

Selectboard Meeting

Monday, August 3, 2026

Select Board in Attendance: Harry, Nate, Nancy

Attendees: 7

A zoom option was not available for this meeting due to technical difficulties. Clerk Gary will work with our Zoom account before the next meeting to determine why we were not allowed to access the service. Our Zoom service contract is up-to-date and in force.

Nancy asked to add a CESER Task Force update to the agenda.

Board Member Nate motioned to approve the June Board meeting minutes as written. Board Member Nancy seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Delinquent Property Tax Sale: DTC Cindy asked the Board to approve an additional property to go up for tax sale. The property is located at 75 West Main Street; Board Member Nate made a motion to add this property to the tax sale list. Board Member Nancy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Properties previously approved for tax sales have been notified with a final 30-day window and a payment plan option. Those who responded and agreed to a plan have been removed from the tax sale list. Six property owners did not respond and those have been forwarded to the Town Lawyer to begin the tax sale process.

Appointment of Town of Forest Fire Warden as per Act 162: Rep. John noted that some towns don't have fire departments and contract with neighboring towns for those services, some of those towns are in New Hampshire. It was noted that the State could not force a New Hampshire fire department chief to serve as the Fire Warden. John noted that this issue did not come up when the bill was passed and he reached out for clarification. Forest, Parks, Recreation has said if Towns want to continue to have their Fire Warden as appointed until this issue can be resolved, that is acceptable. The Board decided to keep our currently appointed Fire Warden, Jesse Boeming, in the position until the State issues further clarification and John confirmed that is acceptable. John also noted that the State requires Fire Wardens to be compensated, which was news to many Towns in Vermont. The Board decided to table the issue of compensation until the State issues further clarification.

RTT Update: Task Force Chair Kate shared additional updates on the Better Connections work and noted that they have a dedicated consultant working on economic recreational opportunities.

The accessible trail around Fox Field has been completed and the grant funding has been exhausted. A final report to the grant funder will be due. Having completed this local Tillotson Grant, the Town is now eligible to apply for a large-scale grant which could be up to \$300,000. On October 10th there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at Fox Field to thank all those involved in the project and share the project with the community.

Kate reported the RTP grant received is for the trail below the parking lot at Fox Field. This is a federal grant, and we have been advised that we needed to do a wetlands study. Task Force has worked with a consultant to determine that the trail will not affect any existing wetlands. Work is expected to begin next year. Next step is to write an RFP to send to potential contractors for this project. Shout out to Gregg and the Road Crew for all their work on the Fox Field project.

CESER Task Force: Task Force Chair Liz was not able to attend the meeting, but provided a written report to Board Member Nancy. The loon fundraising has been a great success, and they are looking to extend the duration. As part of Hello Summer, one of our Girl Scouts introduced the Story Walk, which was her final GS project.

Shout outs to Kate Baxter and RTT, Timber and Stone and Town of Lunenburg for all their efforts.

CESER teamed up with The Vermont Covered Bridge Society to present events during Covered Bridge Week, including a Flotilla down the Connecticut. Shout out to Jim Noland, Covered Bridge Board Member Gary and Twin Pine Farms for their work on these events.

A paint n sip will be held on Wednesday at 5pm. Bring whatever you want to paint on. We will supply paints and all other materials.

NVDA Updates: Board Representative Kate reported on the NVDA regional plan update progress. NVDA has clarified that the maps used during the regional plan process are not meant to be zoning maps and NVDA has no opinion whether a town has zoning or not. The updated plan will be scrubbed of all references to Act 181 and the Driveway rule. Next public meeting is September 24th

Sale of Town-owned property: The owners of the property directly below the Town Office Building have expressed interest in purchasing the town-owned property that abuts their land. Board member Nancy made a motion for the Board to move forward in an exploratory manner. Board member Nate seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Highway: Road Foreman Gregg reported that the Highway budget looks very good so far this year. The town received an AOT Small Project Safety Grant in the amount of \$46,000. The grant funds the removal of large rocks that are a problem on some of our roadways. The grant will also cover some line striping, stop sign replacement and guardrail repair. Gregg reported that we would hire out the project of taking care of the boulders/rocks in the road. The crew has been spending time and money on vehicle repairs to help with equipment maintenance. Gregg should have information about Harvey obtaining a CDL license in the coming weeks.

Gregg explained that the State of New Hampshire owns the rights to the roadway and sidewalk adjacent to the Gilman/Dalton bridge. Gregg noted difficulties with reaching out to the State to discuss work projects the Town wished to perform in their right of way.

Gregg reported that the extended time for the Baptist Hill Project resulted in penalties to Austin Construction and the Town is being reimbursed \$19,000.

The Board approved placing material at the Mt. Orne Bridge turnout because the Town uses that as a turnaround for Highway equipment.

Gregg has a contractor coming next week to provide an estimate on rebuilding the salt shed that was damaged due to a tree falling on the roof.

A culvert is being replaced on Colby Road on Wednesday of next week.

Beattie has the layout of the Cole Hill culvert project that is covered by a \$48,000 AOT grant.

Gregg updated the Board on the S. Lunenburg bridge project. Winterset has said they have to delay the project because of staffing. Gregg is working with Logan Perron at the District 7 AOT office to get the project moving. It is now expected this will happen in September.

A resident reported that, while he had been critical in the past of the roads, especially on the lower portion of Bobbin Mill, he wanted to report that this section of the road is a lot better. He noted that “things are looking up”.

Gregg has found an excavator and trailer that he’s interested in purchasing. We still have the USDA grant funding that will cover a percentage of this purchase.

Community Concerns:

-Question was asked about ownership of the vacant home on the sharp corner on Route 2 at the intersection of River Road. It was reported the property is privately owned and taxes are paid annually so the Town has no jurisdiction over the property.

-RTT Task Force Chair Kate provided an update on the railroad project. Project has been quiet because they’re awaiting NH DOT to approve the reinstallation of railroad crossings in Whitefield. VRS has been busy with rail yard repairs in St. Johnsbury and the turnabout in Whitefield. It is believed the work on the 1.8 miles from Dalton to Gilman will be delayed until they work out the railroad crossings in New Hampshire.

Clerk/Treasurer: The primary election will be held on August 11th. Voting will be at the Lunenburg Elementary School. Polls are open from 9am – 7pm. Absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk’s Office.

Election: Resident asked if Vermont was sending a ballot to every registered voter. Rep. John reported that the plan right now is that ballots will be mailed for the General Election, but not the August primary.

RTT Kate was reminded that she had a recent meeting with Lorelee Tester from the NEK Chamber of Commerce. It was noted that the map provided by the former Chamber that did not include the name of Essex County had been corrected by Lorelee and new, correct maps are now available.

RTT Kate noted that the State of Vermont has officially released its new Vermont branding.

Rep John noted Old Home Day was a great event this past Sunday and all agreed.

Board member Nate made a motion to hold the next Board meeting on Monday, September 14th 6pm, due to the Labor Day Holiday. Board member Nancy seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to hold the meeting on September 14th.

Rep. John reported the legislative session ended 2 weeks later than expected, but felt the session ended positively.

Nate motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm. Nancy seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.