



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF APRIL 7, 2025**

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

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Jerry Throne, Evelyn Throne, Jessica Savage, Alyssa Johnson, Laura Green, Martha Battle, Jamie Jaret, James Brewster, Mary Goderwis, Mary Ann Wilson*, Attorney Ed Adrian*, Consultant Ron Rodjenski

**participating via Zoom*

5:30PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Don McDowell called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:35 PM at the Tegu Building.

5:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

None

5:32PM - APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes 3-17-25

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the minutes of 3.17.2025. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (5/0)

2. Approve minutes 3-26-25

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the minutes of 3.26.2025. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (5/0)

5:35PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. Vermont Council on Rural Development - Alyssa Johnson and Jessica Savage

Alyssa Johnson and Jessica Savage spoke to the Vermont Council on Rural Development's (VCRD) Community Visit program, which is a way for towns to engage and bring together their residents, set common goals and directions in a neutral and facilitated structure, and access resources that will help them take action on those goals. In 2011, the town established the Food Co-op with the assistance of this program. If the town is interested in a community visit, it would need to get the word out and have a community dinner with representatives from VCRD in attendance. The process begins with the first meeting, brainstorming ways to meet the community's needs. The second meeting is where residents establish four priorities. The town can then invite the VCRD program to come to the community dinner. Don thanked Alyssa and Jessica for the information and the board agreed that it was a remarkable program for the board to consider and get on the waiting list.

2. **Appoint Nancy Dunavan to Morristown Conservation Committee for a 4 year term**
Motion made by Chris Palermo to appoint Nancy Dunavan to a 4 year term on the Morristown Conservation Commission. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).
3. **Appoint Charles Burnham to Morristown Development Fund Loan Advisory Committee for a 3 year term**

After clarifying a procedural misunderstanding, the Morristown Selectboard confirmed Charles Burnham's appointment to the Morristown Development Fund (MDF) Loan Advisory Committee. The decision followed a discussion regarding the application process and deadlines. Laura Streets was concerned that there was no formal process of moving the interest of candidates to the Selectboard for appointment. The MDF bylaws state that all members are appointed by the Selectboard. Possible future discussions and a slight change to the MDF bylaws could create clarity for future appointments.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to appoint Charles Burnham to the Morristown Development Fund Loan Advisory Committee for a 3 year term. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (4/1). Laura Streets nay

4. **Explore grant opportunities for Noyes House**

Chris Palermo reported on the need of the Noyes Museum to restore their buildings. He suggested investigating grant funding for this purpose. The Vermont Arts Council may be a potential source. A field representative will examine the buildings to determine if a grant is a possibility. Chris will volunteer his time to pursue funding to improve the museum. Josh Goldstein, a member of the board of the Noyes House Museum, added that they have developed a prioritized outline of repairs needed for the buildings. The board agrees with the effort to improve the Noyes Museum.

5. **Move Community Comments to the beginning of the agenda**

A discussion regarding changing the time of the community comments began with a look back at when the timing was at the beginning of the meeting. However, it became problematic when the work of the meeting was delayed. Factors such as time and number of speakers were considered. The decision was made to table the discussion until the next meeting, when the Rules and Procedures could be reviewed.

6:45PM - OLD BUSINESS

1. **Consideration of revised Work in the Right-of-Way Policy**

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve work in the Right-of-way Policy as presented. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

6:48PM - APPROVE WARRANTS

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the warrants. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (5/0)

6:50PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Mr. Brewster commented that for valuable employees who are hard to replace, such as Judi Alberi, there should be a back-up for their jobs.

He also shared his opinion that the job description for the new Planning Administrator/Zoning Administrator included too many duties for one employee. He thought that the job should be divided into one and a half or two positions.

7:00PM - SCHEDULE

- 1. Wednesday, April 16, 2025 - SB/Trustees Joint Meeting - 5:30PM**
Monday, April 21, 2025 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM
Monday, May 5, 2025 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM

7:05PM - OTHER BUSINESS

- 1. Public Records Request Appeal of Todd Thomas - Request for List of Contact Names, Addresses, Phone Numbers and Emails**

The Selectboard discussed an appeal from Todd Thomas regarding a denied public records request for contact information. Ed Adrian, the town's legal counsel, noted that Thomas had provided a written response. The Board decided to enter executive session to discuss the appeal, with Laura Streets recusing herself due to her friendship with Thomas.

- 2. Executive Session - Legal**

Motion made by Chris Palermo to make a finding that we go into executive session to discuss confidential attorney client communications to allow the Town attorney to provide professional legal advice to the Selectboard AND to discuss potential civil litigation, premature disclosure of said advice or the potential civil litigation would put the Town at a substantial disadvantage. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (4/0/1). Laura Streets recused herself from the first Executive session but will attend the second executive session.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to go into Executive Session to discuss the confidential attorney client communication under the provisions of Title 1 section 313 (a) (1)(f) of the Vermont Statutes, to include Town Manager, Brent Raymond, Executive Assistant, Judi Alberi, Attorney Ed Adrian and Consultant Ron Rodjenski. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (4/0/1). Laura Streets recused herself from the first Executive session but will attend the second executive session.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to come out of Executive Session. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (4/0/1). Laura Streets recused herself from the first Executive session but will attend the second executive session.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to uphold the town manager's decision with a modification to release only readily identifiable government contact names and email addresses. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (4/0/1). Laura Streets recused herself from the first Executive session but will attend the second executive session.

Motion made by Chris Palermo for all the reasons mentioned above return to Executive Session. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

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

7:50PM - ADJOURN

Motion made by Chris Palermo to adjourn. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (5/0)

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm
Submitted and filed this 4/7/2025.
Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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