



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF NOVEMBER 3, 2025**

Members: Don McDowell, Laura Streets, George Cormier, Leah Hollenberger

Absent: Richard Craig

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant; Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer; Jordan St. Onge, Highway Superintendent; Adele Taplin, ECDD

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Dennis Smith, Jamie Jaret, Martin Green, Ed Loewenton, Carol Lauber, Jerry Throne, Sheila Tarbox, Tony Cote, Kathy Chaffee*, Maggie Cleary,

**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

5:33PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Maggie Cleary (Morristown Resident/Library Staff) announced the launch of the **Morristown Civic Project**. This civic engagement initiative is a partnership between the library and MACC (Morristown Alliance of Culture and Commerce). The project aims to boost communication and civic engagement, stemming from a June visit concerning Vermont's first civic health index. The index measures metrics like volunteerism, political engagement, cultural access, and government trust. The kickoff event will feature **Susan Clark**, a local democracy expert and author of *Slow Democracy*, on **Wednesday, November 19th, 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM at the library**.

Ed Loewenton questioned the legality, constitutionality, and other issues surrounding the Selectboard's right to reverse a DRB decision. Kathy Chaffee has spoken with Administration and Zoning regarding a concern with rats in the village area.

5:47PM - APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes of 10-20-25

Motion made by Laura Streets to approve the minutes of 10/20/25. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried. (4/0)

5:50PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. Highway Summer work recap and grants- Jordan St. Onge

Jordan St. Onge, Highway Department Supervisor, reported on the department's accomplishments and long-lasting improvements in several areas completed by his crew in addition to their usual work assignments throughout last Summer. These included work on the following problem areas: gravel

road repairs, focusing on ride quality and flood resilience (drainage, shape, compaction), and sidewalk repairs, which raised the quality to meet ADA standards and are capable of year-round maintenance. Many paving projects were addressed with the focus on ride quality, flood resilience, and salt reduction. Repainting of the crosswalks was also completed. With the focus of maximizing and supplementing the current budget, Jordan has secured several funding opportunities, including grants for many of the projects. This amounted to half a million dollars of grant funds. He ended his report by stating that, even with the summer accomplishments, there is still much work to be done to address the remaining deficiencies. This is estimated to take another five years. Don and the Selectboard thanked Jordan for his impressive financial and resource management of the department.

2. Economic & Community Dev Director update and grants - Adele Taplin

Adele Taplin, Economic & Community Development Director, reported on the summer's successful events. The town's social events, including July 4th, the Summer Music Series at the Oxbow, and Rocktoberfest. All events were well attended, and both participants and the vendors responded positively. All event sponsorship for 2025 totaled \$26,950; an increase of \$13,575 from 2024. A broader marketing approach was taken, including press releases, print, and radio. Work with Radio Vermont was undertaken with the in-kind sponsorship of all 2026 events. It was noted that Morristown's Downtown Designation status received praise from vendors and the public. Several grants were awarded for diverse areas, including the rec trail, summer camp, stormwater in Jersey Heights, and the VTrans Bicycle & Pedestrian Scoping Grant – LVRT Connectivity Improvement Study. A total of \$571,638 was received. The Selectboard praised Adele's work, and her superior efforts were recognized. Brent thanked Adele, Carol of the MACC, and the LCPC for Morristown's Downtown Designation status.

3. Noyes House - Belonging Community Grants Application Letter of Support - Adele Taplin

Adele Taplin informed the Selectboard that the Town of Morristown's application to the Building Communities Grants (BCG) Programs: Human Services and Educational Facilities Grant to address critical preservation needs at the Noyes House Museum, now requires a Selectboard motion to continue the process.

Motion made by Laura Steets to the Town of Morristown's application to the Building Communities Grants (BCG) Programs: Human Services and Educational Facilities Grant to address critical preservation needs at the Noyes House Museum. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (4/0).

4. Report on the Morristown Cemetery Association — Dennis Smith

Dennis Smith, of the Morristown Cemetery Association, reported that at the Fall meeting on October 28th, 2025, the members voted to dissolve the association. The increase in state regulations has become too complicated for a volunteer group. He noted that Sexton, Mike Bucannon, has done a great job. However, the group feels that an additional Sexton should be hired due to the amount of work involved. Don agreed that all 7 cemeteries are important to the town. Brent thanked Dennis and the Cemetery Association for all their work and for leaving the finances in great shape. He offered them his respect. The Morristown Cemeteries will be discussed at a future time.

5. On-the-Spot Award - Jason Tallman and Evan Gaskill

Two employees, Jason Tallman and Evan Gaskill, received the On-The-Spot Award for their impromptu performance of EMS duties at the highest standards when delivering a baby outside the hospital.

Motion made by Laura Streets to approve the presentation of the On-the-Spot Award to Jason Tallman and Evan Gaskill in recognition of their service and authorize Selectboard Chair to sign.

Motion seconded by Lesh Hollenberger. Motion carried (4/0).

6. Options discussion for Cady's Falls Bridge

A lengthy discussion regarding the options for the Cady's Falls Bridge repairs ensued. There are 4 options with the focus on the 3 action items. Doing nothing is the option not discussed. The 3 action items are listed below.

Alternative 1 – Truss Repair

Alternative 2 – Full Bridge Replacement with New Pratt thru truss with or without road closure and detour

Alternative 3 – Full Bridge Replacement with Steel Beam Bridge with or without road closure and detour.

Options 2&3 meet the 11' lane/3' shoulder standard and accommodate bicycle and pedestrian traffic. These 2 possibilities would also involve state funding. The discussion also included the upkeep issue of painting over steel. Brent Raymond will seek clarification from the state on the material (galvanized vs. metallized steel) and whether a green finish is required. He will also investigate installing temporary traffic lights on Needle Eye Road during the closure.

Motion made by Laura Streets to identify alternative #2 as the Town's preferred alternative for the Cady's Falls Bridge project (BF 0239(3)) with road closure/detour. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (4/0).

7. Discussion on LOT - Rooms

The first discussion of the local option tax (LOT) concerned a Room tax on motels, hotels, and short-term rentals in our area. These venues affect people who want housing while in the town, thus not our residents. Several residents thought that this was a good start. The Selectboard agreed that the best way to start the LOT process in town was through a room tax.

6:50PM - OLD BUSINESS

1. Motion to convey land to Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity

This agenda item has been tabled due to Robin Pierce's inability to attend this evening.

7:00PM - APPROVE WARRANTS

Motion made by George Cormier to approve the warrants. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (4/0)

7:05PM - SCHEDULE

- Monday, November 17, 2025 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM**
Monday, December 1, 2025 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM

7:08PM - OTHER BUSINESS

1. Executive Session - Legal

Motion made by Laura Streets to enter into Executive Session and find that premature general public knowledge regarding legal matters would clearly place the town at a substantial disadvantage by disclosing information related to probable litigation. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried (4/0).

Motion made by Laura Streets to enter into executive session to discuss legal matters under the

provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(E) of the Vermont Statutes to include Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant; and Adele Taplin, Economic & Comm. Dev. Director. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (4/0).

7:45PM - ADJOURN

Motion made by George Cormier to adjourn the Executive Session with no action. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried. (4/0)

Motion made by George Cormier to adjourn the Selectboard meeting. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (4/0)

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm

Submitted and filed this 11/5/2025.

Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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