

DRAFT
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2025
Town Office, 227 Justin Morrill Highway, Strafford Vermont 05072

Selectboard Members In Person : Kelly Harman, Mary Linehan, Jeff Solsaa, Andrew Duncklee

Town Clerk in Attendance: Lisa Bragg

Participants in Person: John Freitag, Kate Bass, Micki Colbeck

Participants via Zoom: Judie Englander; Betty Jo Duncklee, Robert McAllister

Meeting called to order at 6:01pm

1. Highway:

- a. Road sign replacement: Addition signs have been taken, including 2 stop signs on Brook Road
- b. Flashing Speed Limit Sign: discussing with the town garage about replacing the batteries.
- c. Equipment: Both the grader and a truck are under repair.
- d. Projects Update: Opening bids for FEMA mitigation. Bids received from Blue Mountain (\$53,750); Northwoods (\$89,731); and Daniels Construction (\$123,000).
 - i. Jeff Solsaa motions to award Blue Mountain the FEMA mitigation work, Linehan seconds and all approve
- e. Tagnacci Bridge - the scope of work is to remove and replace bridge deck and beams. Nathaniel Cook will make the repairs, and the Town will purchase the beams. The total project cost is \$14,400.
 - i. Solsaa motions to award the work to Nathaniel Cook construction, Linehan seconds and all approve.

2. Approve the minutes of 6/11/2025– The approval is tabled until the next Selectboard meeting.

3. Approve the Tax Anticipation Note to cover expenses until taxes are collected and grant funds come in:

- a. Town Clerk, Lisa Bragg, provides an estimate of \$772,809 that may be required to cover anticipated highway expenses before property taxes are received. 5.5% interest will be incurred should any monies need to be debited.
- b. Solsaa motions to approve the Tax Anticipation Note; Duncklee seconds, and all approve.

4. ** (Added to the agenda): Dog Ordinance edits and updates: Mary Linehan clarified modifications to the ordinance so that all enforcement and penalties are aligned.

- a. Linehan Motion to accept modifications to Dog Ordinance; Solsaa seconds, and all approve

5. Public Comments: None

6. Liaison Updates:

- a. Recycling Committee: new committee formed to include: Robin Jacob, Greg Bagnato, Jonathan Neddeau, and Stephen Drew. Many many thanks to them for taking up the mantle from Mike Scanlon. And of course, many many thanks to Mike Scanlon for all his years of hard work on the Recycling Committee.
- b. Tree Warden: Bob Wilson will be stepping down as tree warden and notice will be given that there is now an opening. We thank Bob for his incredible service in this capacity. He has served in that role since 2016
- c. Climate and Energy: tabled until the Chair returns

7. Driveway updates: Kieth Billian, Rayland Rowsey applied and both were approved

8. Conservation Committee: Kate Bass and Micki Colbeck (chair) present discussion regarding the Cobb Forest:

- a. The forest is 108 acres and encompasses a number of very rare orchids and plants. There are also an increasing number of visitors. It is currently a Class 2 wetlands and likely to be reclassified as a Class 1 (increased protections) wetlands. The Conservation Committee proposes to sell the Cobb Forest to The Vermont Land Trust to prevent the Town from selling or excavating the Town Forest, and to provide for long term protection for the forest.
- b. The Board will investigate the document that grants the Cobb land to the Town to understand the conveyance and any encumbrances.

9. Solsaa motions to adjourn the meeting at 6:55pm Linehan seconds and all approve.

Kelly Harman, Recording Clerk