

Sutton Select Board Meeting
August 28, 2025

Joe Solinsky, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:08PM

Attendance: Select Board Chair: Joe Solinsky; Select Board Members: Tim Simpson; Denis Royer, II; Town Clerk/Treasurer: Patti McClure; Highway Foreman: Shane Heath; DRB Board Member: Adam Bruggeman; State of Vermont: Patricia Moulton; Ruggles Engineering; Nate Sicard; Minutes Clerk: Mary Gray

Modifications: Add: Patricia Moulton, Flood Recovery Officer, State of Vermont

Tim made a motion to approve July 31, 2025 Select Board Minutes with the name correction being Norman Patenaude not Norbert. Denis seconded the motion. Motion passed with corrections.

Tim made a motion to approve August 19, 2025 Special Select Board Minutes for Opening Calendar Brook Rd. Flood Repair Paving Bids with the name correction being Norman Patenaude not Norbert . Denis seconded the motion. Motion passed with corrections.

Tim made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for August 28, 2025. Denis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Delinquent Tax Report was handed out. Mary reported there were 2 properties in the attorney's hands.

Patricia Moulton (Pat) Flood Recovery Officer for the State of Vermont. Her position is for helping with long term recovery, where to find money to fix roads and bridges, she is not the immediate response person. We do not have the declaration from the President Trump administration yet, if we get it, Governor Scott will sign the declaration for FEMA funds to be released.

Patti said the 2024 FEMA paperwork has not been finalized yet. She is waiting for the last bills to come in then it will be closed out. Pat said If we have any issues, contact her and she may be able to help us. Pat indicated VTRANS has a limited amount of funds that she can look into for us if there is no declaration. Pat wants a better understanding of the town's needs. Pat also indicated that FEMA will not help with individual needs since we did not meet the threshold, but she said there may be other ways of getting individual funds to help individuals. Tim stated so far this year we are over ½ million dollars, and we still have a main bridge out. Pat said we are all hoping the President is generous with the funds. Pat encouraged the town to contact our local Representatives and Senators and put together a wish list that we need help with and stay in contact with them.

Adam Bruggeman, representing himself and not the DRB/PC Board: Adam wants to know the reasoning of wanting to re-look at the Sutton By-Laws. The board explained this was brought about by various residents complaining to the Select Board members about the by-laws. They are too restrictive, want to address working lands conditions such allowing Airbnb being permitted; subdivisions; forest lands for development. Adam explained that there are state statutes that need to be followed, and the board acknowledged they realize this. But some of the board members felt there was too much redundancy. The board stated the Sutton Town Plan needs to be looked at first and then the by-laws addressed. Adam said the by-laws are to protect the town and its citizens. Adam wants to know if there is a committee to be formed by the select board to work on this. Joe said this is not something that will be done by next meeting, it will take a while to go line by line with the DRB/PC board also. Tim said that this should also be voted on by the voters, he realizes it is not necessary, and the board has the authority to approve or disapprove the by-laws.

Nate Sicard: Ruggles Engineering - Pudding Hill Rd Bridge. Nate spoke with Shane about the Pudding Hill Bridge. Nate looked at the bridge about a month ago. He thinks it could be re-opened quickly. The hole you see from Calander brook side is a backwall, the bridge beams are still sitting on the abutments and are secure. The concrete that is crumbling is due to salt and the inadequate quality of the concrete. Nate suggested putting a piece of ¼" sheet steel against it and backfill it. On the other side where they repaired the scouring that occurred this year, he put a stick underneath where the contractor had poured concrete and built out beyond what was needed, is fine. You might get another 10 years before you need to do something with it. The board is concerned about opening it and caves in. Nate works with the person repairing it and Nate is confident that it will not fall in. Nate suggested If we can get our excavator down and back out, we should do it now. Shane said we needed to get water permits, etc. Nate will contact Logan to see what we need to do. Nate could oversee this repair; his rate would be \$100.00 per hour. Nate will be in contact with Shane to see what we will need to do for permits. After Nate left, Patti asked what would happen if FEMA covered that bridge and we had already done the temporary repairs. She feels FEMA would not consider paying for the work already done. The state closed the bridge it was not the town. Joe suggested maybe contacting Pat Moulton with these questions. Shane will also contact Logan and Nate. Patti said she will contact Alana, the person she works with on FEMA.

Shane: Sutton Hollow: Shane received an e-mail from the state stating if we decided to close Sutton Hollow, there is a process to close it. Shane stated that this will not be fixed this year. The hydrological study was completed for Sutton Hollow, and a box culvert or arch culvert is recommended to be placed by Tanner property. If FEMA does not cover this, we will need to pay for it. Discussions on various culvert designs but it must meet the standards of the state. The cost of replacing each individual culvert is approx. \$300,000 at a minimum. To fix all the culverts that need to be replaced in town, being on Sutton Hollow Road; Burke Road and Calendar Brook Rd, by the Fix residence that washed away during the flooding will astronomical. We are in hopes the FEMA comes through.

The leased excavator needs to be returned this month, but we have a lot of work that needs to be done by using an excavator. Tim stated if we purchase an excavator, we should take that in front of the voters. All the board members stated we need to put this purchase on hold pending what FEMA will pay us to recover all the expenses we have. Shane will find out if we can lease the excavator for another month, if not we will lease it from someplace else.

Tim called his insurance agent, and he will be getting back to Patti with a firm cost. VLCT will not cover personal vehicles and Shane's insurance will not cover his vehicle while using the vehicle for work. Tim said the cost could be approximately \$2,500. a year according to his agent.

Patti received a letter of resignation from Kate Buonanno from the DRB/PC Board since she moved out of town.

Lister's Errors and Omissions for the 2025 Grand List was signed.

Tabled Business:

- Alternate DRB/PC Member
- Cutting of trees on Fire Department Land

Review Invoices and Warrants signed.

No Correspondence

Denis made a motion to adjourn at 7:51PM Tim seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Submitted:

Mary Gray

Minutes Clerk