

Select Board Meeting Notes
December 1, 2025

Select Board Attendees: Harry, Nancy, Luke
Attendees: 8
Via Zoom: 4

Items added to the agenda: Road Crew Foreman Gregg asked for an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss a personnel matter. Polar Bears Mike asked to make an announcement during the Community Concerns part of the meeting.

Nancy made a motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting. Nate seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

Rep. John Kescenska: Rep. John reported on the Education Transformation Task Force's work. Mission was to offer a draft of what a new school district mapping would look like. The Task Force did not provide a recommended redistricting map, but rather suggested a Board of Cooperative Education groups amongst area districts with the goal of working together on combined services to save costs. Final report is due in January.

An all-Legislative member session will be held from 8am – 3pm on Wednesday, 12/3 for a briefing of what to expect in the upcoming session. A State of Healthcare in Vermont session will be held in January as well. Board Chair Harry noted that many of the facility upgrades occurring in hospitals were unnecessary and served to drive up costs.

All State agencies and departments have been asked to look at their budgets for potential cuts to help with projected shortfalls in State revenue. John reported that the Legislature has been advised of a possible 12% projected increase in property taxes Statewide in 2026, unless cuts are made.

Two Senators resigned in 2025. 4 people have been nominated to fill one of the positions, including Rep. John. The Governor will decide sometime soon.

Coe and Coe: James provided an update on Plan D for the ADA renovations at the Town Office Building. The current plan is to create a hallway through the center of the building (using the Listers/Select Board entrance door) that would lead to the Community Room where a new stairway would be installed that would include a chair lift for ADA access. The existing entrance to the Clerk's Office would be done away with and entrances to all offices would be off the new hallway. Much of the space lost to this plan is already unused or dead space. The existing bathroom would be removed, and a new ADA compliant bathroom would be added in the back right corner of the Community Room. The projected cost is \$327,000 which includes redesigning the side entrance to the building on South Lunenburg Road and redoing the front ramp, sidewalk and parking area in front of the building with appropriate handicap spaces, line

spaces, etc. James noted this was a worst-case-scenario budget which includes a 20% contingency for any unforeseen cost overruns. The Town has about \$60,000 in MERP grant funding set aside for this project. Now that the plans and budget have been developed, the Town will begin searching out grant funding for this project. A copy of the recommended floor plan is available on the Town's website, www.lunenburg-gilmanvt.gov, under the News and Announcements section.

2026 Budget Work: Board Chair Harry noted that we were more than halfway through the 2026 budget. Auditor Luke noted that the process is much more buttoned up this year and all the numbers we're using to prepare the budget on from 2025 figures.

Polar Bears and Black Bears ATV Ordinance: Lunenburg does not have an existing Ordinance that covers ATVs and Snowmobiles. An Ordinance would make enforcement of various issues easier. It would institute a system of fines for violations. Shared use of trails needs to be smart and it's up to the landowner to approve uses. Snow Bikes are permissible on VAST trails. Question was asked if there were any trainings for new snowmobiles. Mike indicated there was and asked that people contact him directly. Multi-track machines are not allowed on VAST trails except for grooming purposes.

Animal Control Officer: Sean was not at the meeting, so this was tabled for another meeting. Gary provided an update.

Community Room Usage Policy: Nancy motioned to approve Community Room Usage Policy. Nate seconded the motion and the Policy was adopted. Nate is up; Gary is up; Linda is up; Karle is up. Petitions due January 26, 2026 at 5pm.

Lister Appointment: Lister Linda reported that Sonja Boulay is assisting the Listers currently. Nate made a motion to appoint Sonja. Nancy seconded and she was appointed. Sonja will run in March if she's interested in continuing.

Town Health Officer: Since October 7th update, 2 inspections were done, one of which included the partnering with the Gilman Fire Department. Radon testing continues. It's a lengthy process as we have no historical data collected that shows what community standards should have for radon levels. Luke noted that the remaining radon test kits will be available them off to the Clerk's Office tomorrow. Luke cautioned that individuals testing their homes should be aware of the lack of community standards. Planning Committee Tina asked that information be placed on the website regarding radon testing that's happening in Lunenburg. Rep. John noted that a report of high radon levels means that you will not be able to sell your home.

Polar Bears: Polar Bear Mike reminded folks that their annual Toys for Tots drive is going on through December 12th. Collection boxes at located at the Variety Store and Senior Center, and there is monetary donation jar at the Variety Store. Polar Bear members are bringing used clothing, helmets, etc. to the Community Room and those items are free for anyone who wants them. Mike reported that last year's chainsaw fundraising was very successful and helped them

purchase a new sled for Polar Bear use. Another fundraising is in the works and will include a chainsaw prize. Opening day for snowmobiling is December 16th. VAST and Club websites have up-to-date information on what trails are open.

Highway: Gregg reported the Baptist Hill culvert work will hopefully be completed by mid-late December. Gregg reported that all trucks and equipment are up and running and the crew has been busy with the recent storms.

Town Clerk: The Clerk's office will be open on Saturday, December 6th from 10am – 1pm. Clerk Gary announced a HomeShare Vermont workshop, sponsored by the Planning Committee, to be held at the Senior Center on Friday, December 12th. A representative from HomeShare Vermont will be on hand to share more about the program and share success stories. Prior to the workshop, the Senior Center will host their regular Friday meal from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. The cost of anyone attending the Friday meal on December 12th, will be paid for by the Lunenburg-Gilman Community Trust so we hope people will come for a free meal and stay to learn more about the HomeShare program.

Harry motioned we move to Executive Session. Nate seconded and the Board moved into Executive Session at 7:07pm. The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:26pm. Board Chair Harry noted that no action was taken during the Session.

There was no additional business. Nancy motioned that the meeting adjourn. Nate seconded and the motion passed. The meeting ended at 7:27pm/