

Select Board Meeting Notes

Monday, September 8, 2026

Board Members in Attendance: Harry, Nancy, Nate

Attendance: 22

Via Zoom: 1

Board Chair Harry called the meeting to order at 6pm

Librarian Debbie asked to add the Alden Balch Memorial Library to the agenda and a resident asked that the condition of Maillet Road be added as well.

Board Member Nancy made a motion to accept the August Select Board meeting notes as written. Board Member Nate seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Volunteer Day Project: Task Force Chair Liz reported that volunteers have begun working on scraping in preparation of painting. Top of the Common member Chris asked if there is a specific date people would like to do work to please contact her. Chris will post on the community FB page and on the Top of the Common website once a date has been established.

Hazard Mitigation Plan: The Board had reviewed the revised Hazard Mitigation Plan prior to the meeting. Board Member Nate motioned to approve the revised Hazard Mitigation Plan. Board Member Nancy seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the Board voted unanimously to approve the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Ampersand Solar Panel Project: It was reported that there have been no updates to the Ampersand Solar Panel Project and Planning Committee member Tina confirmed that the project proposal has not been submitted to the State. We will continue to track progress.

NEKWMD Board Representative: NEKWMD Board representative Brian reported that he has met with representatives from NEKWMD to gain more information on his representation on the Board. Transfer Station Jim has asked the question "what is the benefit by belonging to the district". The Board and residents agreed that they would like that information. Clerk Gary asked Brian to ask NEKWMD what distinguishes Lunenburg's Transfer Station that makes it different from other stations in the district.

Animal Control Officer: Board Chair Harry noted that there were 2 candidates for Animal Control Officer (ACO). Nate made a motion to appoint Sean Branch to the position and Board Member Nancy seconded the motion. Sean was appointed unanimously. Riverside Rescue Sharon asked that the new ACO meet with Riverside Rescue management to discuss how they can work together. Clerk Gary noted that the Animal Control Ordinance that was currently posted on the website was an outdated version, and he would post the correct Ordinance on Tuesday. He also noted that he would post Sean's contact info.

A resident referenced a nuisance dog that she has been dealing with for 5 years. She reported that the dog has eaten a rabbit's feet and the rabbit had to be euthanized, along with other nuisance behavior. Clerk Gary stated that a letter has been sent to the owner of the dog. The new ACO will be advised of this situation and the Board will assure this is dealt with. It was noted that a puppy of the nuisance dog has been impounded and the Town. Riverside Rescue has offered to neuter the dog in October. The Board assured that all nuisance animals will be dealt with. Residents should continue to report nuisance animal behavior to the Animal Control Office or Town Clerk's Office.

NVDA Representative/Alternate: The Board confirmed that Kate Baxter was appointed as the Town's representative to the NVDA Board. Board Chair Harry motioned to appoint Gregg Williams as the alternate representative to the Board. Board Member Nate seconded the motion and Gregg was unanimously appointed as the alternate.

Two for the Trails Grant: The Lunenburg-Gilman Community Trust has applied for a grant from Two for the Trails on behalf of the Outdoor Recreation Trails and Tourism. Will have an answer later this year. RTT noted they currently do not intend to seek funds from the Town to do projects. Board Chair Harry reminded attendees that there used to be Town funds available to run recreation at Fox Field and to keep that in the mind for the future.

Tax Sale – 37 Commercial Avenue: Board member Nate made a motion to approve 37 Commercial Ave, Gilman to go for a delinquent tax sale. Board member Nancy seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to begin property tax sale proceedings for this property.

Knotwood: Although permitting is required to do a lot of the knotweed treating, Road Foreman Gregg reported some may still happen this year as some Town-Owned property areas can be treated without permitting.

NEK Chamber Membership: Clerk Gary read an email he received from the NEK Chamber regarding the benefits of joining. Residents asked what the point of joining would be. Gary noted that to get the most benefit from membership, you really need to have an active member of the community as the liaison. You get out of it what you put into it. Residents wondered if it would be better to delay joining until we found a community member who would act as liaison. we wait to find someone to be a liaison and then consider joining. Top of the Common Chris asked how NEK would market on behalf of the Town and Clerk Gary shared that, if we had printed materials, they would share those at events they go to. Gary shared that LGCT is a member of the North Country chamber and not doing anything with it. Chris reported that all Town events are listed on the North Country Chamber's website. No action was taken on whether to join NEK Chamber.

Alden Balch Memorial Library: Librarian Deb announced that the Alden Balch Memorial Library and Lunenburg Elementary School have each received a \$150,000 donation from the Seastrand Family from Fairfield, CT. In the 1960s the Seastrand's bought property on Bobbin Mill Road in

Lunenburg and were frequent visitors to the community. With their donation, the Seastrand Estate noted that Nils and Bonnie loved Lunenburg and were frequent visitors to the Library. Deb announced that this donation will be added to the Library's endowment fund. The library's endowment fund was started when resident Franklin Bell gave the library \$10,000 back in the 1980s. Deb has been unable to find anyone in Lunenburg with memories or knowledge of the Seastrands and if anyone knows about them to reach out. anyone who knows them yet.

Residents asked if the donation to the Elementary School would go to Kingdom East or directly the school. It was reported the funds are being given directly to the Elementary school and will help sponsor overnight field trips, composting station, gardening, and other program at the school.

Maillet Road: Resident Robert Skoog, who owns the property adjacent to the old bridge that was recently replaced, shared concerns about the condition of the road. The washed-out bridge was replaced by a culvert and there are no side rails, etc. Concern was expressed that there has been very little work done on the road in years, except for fixing a large washout area from 2024 July. There were reports that there are large stones that were used to build up the road that have not been covered. Resident Skoog believes that the Class 3 portion of Maillet Road extends about 1200 feet beyond where the new culvert was installed but has never been maintained as a Class 3 road. Concern was raised over the fact that the roadway needs to be widened.

Road Crew Foreman Gregg reported that Maillet Road is not on a high priority right now. Work is now concentrating on ditching and getting the heavier traveled roads ready for the winter months. Gregg reported that Maillet road was never actively maintained by the Highway Crew...spot plowing was done, but nothing significant. Residents noted that plowing does occur during the winter months.

Residents ask what is Town's liability if there are no guardrails place over the new culvert? It was also noted there is no protective warning signs. Gregg reminded residents there was no railing on the bridge for the past 10 years as well. It was reported that the Town would not be liable if a vehicle goes off a roadway.

Baptist Hill Road: Resident Margarite referenced a petition that she had circulated prior to the meeting requesting that something be done with the dust issue on Baptist Hill. Margarite noted that the 36 people who signed the petition were upset with the dust conditions this summer, and they would like to see a long-term solution in place. Residents are concerned over health threats posed by the excessive dust. It was asked if the road could be watered if chloride can't be applied. Questions were raised over the chloride treatment Austin Construction had recently completed and It was reported that the chloride applied by Austin was not included in the project contract and would not have been done if the Town had reached out to request it. Board Chair Harry noted that he was not a fan of chloride treatment because it's very costly and a short-term solution. Residents were reminded that this had been a very dry summer which has only added to the dust problem. Lister Linda noted that she had

lost faith in the condition of the road.... Wash boarding, big rocks, dust, etc. She stated that "the road, until recently, has not been maintained". It was noted that some residents had purchased their own chloride to spread on the road in front of their own property to help with dust. Residents expressed frustration that every time the condition on Baptist Hill is raised, there is no response.

Gregg noted that the entirety of Baptist Hill is now ditched and widened. The explained part of the problem is the current road base is sand and materials don't adhere well to that. Baptist Hill Road is a work in progress with a hope for better conditions in October and November. Resident Gardner Balch reported that Baptist Hill is washboard, that no gravel, has been used and that the large, crushed rock is causing damage to vehicles. Gardner noted that motorcycles can't navigate Baptist Hill that Baptist Hill was in the worst condition it had been since 1963. He did note that you really had a better understanding for how much through traffic uses Baptist Hill Road now that it is closed for a period. Margarite reports her vehicle is making a sound underneath and the dealership believes it is a wheel bearing and this has been caused by the condition of Baptist Hill. Speeding is an issue on all roads in Town.

There were reports of increased traffic on Perry Road that was increasing the Baptist Hill traffic. Perry Road is a Class 4 Road and not really made for cars or trucks. Really best for ATVS. Clerk Gary shared information about the management of the Baptist Hill project and reminded residents this was not a Town project, but a State project.

Gregg reported that the culvert project on Baptist Hill has now become a full-blown bridge project...not sure when that changed. The Town will be reaching out to find out the timeline, the bridge construction, will it have rails, etc. and will it be wide enough so that you can get a plow down on it. Road crew is doing catch up from the past few years. They expect to discuss a plan for Baptist Hill in November.

The Winterset Construction South Lunenburg bridge project has been pushed off until Spring 2026 because we can't have 2 main roadways closed at the same time.

Gregg reported that All FEMA projects have been completed. Paperwork is still being completed before reimbursement. It was noted that the River Road work done in 2024 will have costs reimbursed from the State.

Gregg has looked at the cost of a chloride tank to use in existing trucks. A tank will cost around \$7,000; a pump to disperse the chloride will cost \$1,500. Gregg noted that the chloride equipment the Town owned was not well maintained in the past and that has rendered it unusable.

Carroll Macie reported that roads such as Mallet Road, Van Heim Road and Sivegny Road are Class 3 and the State funds work to be done on those roads. The Select Board does expect to update road classifications in the Spring the authority to change a road from a 3 to a 4 without resident input.

Town Clerk Report: Clerk Gary reported that tax bills were mailed on August 25th and that all should have been received by now. If not, please let us know. Gary also noted that cash was not being accepted due to the risk of transporting large sums of cash to the bank, that residents have questioned the improper accounting of cash on the Community Facebook page and the fact that there had been problems in the past with residents claiming to have paid their taxes in case, but the taxpayer, nor the Town, could find evidence of that. Paying by check, Treasurers check or money order, or paying along, eliminates all of these issues.

Residents stated appreciation for the new sign at the Town Office Building

The Town received its order of sign posts and hardware so that missing road signs can begin to be replaced.

As there were no other community concerns, Board Member Nancy motioned to adjourn meeting and Board Member Nate seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm