on their property.

Residents expressed disappointment that so much more trash has accumulated on our roads, especially Baptist Hill, since Green Up Day.

Top of the Common Chris reported that the link on the agenda for the Zoom meeting was not working. Clerk Gary will investigate.

A resident expressed concern about the condition of our dirt roads. He felt that the current plan of action seems to be one of patching operations. He wondered why an entire dirt road is not graded at one time versus piecemeal. Foreman Gregg reported that flooding in July 2023 and 2024 took a heavy toll on our dirt roads, as well as years of neglect. He noted this year's worked is focused on resurfacing our dirt roads, which means compaction of materials on the roads to create a harder surface. Town of Concord uses ledge pack successful. Gregg noted that we have plans to do that as well. Gregg is in the process of moving the paving materials removed from River Road, located adjacent to Fox Field & Forest, to Beattie's construction site so those materials can be crushed and added to our dirt roads.

Chair Harry asked for feedback on holding a July meeting. Clerk Gary noted that things were quieter during the summer. Board Member Nate made a motion to cancel the July Select Board meeting. Board Member Nancy seconded, and it passed unanimously. Nate then made a motion to hold the next Select Board meeting on Monday, August 3, 2026. Nancy seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously. The next Select Board meeting will be Monday, August 3, 2026.

Board Member Nate motioned to adjourn tonight's Select Board meeting at 7:15 pm. Board Member Nancy seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

