



**TOWN OF MORRISTOWN SELECTBOARD
MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA
COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM**

On Zoom and at 43 Portland St. Morrisville, VT 05661
5:30 PM Monday, January 6, 2025

[Join Zoom Meeting](#) or by phone join via conference call (audio only): 1 (646) 558-8656 | Meeting ID: [810 342 4528](#) | Passcode 05661

The meeting will be live streamed on the Town of Morristown's website:

<https://www.morristownvt.gov/community/page/meetings-agendas-minutes> and on [Town GMATV YouTube Channel](#) when possible

I. 5:30PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

II. 5:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

III. 5:32PM - APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes of 12-16-24

IV. 5:35PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. Appointment of:
Lenny Wing as a Regular Member of DRB
Chris Wiltshire as an Alternate Member of DRB
2. Consideration to adopting the Vermont 250th Anniversary Town Resolution
3. Consideration of Summer Recreation
4. Discuss Capitol project budget
5. Additional Budget review
6. Enhanced Energy Plan - Tasha Wallis, LCPC

V. 6:45PM - OLD BUSINESS

1. Consideration of Morristown Conservation Commission article for the Town Meeting March 2025

VI. 6:55PM - APPROVE WARRANTS

VII. 7:00PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

VIII. 7:15PM - SCHEDULE

1. Monday, January 13, 2025 - SB Special Meeting - 5:30PM
Tuesday, January 21, 2025 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM
Monday, January 27, 2025 - SB Special Meeting - 5:30PM
Monday, February 3, 2025 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM
Tuesday, February 18, 2025 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM

IX. 7:20PM - OTHER BUSINESS

1. Executive Session - Personnel

X. 7:50PM - ADJOURN



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF DECEMBER 16, 2024**

Members: Don McDowell, Christopher Palermo, Laura Streets, Richard Craig, George Cormier

Absent:

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant; Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer; Mitzi Fleming, Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer; Jordan St. Onge, Highway Superintendent; Tina Sweet, Finance Director; Abbie Griggs, Finance Assistant; Elz Townsend, HR Director;

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Jamie Jaret, Joie Marshall, Laura Green, Ruth Brown, Mary Lou Nichols, George Merrill, Leah Hollenberger, Uwanna Perras, Yon Perras, Jerry & Evelyn Throne, Bob Bortree, Tom Cloutier, Skip Ward, Maria Ward, Jeff Elbaum, Sheila Tarbox, Tony Cote, Connie Demars, Cari Varner, Julie Pickett, Ronald Stancliff, Donald Blake, Pat Michelson, Steph Hoffman, Rep. Dave Yacavone

**participating via Zoom*

5:30PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Don McDowell called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:30 PM at the Tegu Building.

5:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

None

5:32PM - OTHER BUSINESS

1. Executive Session - Personnel

Motion made by Chris Palermo to go into Executive Session because I find that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body, or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Chris Palermo to go into Executive Session to discuss the evaluation of a public officer or employee subject to T1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3). To include Town Manager, Brent Raymond, Executive Assistant, Judi Alberi; Finance Director, Tina Sweet; Town Clerk/Treasurer, Sara Haskins; Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer, Mitzi Fleming; Chair Pleasant View Cemetery, Joie Marshall. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Chris Palermo to come out of Executive Session. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Chris Palermo to go into Executive Session because I find that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body, or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Chris Palermo to go into Executive Session to discuss the evaluation of a public officer or employee subject to T1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3). To include Town Manager, Brent Raymond, Executive Assistant, Judi Alberi; Finance Director, Tina Sweet; Town Clerk/Treasurer, Sara Haskins; Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer, Mitzi Fleming; Chair Pleasant View Cemetery, Joie Marshall, Secretary/Treasurer Pleasant View Cemetery, Connie Demars. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Chris Palermo to come out of Executive Session and rejoin the Selectboard meeting at 6:37 PM. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

6:30PM - APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes of 12-2-24

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the minutes of 12/2/2024. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (4/0/1) Don McDowell abstained.

2. Approve minutes of 12-4-24

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the minutes of 12/4/2024. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (5/0)

3. Approve minutes of 12-9-24

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the minutes of 12/9/2024. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (5/0)

6:35PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. Acknowledge Parker E Hodgdon - 99 y/o

Don McDowell called the Selectboard to acknowledge and honor Parker E. Hodgdon, 99 years old, for his service as a World War II veteran. He presented his family, in his stead, a certificate of honor signed by the Selectboard. A picture of the Selectboard members and the town manager with his certificate was taken to memorialize this event.

2. Appointment of Kevin Petrochko as E911 Coordinator

Motion made by Chris Palermo to appoint Kevin Petrochko as E911 Coordinator. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

3. Consideration to appoint Brent Raymond as the Ethics Liaison to the State Ethics Commission.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to appoint Brent Raymond as the Ethics Liaison to the State Ethics Commission. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

4. Representative David Yacovone

Representative David Yacovone attended the Selectboard meeting to introduce himself and invited the committee to open a dialogue between him and the town during the legislative session. He noted there are many important issues to be addressed. Property taxes, housing, health care systems, clean energy, and the dramatic impact of addictions on families all influence rising costs and cause global budget concerns. With the influence of the Kotch Brothers, Vermont has a flood of misinformation regarding clean energy. Vermonters need to hear the facts. A report on climate change will be released on January 15, 2025. David thanked the committee for giving him their time. Don thanked him and noted that this was the first time a representative had attended a Selectboard meeting since he had been on the board. He invited Representative Yacovone to return in March with an update. Chris agreed that there are many hot-button issues of interest.

5. Discussion on mailing annual meeting ballot

The discussion regarding mailing annual meeting ballots to all town residents was back for consideration this year. It has been documented that mailed ballots result in an increased response.

When the school ballots and the annual meeting ballots are mailed out together, the cost of this effort can be shared between the two parties. As there is no traditional town meeting, the Selectboard agreed to mail out ballots. Sara Haskins asked that voters bring their mailed ballots when voting in person.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to mail out the annual meeting ballots. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

6. Budget discussion - Paving & Sidewalks, Jordan St. Onge - Highway Superintendent

Jordan St. Onge, Highway Superintendent, presented the highway department budget on the condition of paved roads and sidewalks, and the cost of repairs. There are 36.76 miles of paved roads in Morristown and 52.8% are in poor and very poor condition due to years of neglect. There are 8.8 miles of sidewalks in Morristown. 36.2 % of our sidewalks are in poor to very poor condition. 58.1% of our sidewalks need work. As road and sidewalk conditions worsen, the cost of repair increases. Jordan plans to use the department's employees to assist with jobs as a cost-efficient measure. He has identified the department's work plan for 2025. Don thanked Jordan for his comprehensive and detailed report and acknowledged the substantial cost of repairing Morristown's roads and sidewalks. The board suggested investigating grant funds and agreed on the urgency of addressing this long-standing town problem.

7. Library budget presentation and discussion - Steph Hoffman

Steph Hoffman, treasurer of the library's trustees, addressed the Selectboard with a presentation explaining the library's activities, usage, and finances. A gift was made to the library totaling \$300,000, part of it was used for some expenses instead of pulling from the endowment. The board asked the library to use some of the gift to manage their expenses. Chris asked for further information on the library's finances. It was suggested that the library look at ways to do things differently. A fee for services differentiating residents/non-residents was suggested. Steph explained that payroll is their greatest expense. Chris noted that the library is autonomous, the Selectboard does not have a say in how to run the library's operations, days open, or staffing.

8:05PM - OLD BUSINESS

None

8:06PM - APPROVE WARRANTS

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the warrants. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (4/0/1) Laura Streets abstained.

8:08PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

The need to get the roads repaired was affirmed. One person noted that the police station building was inadequate for the department.

Two people complimented Brent for the job he did on the budget. Brent responded that budgeting is hard, and requested everyone be kind and civil as we are a community. One person thanked Don and George for attending the discussion at the Wing Center. Evelyn Throne thinks that there are not enough activities in Morristown for children. Jerry Throne asked about the status of the local option tax.

8:20PM - SCHEDULE

- 1. Saturday, January 4, 2025 - SB Community Meeting Day - PIE FOR BREAKFAST - PA Gym 8:00AM -**

Noon

Monday, January 6, 2025 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM

Monday, January 13, 2025 - SB Special Meeting - 5:30PM

Tuesday, January 21, 2025 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM

Monday, January 27, 2025 - SB Special Meeting - 5:30PM

8:25PM - ADJOURN

Motion made by Chris Palmero to adjourn. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (5/0)

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm

Submitted and filed this 12/16/2024.

Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

Please note all minutes are in Draft form and are subject to approval at the next Selectboard meeting.



SELECTBOARD MEMORANDUM

To: Selectboard
From: Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant
Date: January 6, 2025
Subject: Appointment of:
Lenny Wing as a Regular Member of DRB
Chris Wiltshire as an Alternate Member of DRB

Background:

Below in italics please find an excerpt from DRB Meeting Minutes of 12/11/24. Todd Thomas has asked if we could please schedule the corresponding agenda item for a Selectboard meeting.

***Agenda addendum for DRB composition** - Member Wiltshire explained that with his children both located out of state and the resultant travel demand created, he thought he could serve the DRB better as an Alternate Member instead of as a full-time Member. Member Wing said that he would be happy to trade roles with Member Wiltshire and become a full Board Member. Member Leblanc moved for the Board to recommend to the Legislative Bodies that Member Wiltshire be moved from a full-time Board Member to an Alternate Board Member, and that current Alternate Member Wing be appointed as a full Board Member. The motion was affirmed by a vote of 6-0. Mr. Thomas said that he would send this appointment recommendation to the Legislative Bodies on Thursday.*

Suggested Motion:

Motion to appoint current full time Development Review Board member Chris Wiltshire as an Alternant Board member and appoint current alternate member Lenny Wing as a full time Deveopment Review Board member.

Attachments:

None



SELECTBOARD MEMORANDUM

To: Selectboard
From: Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant
Date: January 6, 2025
Subject: Consideration to adopting the Vermont 250th Anniversary Town Resolution

Background:

Discuss and consider the adoption of a town resolution in support of the Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission. The Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission was established by Executive Order from Governor Phil Scott in December 2020 to inspire Vermonters to learn from the history, legacy, and context of the American Revolution and its impact on the state and nation.

Attachments:

1. 12102024 VT 250th Town Resolution reminder letter
2. VT250th-Town-Resolution



Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission

Deane C. Davis Building, 6th Floor

One National Life Drive, Montpelier, VT 05620-0501

www.accd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation/american-revolution-250th

December 10, 2024

Dear Vermont Community:

This is a reminder that the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence is coming. In 2020, Governor Scott established the Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission (VT250th) to plan, encourage, develop, coordinate, and promote observances and activities to be held in Vermont in commemoration of the historic events associated with the American Revolution.

To this end, the VT250th Commission will begin commemorations in 2025 with the capture of Fort Ticonderoga and Crown Point, and finish in 2027 with Vermont's signature anniversary year marking the founding of Vermont and the campaign of 1777, which included the battles of Hubbardton and Bennington. This commemorative milestone is an important time that provides the perfect platform to take stock of where we have been and to enable planning for our future.

This three-year anniversary period will allow all Vermont communities to share their histories, which include stories more diverse than are commonly known and can serve to unify all Vermonters. The VT250th Commission encourages every community to take part, no matter how big or small the event(s) or activities. How each town and city commemorate its history will be decided by your community.

We invite you to join us as we commemorate the American Revolution and come together to mark the 250 years since the founding of our state and nation and our continuing march toward a more perfect Union by adopting a resolution to be part of the 250th anniversary. A template has been provided for your consideration. The resolution declares that your town or city officially establishes a VT250th liaison or local committee made up of a diverse group of citizens to work with VT250th Commission on any events and activities related to the 250th anniversary.

This will ensure your town or city to be directly involved in the work of the VT250th Commission, as well as bring attention to the upcoming anniversaries for your community and help build awareness of the important role that Vermont and your town or city has contributed to our shared histories.

To date, the following towns, villages and cities have already adopted a resolution to be a part of the 250th anniversary commemoration:

Barnet • Bennington • Calais • Canaan • Castleton • Colchester • Danville • Dover • East
Montpelier • Franklin • Granville • Landgrove • Lincoln • Londonderry • Ludlow • Lyndon •
Manchester • Middlebury • Mount Holly • Newark • Pomfret • Pownal • Rochester • Rutland
• Shaftsbury • Springfield • Strafford • Sunderland • Troy • Tunbridge • Wallingford •
Washington • Westmore • Wilmington • Windsor • Winhall • Worcester

We look forward to working with your town or city as you envision and implement a meaningful commemoration for your community for these upcoming anniversary years!

Megan Albert, VT250th Anniversary Coordinator

Megan.Albert@partner.vermont.gov



Vermont 250th ANNIVERSARY RESOLUTION

A resolution of the Town of Morristown, State of Vermont, supporting the Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission;

WHEREAS, Vermont Governor Phil Scott signed an executive order to create the Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission on December 15, 2020, to plan, encourage, develop, coordinate, and promote observances and activities to be held in Vermont in commemoration of the historic events associated with the 250th anniversary of the 1776 signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Revolutionary War between 1775 and 1777, the founding of Vermont in 1777, and the creation of the political foundations of the United States of America;

WHEREAS, the Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission hopes to engage all 252 cities and towns through their many programs, projects, and events over the next several years, thereby inspiring future leaders and celebrating Vermonters' contributions to the nation over the last 250 years;

WHEREAS, by adoption of the Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission, we hope to inspire Vermonters to learn from the history, legacy, and context of the past to build stronger communities for the future.

RESOLVED, the Town of Morristown officially establishes a liaison or local committee made up of a diverse group of citizens or individual to work with the Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission on any or all activities. The participant(s) of the Town of Morristown are voluntary roles and there will be no compensation for participation.

RESOLVED, Town of Morristown may provide funding for planning or implementation of 250th related commemorations in their community or region as available.

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission.

ADOPTED by the Selectboard of the Town of Morristown, the State of Vermont, this ____ of _____, 2024.

Don McDowell

Christopher Palermo

Laura Streets

Richard Craig

George Cormier



SELECTBOARD MEMORANDUM

To: Selectboard
From:
Date: January 6, 2025
Subject: Additional Budget review

Attachments:
None



SELECTBOARD MEMORANDUM

To: Selectboard
From: Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant
Date: January 6, 2025
Subject: Enhanced Energy Plan - Tasha Wallis, LCPC

Background:

The Lamoille County Planning Commission Board of Directors adopted an energy amendment to the Lamoille County Regional Plan on July 23rd 2024. The amendment incorporates into the Lamoille County Regional Plan an Enhanced Energy component designed as a guide for the Region to help meet the statewide goal of 90% renewable energy production by 2050.

Enhanced Energy Planning was established by the legislature in 2016. Regions and towns with approved energy plans will have a greater say in state decisions made by the Public Utility Commission regarding the siting of renewable energy generation facilities. This is due to the plan being given a higher legal standard ("substantial deference") than a typical legal standard ("due consideration"). The amended Regional Plan was issued a Certificate of Energy Compliance on October 11, 2024.

With LCPC's certification, local municipalities that develop enhanced energy plans will be able to submit their requests for determination of energy compliance directly to the Regional Planning Commission. With a positive determination, the municipality's plan will also receive substantial deference in Public Utility Commission proceedings.

Enhanced Energy Plans contain an analysis of current energy use, targets for future energy use, and strategies for reaching future energy use targets. They also include a mapping effort that will help inform the future siting of renewable energy facilities.

Attachments:

None



SELECTBOARD MEMORANDUM

To: Selectboard
From: Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant
Date: January 6, 2025
Subject: Consideration of Morristown Conservation Commission article for the Town Meeting March 2025

Background:

Jerry Throne, Vice-Chair of MCC, explained that the article for the Town Meeting March 2025 asks the voters to authorize raising taxes equal to one-half (1/2) cent on the Grand List to be dedicated to the Morristown Conservation Commission Fund. However, this article was previously brought to the town and the voters did not approve of the article to raise money. Brent Raymond said in his explanation of budget planning that conservation funds would be addressed.

Jerry has inquired as to a follow-up conversation regarding this article.

Attachments:

1. Budget Article Packet 11.26.24

Morristown Conservation Commission
Proposed 2025/2026 Budget Article
November 26, 2024

Proposed Article

Shall the voters authorize raising taxes equal to one-half (1/2) cent on the Grand List to be dedicated to the Morristown Conservation Commission Fund, to support their ongoing mission to preserve the rural character of Morristown and to protect and enhance its natural environment and wildlife thru land acquisition, management and construction and maintenance of trails in the Town Forest and elsewhere; to conserve and protect working farms, undeveloped forest lands, and other greenspaces of value to the community; to continue discussions with adjacent property owners about expanding the Town Forest and to provide other important functions in accordance with its' bylaws?

Background- The following are pertinent excerpts from the 2022 Bylaws of the Morristown Conservation Commission (MCC).

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Morristown Conservation Commission is to preserve the rural character of Morristown and to protect and enhance its natural environment. By way of example, but not as a limitation on the broader purpose articulated above, some of the specific goals of the Commission are:

- (a) Greenspaces: to conserve and protect working farms, undeveloped forest lands, and other greenspaces of value to the community, and encourage compact development patterns.
- (b) Community Education and Involvement: to increase public awareness and understanding of local conservation issues and opportunities, and to increase citizen participation in conservation and enhancement projects.
- (c) Public Waterways: to restore and protect Morristown's waterways and their surrounding areas, and to increase appropriate, non-detrimental access thereto.
- (d) Pollution Prevention: to protect public water supplies, tranquility and air quality, and to prevent light pollution.
- (e) Information-Gathering: to collect data and/or conduct studies, so that planning and development decisions can be made with a full appreciation of their potential impact on the community's natural resources, and so that proactive efforts to enhance the natural environment can produce maximum benefit.
- (f) Forest Health: to assist the Town and, on a voluntary basis, private landowners in evaluating forest health and developing strategies to improve it, as needed.
- (g) Policy & Planning: to participate in local and regional planning processes, such as drafting of the Town Plan and zoning activities, to promote conservation and enhancement of natural resources in the community.
- (h) Citizen Representation: to provide an avenue for citizens to participate in Act 250 hearings and other local, state or federal hearings that have bearing on the issues for which the Commission is founded.

VII.(b) PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS

(a) LAND ACQUISITION. The Commission may, on the basis of the inventories or other appropriate studies or data, recommend to the Selectboard the purchase of, or the receipt of as a gift, specific land and/or property rights (including development rights or easements) or other property for the purposes set forth in Section II above. The Commission may facilitate, solicit or suggest sales or donations of specific interests from landowners, either to the Town or to private non-profit organization such as the Vermont Land Trust or Nature Conservancy. Properties and/or rights acquired by the Town shall be by consent of the Selectboard or affirmative majority vote of the Town at a duly warned meeting. Each recommendation by the Commission may include an estimate of the acquisition related costs to the Town, including but not limited to legal counseling, surveying, appraisal, effect on tax base and the tax rate, and the proposed source of funds to be used for acquisition and related costs.

Funding and Reserves-

In order to accomplish one of the key principal functions, sufficient reserve funds must be set aside in advance of any land acquisition, especially in today's market. From the experience of having lost out on previous opportunities, the MCC knows that prospective land sellers will not wait the time it takes to obtain voter approval to fund a specific project that the MCC has in mind for recommendation to the Select Board. In simple terms, one does not wait for a fire to purchase a fire truck.

How Funding Can be Multiplied-

There are numerous examples of how a Town's funding for conservation projects can be multiplied many times over by grants and matching funds, known as leveraging. For example, the Huntington Conservation Fund spent \$96,000 of town dollars, leveraging another \$576,750 of funds from other sources (a 6 to 1 match); Montpelier received \$258,000 from the USFS Community Forest Program to expand Hubbard Park. The Town Conservation Fund contributed \$20,000 and an additional \$35,000 came from private fundraising (a 14.7 to 1 match); In Richmond from 2005 to 2015, expenditures from the voter approved Conservation Reserve Fund totaled \$287,424, helping to bring to fruition projects worth a total of \$1,629, 557 (a 5.7 to 1 match).

From the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions- "Most land conservation projects involve multiple funding partners, and a local conservation fund is often a critical piece in this equation. Beyond its direct dollar value, the fund will often attract to the project additional financial partners who view the fund as proof of the townspeople's commitment to conservation. Thus, every dollar invested in the fund can leverage additional dollars from other funding sources." A full copy of the document can be found at <http://vtconservation.com/chapter7/>.

Potential Projects-

The MCC Has been looking at expanding the very popular Town Forest, by the addition of adjacent land (see attached portion of tax map, on which one potential parcel is marked with an X). Land such as this,

which exhibits steep slopes (see by the contour map), is not easily developed and is an important deer wintering area that connects with the Town's Duhamel property. Together, these three areas, provide connected habitat for many animals and recreation for hiking, mountain biking, hunting, bird watching and other activities.



SELECTBOARD MEMORANDUM

To: Selectboard
From: Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant
Date: January 6, 2025
Subject: Executive Session - Personnel

MOTION: I move to go into Executive Session because I find that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body, or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage.

MOTION: I move to go into Executive Session to discuss the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee subject to T1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3). To include Town Manager, Brent Raymond and Executive Assistant, Judi Alberi.

Attachments:

None